

Kingdom University President's Newsletter

February 2023

President's Message



Quality is always the result of thoughtful effort and is never the result of chance

Since its inception, KU has focused on developing 'work-ready' graduates by providing students with the optimal mix of theoretical and practical education. Thus, KU graduates are in demand in the job market. The University operates within the guidelines stipulated by the Higher Education Council (HEC) of the Ministry of Education, and Education and Training Quality Authority, BQA. It continuously makes efforts to enhance its standards, quality, and effectiveness. As a result, College of Business Administration got "Full Confidence – the highest review ranking" in the Cycle 2 BQA Academic Programme Review for its three academic programs i.e., BSc. in Finance & Accounting, BSc. in Finance and Banking, and BSc. in Business Management. The official reports of Academic Program Reviews were

approved on 13 February 2023. These reports assure that College of Business Administration offers international standard up to date labour market required programs, teaching, learning, assessment, and College has competitive faculty members with excellent professional and research achievements.

On behalf of all university staff I congratulate Prof. Iqbal Thonse Hawaldar and his AQAC team, Dr. Abdelrahiman Meero, Dean of the College, Department Chairpersons, College faculty members, Admin staff of the college, all admin and academic staff of the University for the dedicated team work and sincerity.

Professor Hassan Rafdan AlHajhoj
President
Kingdom University

Students' Site Visit to SAYACORP at Bahrain Financial Harbour with IDES212-Interior Design Studio II students



Sayacorp is a Mixed-Use Development tower comprising Apartments, Offices, Restaurants and Cafés designed by MSCEB. The site visit is part of the activities required for course IDES212 - Interior design studio II. The tower has been selected for students as their site. Students must design one of the office layouts in this tower based on their course requirements. So, on February 12, students went to the site to take photos and measurements so they could make the site analysis and move on to the next steps of the design process. Moreover, on that day, the project director, Mr. Orabi Mohammed and Eng. Ahmed A Kamal accompanied us on the site tour and described different aspects of the project to our students.

Philippine Business Matching Session (B2B); Highlighting Outbound Business Matching Mission (OBMM), at Wyndham Grand Manama Hotel



On February 12, 2023, The event catered to existing Small, Medium Enterprises in the Kingdom of Bahrain, where each was allowed to meet each other in the venue and showcase the products and services and enhance international trade relations between the Republic of the Philippines, the Kingdom of Bahrain and other countries in the Gulf, like Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE. Speakers from the Ministry of Commerce and Trade in Bahrain and the delegates of the Department of Trade and Industry in the Philippines exchange good practices and standards concerning B2B transactions. Students were also able to witness firsthand negotiations of B2B activities.

February 13, 2023, at Derasat Bahrain Center for Strategic International and Energy Studies: Eastern Mediterranean Gas Politics

A team headed by the President Prof. Hassan Al Hajhoj and V.P. Academic Prof. Nader Al Bastaki with Dr Abdul Rahman Meero, Dean of the College of Business Administration, attended the "Think Talk" of the Center.

The main speaker Dr Joshua Krasna, a Senior Fellow of the Middle East Program Foreign Policy Research Institute (FPRI), discussed conditions of gas security in the Middle East. The speaker discussed energy security in the future and showed the current Eastern Mediterranean oil and gas geography. He further discussed Russia as the most significant source of gas and the mobilization of new resources from the Middle East countries. He mentioned that the Eastern Mediterranean pipeline projects are designed for shipping gas to Europe. The possible impact of this development of gas resources of identified countries was likewise briefly discussed. The attendees from the academe from the colleges of Business tried to relate the issue in Business as Dr Venus Bunagan.



Distinguished Achievement on Research Gate

Prof. Iqbal Thonse Hawaldar, Professor in the College of Business Administration and Assistant to the President for Accreditation & Quality Assurance, achieved a unique milestone in that his research publications reached more than 500,000 reads worldwide on Research Gate. Prof. Iqbal Thonse Hawaldar is well-known in research and has local, regional and international research collaborations. He published high-quality research by reputed publishers in the reputed Web of Science and Scopus index journals. He researches finance, artificial intelligence, financial technology, and sustainability. More than 500 000 reads indicate that his publications have high visibility and impact.



