

# Yarmouk Newsletter

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## Yarmouk Oversees the Dispatch of Bacterial Samples for Study in Outer Space



In collaboration with the British Space Foundation KSF Space Foundation, Yarmouk University represents Jordan in researching the implementation of a research project to send bacterial samples for study in outer space. Dr. Hanan Malkawi of the Department of Life Sciences at the University, the project director, said that under the Corona pandemic, the scientific research at all levels is directed to the study of viral and bacterial samples. She explained

that the project, which is supported by Yarmouk University, is to prepare and study bacterial samples to be loaded and sent in a space capsule manufactured by the International Space Corporation. The capsule will be launched from the United Kingdom into space to reach the height of the post-atmosphere and the first layer in the low space orbit. The capsule then will return to Earth after two days to study the behavior of living bacterial cells before launching in the space capsule.

## Yarmouk University Participates in the AmCham-University Student Internship Program



Forty students from Yarmouk University have participated in the 2019 - 2020 University Student Internship Program, a program that has been implemented by the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan (AmCham-Jordan) with the support of the Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy in Amman. The program aims at bridging the gap between academia and industry. It consists of two parts: the first part includes a set of soft-skills training courses such as Labor Laws, Communication Skills, Dealing with Difficult Personalities, Work Ethics, Dealing with Conflicts, Time and Attention Management, Working in Teams, CV Writing & Job Interview Skills, and Written Communication Skills. The second part of the program is a two-week profession-based internship, in which 40 companies are engaged in Corporate Social Responsibility by providing valuable professional experience to participating students.

Prof. Nabil Hailat, President of Yarmouk University, shed light on the benefits of this program to students. Prof. Hailat stated that this program is "in line with our efforts to enhance our students' competitive value". He mentioned

that Yarmouk University's strategic plan for the next five years 2021 - 2025 was developed to be student-centric, in terms of curricular and extra-curricular activities, making sure to include action items that are sustained and have impact on our society. Prof. Hailat added that "I put great focus on achieving these strategic goals through partnership with our friends inside and outside Jordan".

Noor Alawneh, a Bachelor student in English Literature at Yarmouk University, participated in this program. She said "Being an English Language and Literature graduate, I was given the opportunity to intern at the AMIDEAST alongside an outstanding number of colleagues who have mentored and guided me. Every day at the AMIDEAST was a day to learn something new". She continued "Undoubtedly, I acquired and developed a set of skills which have prepared and trained me for the workplace environment".

Mohammad Amawi, a Bachelor student in Electric Power Engineering at Yarmouk University, has also been exposed to this experience. He expressed that "this internship helped me put into practice a lot of the engineering fundamentals I learned during my studies at Hijjawi Faculty for Engineering Technology, Yarmouk University and develop new skills". He then commented "I now feel more comfortable working in a diverse environment with people from all walks of life and of course this has had and will always have a powerful impact on my career life".

The 2019 - 2020 program was concluded with a virtual forum under the Patronage of the Minister of Labor and Minister of State for Investment Affairs, H.E. Dr. Maen Al Qatamine, during which AmCham-Jordan announced the launch of the 2021 program introducing a new job search tool, the AmCham-Jordan Internships & Jobs Matchmaking Portal.

# **Yarmouk University and the Japanese Embassy in Jordan Discusses Means of Cooperation Regarding Refugee Issues**



During his meeting with the first secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Jordan, Mr. Nakameshi Kinsuke, the President of Yarmouk University, Prof. Nabil Hailat, stressed that serving the local community considering the diversity of its nationalities, is considered one of the most important objectives of Yarmouk University and its progress, as evident in the series of scientific research programs and activities carried out by the various faculties and departments of the university along with the community institutions. Hailat added that Yarmouk University focuses on the issue of refugees and displaced persons, especially

in terms of study and scientific research, a mission carried out by its center of refugees called "refugees and displaced persons and Forced Migration studies center". Also, he declared that the university is looking forward to further cooperation with the Japanese Embassy in Amman to serve refugee issues and find programs that provide them with the necessary support.

