

AI-Naura



الجامعة الألمانية الأردنية
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“ Former PM, Senator Samir Al-Rifai lectures at GJU ”



On Sunday, 13th April, 2014, the German Jordanian University hosted Former PM, Senator Samir Al-Rifai, in the presence of GJU President Prof. Natheer Abu.Obeid, the Vice President Prof. Manar Fayyad, and other distinguished guests.

Senator Al. Rifai said that political reforms are very important in order to develop the Kingdom and to build a modern state that will keep pace with the present and the future.

He further pointed out that economic reforms come before political reforms, stressing that he is not referring to particular issues relating

to the political aspects of a country like governance, transparency, accountability and participation, which are important to the success of economic reforms, but rather to a comprehensive reform.

On the other hand, economic reforms have important political dimensions to them. In developing countries, the political situations have major effects on economic reforms.

“The desired results of intended political reform are difficult to achieve unless preceded by economic reform”, Al. Rifai stressed.

Addressing Jordanian youth and students who face Jordan’s internal and external challenges, Al.Rifai affirmed the importance of sustaining “open channels of communication” with groups and parties across the political spectrum, urging young Jordanians to participate in political life. He also spoke about the importance of giving priority in the state budget to projects that employ large numbers of Jordanians, in particular graduates.

He also highlighted the Syrian crisis, and the need for Jordan to have “clearness and decisiveness” in dealing with the issue in a way that halts the influx of refugees to the Kingdom.

At the end of the lecture, an open discussion was held for guests and students, as Prof. Abu Obeid presented a GJU plaque to Senator Samir Rifai.

“ Fourth Forum for Excellence, Creativity and Talent ”



Under the patronage of the GJU President Prof. Natheer Abu.Obeid, the fourth forum for excellence, creativity and talent, was held on Sunday 20th April, 2014, and was organized by Al.Faisaleyeh High School for Boys.

Prof Abu.Obeid emphasized that he is very proud to honor the distinguished students of Madaba and support their projects, which can be considered our duty and responsibility, to develop their creative abilities, saying that GJU has always been in constant interaction with the local community of Madaba through a number of courses, and provides support for some local schools in order to improve the educational process there.

He also pointed out that GJU considers the local community a strategic partner in achieving an integrated scientific renaissance and, creativity in coming up with practical solutions to everyday problems and then applying them to real life situations through focusing on extraordinary individual students.

Al.Rashad Model Schools, received the first prize, presented for its project that aimed at solving the problem of a shortage of water resources. Khawlah Bent Al.Azwar HighSchool for girls received the second prize and Madaba first HighSchool received the third prize.

For his part. Dr. Habes Al.Awamleh, who specializes in Talent and Creativity at Al.Balqa Applied University, affirmed the importance of the school and family’s role in developing and supporting creative and talented people.

The event-included speeches by the honored guests, who are all focused on encouraging distinguished students, supporting them and standing beside their future endeavors.

At the end of the event, Prof. Abu Obeid awarded the certificates and gifts to the winning schools and students.

It is worth mentioning that the forum was held in the presence of the Vice President of GJU Prof. Manar Fayyad and Dr. Laila Yaghi, Assistant to the President for Admission and Registration.

“ MoU between PSUT and GJU ”

The German Jordanian University (GJU) and Princess Sumaya University for Technology PSUT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish and implement a joint Master Program of Enterprise System Engineering.

The agreement was signed by Prof. Natheer Abu Obeid, on behalf of the GJU, and Prof. Issa E. Batarseh, the Transitional President of PSUT, on behalf of PSUT. The MOU seeks to form a joint committee of the two universities to manage the implementation of the program, process students' admission, select the courses and instructors as well as promote the program among students and universities.

In addition, the MoU will establish a joint Master Program between King Hussein Faculty for Computing Sciences at PSUT and the School of Computer Engineering and Information Technology at GJU. Therefore, students joining the program will receive a double degree offered by the two universities.

Dr. Batarseh said that this MoU aims to improve graduate skills in the area of Enterprise System Engineering and solve the problems related to this field. Also, he pointed out that the program represents the vision of HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan, the president of the Board of Trustees of PSUT, to encourage the creativity of students and graduate distinguished students.