The 6th Equal Opportunities Conference

Prof Saad Darwish, HCECE from the College of Business Administration, contributed to the 6th Equal Opportunities Conference at Ahlia University in collaboration with Brunel University and the University of Business Technology from 6-8, Feb 2023. The paper's titles below were presented online.

1. Academic Leadership Roles: Influence on Work-Based Learning
2. Risk Management of Civil Liability Resulting from Self-driving Vehicle Accidents

Before Starting Your Own Business

The Entrepreneurship center at KU hosted a workshop in collaboration with the SMEs Society. Engineer Abdulrahim Fakhroo has been the deputy of the society, a professional in entrepreneurship and SME development for more than twenty years. Eng. Fakhroo presented a workshop to KU students and the SMEs community. We asked our students to register as potential entrepreneurs to start their businesses in the future. Dr Venus Bunagan's entrepreneurship class attended the workshop, and the facilitator, Fakhro, shared real-life examples of entrepreneurship to show how this will influence their future.



Head Start Workshop

As part of our partnership with Injaz, Kingdom university hosted a workshop on February 20, 2023, called "Head Start." Rashed Albuonian was the facilitator. Our students who attended the session were delighted with the presentation they received. The workshop focused on helping students write resumes and prepare for employment. Prof. Nader Al Bastaki, VP, and Prof. Saad Darwish, HCECE, attended the session. Our team, Abdallah Alhelo and Marwa Haji did an excellent job making this event successful.



KAS team students from Kingdom university attended the screening of episode 4 of Beban Season 2

As a part of the entrepreneurship center, KAS team students from Kingdom university attended the screening of episode 4 of Beban Season 2, on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at Cinema 14 - Cineco Seef Cineplex.

Episode 5 Summary:

This episode will show five businesses from the Kingdom of Bahrain and the UAE: Gahwa.co (B.H.), Koala Picks (UAE), Mineral Energy (UAE), Mismaar (B.H.), and GFX Securities (B.H.). These businesses will pitch in front of a panel of regional investors: Mr. Basel Al Abdelkarim (KSA), Mr. Yousif Sultan (Kuwait), and Dr Abdelelaah AlGosaibi (KSA). The panel is also moderated by H.E. Aymen bin Tawfiq Almoayed, Chairman of Hope Fund, who represents Hope Ventures' investments.