After that, the university president and his guests visited the Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center, where they listened to an explanation of the center's efforts, work, role, and activities

concerning refugees, especially during the Coronavirus pandemic. Al-Sobeh introduced the most prominent needs of refugees at the level of education, health, and economics. He also outlined the plans of the center and its efforts to provide educational grants to the children of refugees at the university in cooperation with various international institutions. Also, Al-Sobeh pointed out that the cooperation with the Japan Agency for International Cooperation-JICA during the past period has been limited to providing educational grants to refugee students and that the university is looking forward to further cooperation in other fields.

For his part, Kinsuke expressed his admiration of Yarmouk University and its academic history, stressing the importance of gathering information about refugees residing in Jordan so that the Japanese Embassy gets the necessary data to decide its refugee-oriented programs and grants in cooperation with Yarmouk University, the Japanese government, and the Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

## **The Kuwaiti Cultural Advisor Praises Yarmouk University's Academic Reputation**



During receiving Dr. Badr al-Mutairi, the Kuwaiti cultural advisor and chairman of the Council of the Arab Cultural Advisors and Attachés in Amman, Yarmouk University's President, Prof. Nabil Hailat, stressed that Yarmouk University is continuing its plan to expand its new academic programs, especially in certain disciplines like law, media, and economics. He also confirmed that Yarmouk University is always ready to receive more Kuwaiti students and other Arab students in its various faculties and programs, stressing that the university pays special attention to its Arab and foreign students by offering different programs to engage international students with their Jordanian colleagues in the university community

and enhance their knowledge and develop their skills.

For his part, al-Mutairi praised the great academic reputation of Yarmouk University and the quality and professionalism of its graduates, considering their excellence in the Kuwaiti labor market, especially in the faculties of Sharia, Islamic studies, education, sports education, and literature. He also pointed out that the university has proved uniqueness in following-up with the latest developments in the various fields of sciences and knowledge, as evident in the level of its professors, the expertise of its cadres, and the development of its laboratories and capabilities, which influences the quality and excellence of students.

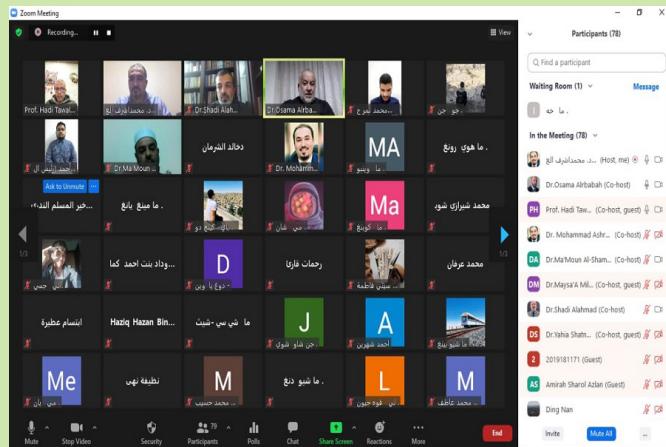
Al-Mutairi then mentioned that there are approximately 600 Kuwaiti students at Yarmouk University's various undergraduate and postgraduate programs, emphasizing that Kuwaiti students prefer Yarmouk University for having various scientific and humanitarian disciplines needed in Kuwait and for its heritage and excellence at the regional level. Moreover, he acknowledged the significance of the university's recent decision regarding opening the applying process of the graduate programs for the second semester for immigrants and Jordanians, as such a step provides an additional opportunity for those wishing to study and complete their postgraduate studies in the university.