For his part Prof. Abu Obeid praised the excellent partnership that has combined the two universities for several years in the academic and scientific areas, hoping that such cooperation is considered as a role model to other universities. Furthermore, he pinpointed the satisfaction of the EU-funding of this national cooperation between two Jordanian universities which represent the public and private sectors.

The event was attended by the Vice President of GJU Prof. Manar Fayyad and the Vice President of Academic Affairs of PSUT Prof. Mashhoor Al-Refai, as well as other Deans and Professors from the two schools.

“ Green and Sustainable Architecture Lecture ”

On Wednesday, 23rd of April, 2014 at Darat Othman Bdeir a lecture about “Green and Sustainable Architecture” was presented by Arch. Florentine Visser, who is a Dutch architect and a MED-ENEC expert on green architecture.

The lecture focused on Energy Consumption in terms of water, energy and materials efficiency and how these factors reflect on the reducing energy load of buildings.

Arch. Visser explained with the example of. ‘AQABA RESIDENCE ENERGY EFFICIENCY’ which is a building that was designed and supervised by her. It is the first National Winner of the Energy Globe Award 2007.



The AREE house was built in 2007 to provide a showcase of a high performance building in Aqaba city in the southern part of Jordan. The total energy performance of the building was achieved through three types of measures grouped into passive design elements, material choices and renewable energy installations.

The energy performance and associated costs and benefits for each type were modelled to highlight opportunities for low and high income segments of the residential building market in Jordan. The building was developed by the Emtairah Consulting Corporation, Amman, Jordan, and was designed by Florentine Visser.

The project was funded by the European Union and was part of the MED-ENEC Energy Efficiency in the Construction Sector in the Mediterranean. MED-ENEC pursues the aim of increased energy efficiency in the construction sector of Mediterranean Countries.

It is worth mentioning that the lecture was organized for the “Mixed Use Design Students” who are supervised by Arch. Farah Al-Atrash as, from her point of view, sustainable buildings are a recent phenomenon in Jordan. Due to rising energy prices there is growing awareness among the public about the need to save energy. Water efficiency is also important for Jordan, as it is listed among the four poorest countries worldwide in terms of water. The biggest challenge for sustainable building in Jordan is, however, the use of materials and the reduction of construction waste. These important issues should be presented and explained to students in the early stages.

“ The President Concludes a Series of Meetings With Students ”

The president of GJU, Prof. Natheer Abu.Obeid, concluded a series of meetings with students from all Schools, the last one with the School of Applied Medical Sciences (SAMS) was on Wednesday 23rd April, 2014.

The meeting was held in the presence of the Vice President of GJU Prof. Manar Fayyad, the Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Yousef Al-Abdallat, the Dean of School of Applied Medical Sciences Dr. Malyuba Abu-Daabes and some professors of the School.

Prof. Abu Obeid aspires to empower students by listening to them and discussing important issues regarding the University. This helps them to complete their own individual tasks and to go above and beyond what is expected of them.

Seeing that students need to be driven by a sense of inclusiveness and purpose through a series of helpful and beneficial meetings, Prof. Abu Obeid encouraged students to stay inspired to achieve their goals while still upholding the soft skills of communication, which will help the university to stronger unite.

Having meetings with the students and listening to their main concerns, notes and problems, is very important. These include culture, effectiveness, and open dialogue between the GJU president



and students.

Prof. Abu Obeid called on all the students not to overlook the importance of these meetings, promising that all their issues will be studied and covered and suitable solutions found.

The President met with students from all the other schools on different dates.

“ ‘I’m Here’ Initiative ”

The Deanship of Student Affairs through the Career Guidance Office of the King Abdullah II Fund organized a session about the “I’m Here” Initiative on the 3rd of April, 2014.

The initiative Ana Hunna “أنا هنا، I am Here, Je suis là” promotes public discussion on the situations, challenges and professional opportunities of working women in the Middle East and the North Africa (MENA) region.