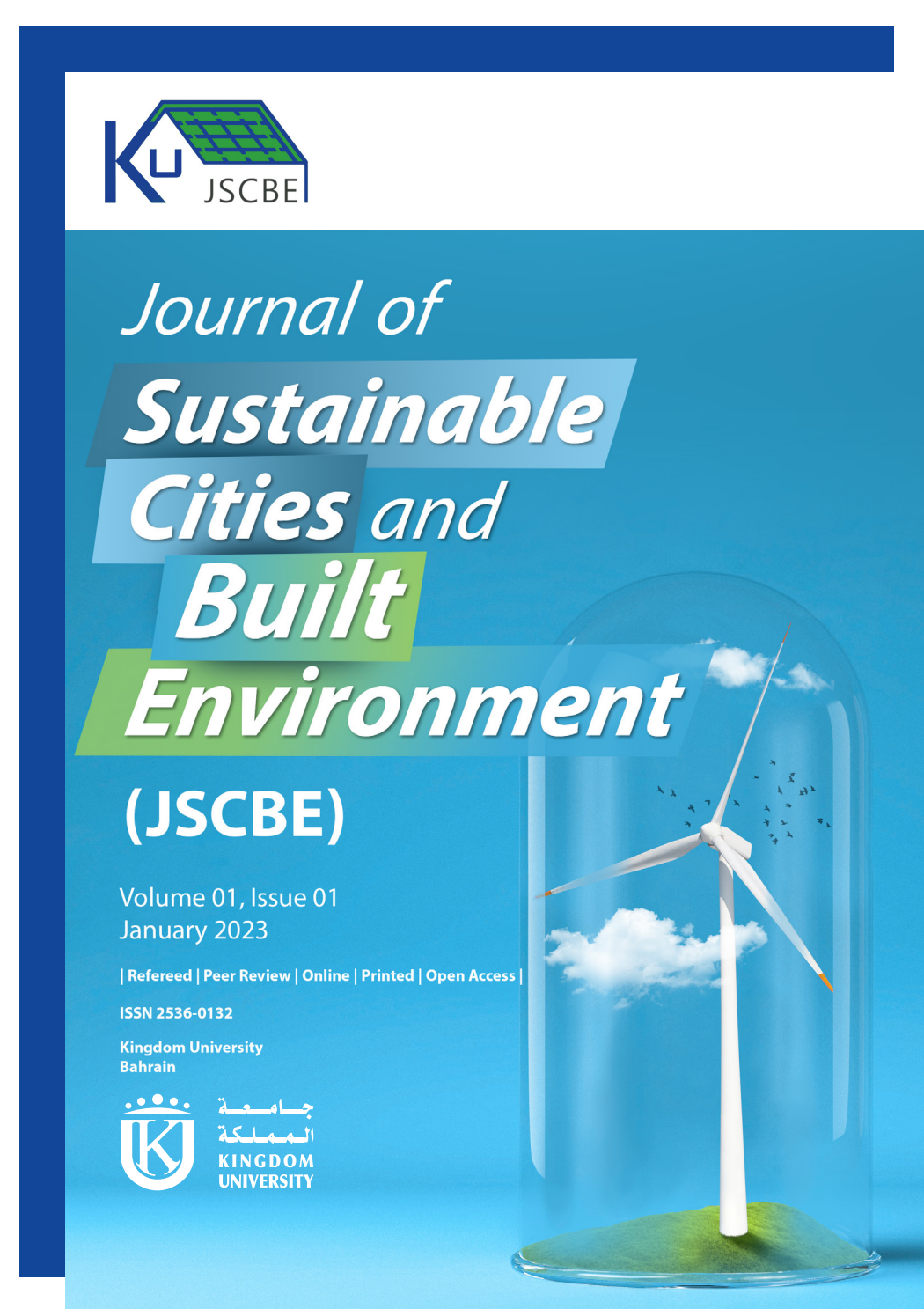
Philippine Business Matching Session (B2B)

President of Bahrain SMEs invited Prof Saad Dawish HCECE, Dr Venus Buangan and Ms. Noora Obaid from the College of Business Administration to attend the Philippine Business Matching Session (B2B) on February 12, 2023, at the Maple and Palm Rooms of the Wyndham Grand Manama Hotel. The Business Session was organized by the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in coordination with the Philippine Embassy and aimed to promote Philippine brands and products in Bahrain and the GCC region.



Digital transformation workshop in higher education and scientific research in the GCC countries ; Digital transformation in HEIs.

On February 20, 2023 ; The workshop is organized by the General Secretariat of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. The ministries and institutions of higher education and scientific research in the countries of the Cooperation Council participate to learn about the areas and projects of digital transformation of the participating parties and the most critical challenges facing digital transformation in higher education, and scientific research to discuss prospects and future visions for joint Gulf action in digital transformation in higher education and scientific research. Dr Mohamed Mahdy from the A.E. department attends the workshop.



College of Architecture and Design issued the 1st Journal of Sustainable Cities and Built Environment.

This Journal is supervised and edited by the College of Architecture and Design under Dr Ashraf Mohamed Suleiman - Dean of the College and Editor-in-Chief, who stated that the first issue was issued electronically and will be printed in the next few days. He also indicated that all published research was arbitrated according to international standards and was registered on the site- (Crossref – DOI))

SPAGU- Operational Plan Achievements 2017-2022 presentation

The Strategic Planning and Governance Unit organized a series of meetings with all departments, units, and colleges at Kingdom University to present their achievements, which they tried hard to achieve but which were not achieved for various reasons during the period of the previous strategic plan for the academic year 2017–2022. These efforts contributed to the success of the new strategic plan by knowing the strengths and weaknesses of each department and college within the university and achieving the goals of the new strategic plan, including improving quality and creating a more relevant brand name in the market.

CECE -Industrial Linkage: Visit to the Bahrain Engineering Society 12-2-2023

President Prof. Hassan AlHajhooj, Prof. Nader AlBastaki, Prof Saad Darwish HCECE and Dr Ashraf Sulayman, Dean of Engineering College, visited the society and discussed future collaborations in favor of our students and expect to sign an MoU soon.