### **Deanship of Students Affairs and the Faculty of Sharia in Yarmouk Meet International Students Studying at the Faculty**

In collaboration with the Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies at the University, the Deanship of Students Affairs at Yarmouk University organized a meeting via "Zoom" with international students studying at the faculty for monitoring their situation and identifying the challenges and difficulties facing them. The Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Osama al-Rababa, confirmed the faculty's

constant keenness to communicate with its students and check on their academic and living conditions to overcome the difficulties and challenges facing them. He stated that the faculty has spared no effort in providing all possible services to the students of the faculty, confirming that the communication between international students and the faculty administration is

## Deanship of Students Affairs and the Faculty of Sharia in Yarmouk Meet International Students - Continued



always available through fixed and mobile phones, in addition to the official website of the faculty which announces all the information needed by students.

The Vice Dean of Students Affairs at the University,

Dr. Hadi Tawalbah, said that following-up with the affairs of international students at the university is a priority for the Deanship of students affairs. He explained that the deanship follows the transactions of students and their residence affairs with relevant authorities and that it allows them to participate in the various extracurricular activities organized by the deanship. He also confirmed the readiness of the Deanship of students affairs to organize empowerment courses for international students in language and technical skills. In the same vein, the Vice Dean of Students Affairs at the University, Dr. Mohammed Ashraf Otoom, confirmed the deanship's interest in international students and its attempt to provide them with whatever they need to continue their university life easily.

## "Yarmouk Law" Wins the Second Place in Arab Students Mock Trial

The Faculty of Law at Yarmouk University won the second place in the seventh session of the "Arabs Mock Trial" competition organized by the Kuwait International Law School (Kuwait) in cooperation with the Faculty of Law at Sultan Qaboos University (Oman) in the academic year 2020 - 2021, with the participation of more than (17) faculties of law from various countries of the Arab world.

The participating team of Yarmouk University was represented by the Assistant Dean of the Law Faculty, Dr. Mohammed Mabara, as a trainer and supervisor, and the students, Batoul Al-Taher, Omar Mehidat, Youssef Bani Hani, and Ahmed Hamada. This team was chosen with the team of Petra University in the local rounds held in Jordan in 2020; yet, it became the sole representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan after winning the preliminary rounds and



the exit of Petra University team. Yarmouk team continued to win the quarterfinals and semi-finals and qualified on 13 - 2 - 2021 for the final mock trial. After winning (10) trials with law faculties from various Arab countries, the team won the second place in the competition of Kuwait International Law College.

## Students of the Department of Civil Engineering Converted the Medical Waste Ashes of Corona Virus into Eco-Friendly Concrete



A team of civil engineering students at the Hijjawi Faculty for Engineering Technology in Yarmouk University is preparing to participate in an international competition that will be held in the United States of America, with a project idea of the use of ash resulted from coronavirus medical waste in the production of eco-friendly concrete.

The project supervisor, Dr. Faris Matalkah, said that the idea of the project is to activate the ash of medical waste by using special chemicals to produce what is called geopolymmer concrete. He indicated that the ashes of this medical waste were brought from the incinerator of King Abdullah University Hospital, which is the ash of medical waste after treatment using special incinerators at high temperatures to get rid of harmful substances.

He added that this project aims to get rid of the medical waste ashes in general and the ashes of Corona's waste in particular by using it in the production of eco-friendly concrete, by chemical activation of the ash, thus reducing the environmental and health damage resulting from ash landfilling.

Dr. Matalkah confirmed that all public health and safety procedures have been followed to deal with

this ash, pointing out that the students have conducted laboratory experiments that initially proved the success of the idea, and a video was produced summarizing the idea and its mechanism of action, which was sent for evaluation and participation in this competition.

Dr. Matalkah pointed out that this competition is targeting to approach university students in various countries in the world with the participation of more than 100 universities, pointing out that the American Concrete Institute will evaluate the idea of the project.

He added that the goal of the competition and the evaluation criteria is that students should demonstrate and explain how their use of concrete can positively affect the world, as the teams are encouraged to use creative means to present and explain their concrete approach or solution to a broad audience including why it should interest the public at large.