Ms. Wesal Abdullah, Teacher Assistant at the Center for Women’s Studies /JU, emphasized that Ana Hunna “أنا هنا” aims to advance gender equality in the world of work and challenge traditional perceptions of working women.

She also explained to students that Ana Hunna “أنا هنا” presents short films about active women in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tu-

nisia: women fighting prejudice, taking charge and living their life-long dreams. The protagonists show women as professional role models, who break barriers and fight against stereotypes.

A short film about a strong Moroccan woman was shown to students, entitled “Their Nights”. To support herself and her fourteen-year-old daughter, a woman “Rkia” works regular night shifts as a parking attendant on a small street in Casablanca.

It is worth mentioning that the initiative Ana Hunna “أنا هنا” is implemented in cooperation with the regional programme “Economic Integration of Women in the MENA region” (EconoWin), supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Notice:

We are pleased to invite you to help us enrich the content of Al-Naura Newsletter through providing us with news and articles of the different events in your School or Department. Contributions should be sent to the contact details mentioned on the last page.

“ A Delegation from Sirte University - Libya - Visits GJU ”

A delegation of academics from Sirte University - Libya visited the German Jordanian University on Wednesday 30th April, 2014, to explore the university's profile and education system at GJU in particular and in Jordan in general. The delegation set out to travel through Jordan in order to search for possible research and exchange cooperation programs for academics and students.

Prof. Manar Fayyad, the Vice President of GJU, welcomed the delegation and ensured that this visit is a precious opportunity to strengthen the cooperation between the two universities, speaking in particular about, its programs, disciplines and Schools.

Furthermore, Prof. Fayyad added that GJU has unique programs of energy, water and environment at the district level, and is seeking to broaden its network to other countries in order to promote the intercultural experience.

For his part, the Director of the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Office at Sirte University, Dr. Mohamed .A. Daw, praised the Hashemite leadership for developing higher education, which is witnessing a renaissance in the Arab world.

He also pointed out that GJU has a distinguished scientific reputation, especially in the applied and industrial fields, expressing the Sirte University interest in signing a memorandum of understand-



ing to take advantage of the GJU experience.

The meeting was attended by the Dean of the School of Natural Resources Engineering and Management Dr. Suhil Kiwan, and the Dean of Graduate Studies and Scientific Research Prof. Dr. Majed Abu Zreig.

At the end of the visit, the delegation thanked GJU for hosting them, wishing GJU further and continued success.

“ Al Jeel Employment Program Presentation by PwC ”



The Deanship of Student Affairs /the King Abdulla Office for Career Guidance organized a presentation about “Al Jeel Employment Program” by PwC, on Wednesday 23rd April, 2014.

PwC continually encourages and supports student growth with world-class training and development programs, as well as abundant ongoing professional learning opportunities, to grow and

reach the highest potential.

Ms. Lama Al-Masri, Senior Manager-HR Department at PwC, gave a full detailed presentation about PwC's new program that is entitled “Al Jeel Employment Program”.

Ms. AlMasri emphasized that this program is a three year program offered across all service lines which enables the graduates to put what they have learned at university into practice and gain valuable work experience, providing them with professional development, a supportive work environment, challenging opportunities, and inspiring leadership as well as first class mentoring and training.

The presentation targeted students from the School of Management and Logistic Sciences (SMLS), as PwC is specialized in Assurance, Consulting, Accounting, Auditing and Taxation.

It is worth mentioning that Ms. Almasri met the GJU president, and they discussed possible cooperation between the two parties in the near future.

“ CV Writing, Interviewing Skills and Workplace Ethics ”

The King Abdulla Office for Career Guidance at GJU organized a presentation about CV writing and interviewing skills as well as workplace ethics by Ms. Sarah Dodeen, HR Trainer.

The presentation targeted students in order to teach them more about writing resumes that could serve them when applying for jobs after graduation.

Ms. Dodeen elaborated on the basic skills of writing a CV, saying that it should be neat and typed if possible. It should be positive, stressing achievements and strengths, and make a good impression in a clear and positive way.