Dr. Matalkah said that the number of students participating in the project is seven, and they are: "Nour Al-Mahameed, Eman Al-Ghazawi, Nidaa Magableh, Sara Obeidat, Naseem Al-Rawashdeh, Jafar Bani-Melhem, and Ehab Al-Fuqaha. He pointed out that there are no costs for the project, as the initial experiments were conducted in the laboratories of the Civil Engineering Department, emphasizing that the idea is still in its early stages, as the team will develop it by conducting more engineering studies.

The Dean of Hijjawi Faculty for Engineering Technology, Dr. Mowaffaq Otoom, praised the efforts made by the students participating in the competition and emphasized that the faculty administration supports the various student activities because of their benefit reflected on the faculty, the university, and students. Dr. Otoom added that

## **Students of the Dept. of Civil Engineering - Continued**

the faculty encourages the students to participate in such competition that contributes to developing students' skills and motivating them to innovate, create, and positively affect the reputation of the faculty as well as the university locally and internationally.

The top 20 submissions will participate in team interviews with judges on Sunday, March 28, 2021, during the Spring ACI Concrete Convention. The winners will be announced at the ACI Student Forum taking place on Tuesday, March 30, 2021

## **"Gender-Sensitive Electronic Media Reports"**

In collaboration with the Faculty of Mass Communication of Yarmouk University, Princess Basma Center for Jordanian Women's Studies launched the first phase of the training program "Gender-Sensitive Electronic Media Reports", as part of Women's Empowerment project for leadership roles, which is funded by the Canadian government and implemented by the center in cooperation with the Forum of Federations.

In the presence of the Center's Director, Dr. Amneh Al Khasawneh, and the Director of the Federal Federation forum Office in Jordan, Professor Tala Khreis, and the program coordinator, Hanin Marian, the training session, which was carried out at the Multi Media Laboratory of Yarmouk University's Faculty of Mass Communication, was inaugurated by the Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Khalaf Al-Tahat,

Al-Tahat stressed that the Faculty of Mass Communication always seeks to support its students and develop their abilities in the various educational and training aspects and development programs to enhance their abilities to meet the requirements of the modern media sector. Al-Khasawneh provided an introductory explanation of the training program, pointing out that it targets 15 female students and graduates of the Faculty of mass communication. She noted that the training is divided into two phases: the first phase is for 3 days, and the second



lasts for two training days. Also, she explained that the training includes preparing video media reports that achieve the objectives of the project. She added that the women's empowerment program aims at preparing women media professionals who can address women's issues in media and raise the awareness of women's rights in the community and their equity in various situations.

Noteworthy is that the training is carried out by a number of experts from inside and outside the university, where the first training day was run by Shorouk Shatnawi on the concept of gender and integration while both the second and third training days were run by Qusai Al-Rashdan and Suleiman Awawda on photography, editing, and media reporting skills.

## Yarmouk's Participation in USAID Programs



During his meeting with the delegation of the Special Committee of the Selection of Universities, which will implement the USAID program for the preparation and rehabilitation of pre-service teachers in Jordan, the President of Yarmouk University discussed the possibility of the university's participation in such a program to enhance its progress and achieve its academic and social goals. Hailat stressed that Yarmouk University is keen to expand various academic exchange programs with various universities and institutions internally and externally to improve the quality of higher education, strengthen the university's capacity, achieve mutual interest, and support its students and their progress.

Lana Moumani, the Director of the University Partnerships in the program, introduced the program, confirming that the USAID worked in

partnership with the Ministries of Education and Higher Education, the Accreditation Authority for Higher Education Institutions, and the Queen Rania Teacher Training Academy. Tamara Tuqan of the USAID's pre-service teacher training and qualification program in Jordan also presented the university's evaluation matrix that has adopted several criteria, including compliance and motivation, the university's vision, achievements, partnerships, cooperation with schools, the qualifications of educational and administrative staff, the readiness of infrastructure and equipment, the rate of enrollment required, and the supply and demand model. She explained that the objectives and outcomes of the program are to provide the education sector with increasing and sustainable numbers of teachers through better policies and practices.