She also added the personal details, including name, address, phone number, email address and possibly any professional social media presence should be included. Students should make personal profiles which sell themselves and their qualities, yet are tailored towards the job they are applying for.

Furthermore, Ms. Dodeen defined a job interview, saying that it is a type of employment test that involves a conversation between a job applicant and a representative of the employing organization.

Workplace ethics and behavior were a crucial part of this presentation, as both are aspects that can assist a company in its efforts to be profitable. In fact, ethics and behavior are just as important to most companies as performance. High morale and teamwork are two ingredients for success.

Ms. Dodeen gave the students some characteristics of good work ethics such integrity, teamwork, loyalty, responsibility and punctuality. She also pointed out that having a solid work ethic means understanding that productivity, organizational skills, being reliable and possessing good character are all attributes that successful people share.

“ Workshop on Energy Efficient Building Envelope ”



The School of Architecture and Built Environment at GJU/ Daret Othman Bdeir organized a workshop about Energy Efficient Building Envelope, on Thursday, 25th April, 2014.

The workshop was a student version of a training course for GJU students, using the material developed by Dr. Ismael Al-Hinti from GJU and Arch. Florentine Visser from MED-ENEC with support from the EU through the MED-ENEC program.

This material was prepared with a focus on the local challenges, practices, construction materials, and thermal insulation codes.

The workshop discussed how the energy consumption of a building is influenced by how it is built, its structure and its envelope. It introduced the building envelope parameters that help improve the energy performance of a building.

Furthermore, the workshop covered several topics such as concept of energy efficient buildings, the physics of energy flow in buildings, heat transfer by conduction and the role of thermal insulation, ventilation and infiltration effects, solar heat gain and passive design aspects and local building envelope constructions and thermal insulation codes in Jordan.

It is worth mentioning that the workshop was organized and advertised for the students by Arch. Farah AlAtrash.

At the end of the workshop students received certificates for attending and a one-year student membership of the JGBC.

“ Fekrati Award at GJU ”

The Deanship of Student Affairs through the Career Guidance Office of the King Abdullah II Fund for Development organized a workshop about the Fekrati Award for Entrepreneurial Projects by Tamweelcom, on Sunday 6th of April, 2014.

The Fekrati Award aims at Serving the Jordanian youth community by building a culture of entrepreneurship amongst youth, and by spreading awareness about establishing enterprises in Jordan. Such awareness will create a value chain through which a business plan applicant can have access to training, funding, and mentorship.

Ms. Farah Mousa, Senior Non-Financial /Services Officer at Tamweelcom, emphasized that the startup grants owners a chance to

link to a network of mentors and potential investors for their businesses. In addition the award targets all Jordanian youth of both genders between the ages of 18-35 years all over the Kingdom, who have startup and innovative ideas or standing projects.

She further explained some guiding principles of the award, such as creativity and innovation perseverance, as well as social and environmental impacts, advising the students to enter the competition, because they will get a chance to have training that will arm them with the necessary skills and knowledge to improve their businesses, and have their ideas formatted in a business plan.

“ Delegation from GJU Visits the Ministry Of Public Works and Housing ”



A group of students visited the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, in order to learn more about the Engineering workshops, the machines that are already manufactured there and the operating environment generally.

During the visit that was organized by the School of Applied Technical Sciences (SATS), the Director, Eng. Ghassan Salameh, gave a short brief about the ministry, its goals and future vision to develop

operational work and manufacture needed vehicles for the ministry.

He also emphasized that the ministry is always working to provide the rest of the ministries in the kingdom with key machinery, vehicles and necessary equipment, in addition to manufacturing metal works.

Furthermore, Eng. Salameh explained to students about the “Air and Hydraulic Systems”, the power equipment, process control valves, instruments, and air floatation load moving systems, setting up some technical instructions to develop the vehicle maintenance process.

For his part, Dr. Ala'aldeen Al-Halhouli, Associate Professor at SATS, said that such scientific visits are very important to enrich the student experience, and introduce them to the practical aspects of their field of study.

At the end of the visit, the delegation took a tour through the ministry.



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