SPAGU -Risk Analysis and Evaluation

To support and address the academic risk concerning KU students' performance falling below that of other universities in Bahrain across the four Colleges, SPAGU, in collaboration with the UC-Risk Management Committee, arranged and organized a high-level face-to-face meeting at the conference room. The Vice President for Academic Affairs and Scientific Research, College Deans, Department Chairpersons, and academic support Directors attended the event. Each attendee has shared their views and inputs on the current issues concerning students' performance and engagement and the ways and means on how to mitigate the risk.

Successful Alumni Entrepreneur

Our graduate from the college of Architecture and Interior design, Mr. Saif Mohamed AL Khzraji had done many achievements during his career. At the top of this is his company Lightroon- Intelligent Lighting specializing in lighting technology adding to his other successful contributions. Saif is proud of his Experience at Kingdom University and his passion for advancement and success is limitless. We at KU are pleased of our graduates who proved that our teaching and development strategies proved to be effective in the market place.



Kingdom University Participation in launching a Ceremony of the State of Arab Cities Report 2022



Kingdom University participated by several students' projects from the College of Architectural Engineering and Design in launching a ceremony of the State of Arab Cities Report 2022 under the title "Sustainable Financing for Urban Infrastructure". The ceremony was organized by the Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies "Derasat" and the Regional Office of Arab Countries for the United Nations Human Settlement program and the United Nations Development Program in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Kingdom University Participation in the Sports Day Activities of the Kingdom of Bahrain



Kingdom University, in cooperation with Mr. Mohammed Darraj, a member of the Municipal Council of Rabaa Al Janabiyah, organized the Sports Day Activities for the Kingdom of Bahrain in cooperation with the university's students, graduates, members of the administrative and academic staff, in addition to the people of the Council.

Kingdom University Participation in Education and Training before Work Exhibition

Kingdom University participated in the education and training before the work exhibition, which was held under the generous patronage of His Excellency the Minister of the Ministry of Labor, Mr Jamil Humaidan.

Prof Al Hajhouj, KU President, said the strengthening labour market procedures are met via private sector employment programs. He also thanked the business sector for its involvement in expanding the kingdom's labour market. The exhibition aims to acquaint students who are anticipated to graduate from secondary and university levels with the available educational, training and career options as per the nature of the labor market requirements.



The President of Kingdom University hold a Meeting with the Academic Staff

The President of Kingdom University, Prof. Hassan, met with the academic staff. During the meeting, the president thanked the academic staff for their hard work in improving teaching and learning at the university. It shows the university's success in getting several local and international accreditations at the institutional and program levels.

During the meeting, several matters were discussed, the most important of which is a further development of teaching and learning, focusing on students' academic achievement, educational outcomes, scientific research, and the importance of academic supervision for students in choosing majors and courses. Besides, community engagement and industrial linkages are essential to developing KU's image locally and regionally.

On the other hand, Prof. Nader Al-Bastaki, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Scientific Research, emphasized the vital role played by faculty members at the university, appreciating their efforts to develop education and achieve the university's goals and strategic plan.



The President of Kingdom University hold a Meeting with the Administrative Staff

The President of KU, Prof. Hassan Al-Hajhouj, held a meeting with the administrative staff. During the meeting, the president evaluated the important role played by the administrative staff to support the academic staff and students and facilitating the teaching and learning processes stating that: "We evaluate all the efforts made to achieve the university goals and its strategic plan, and we believe in the university administrative competencies as we provide all necessary means of support to it."



College of Business Got “Full Confidence”

The President of Kingdom University, Prof. Hassan AlHajhouj, congratulated the university staff for the achievement of getting “Full Confidence” in the programs of the College of Business Administration (Bachelor of Science in Financial Management and Accounting, Bachelor of Science in Financial and Banking Management and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration). The Quality Assurance Authority has conducted the necessary reviews and audit of documents related to the college programs and ensured the development and improvement of plans for these programs. The president thanked all those in charge of the Quality Assurance Authority for their efforts in developing the quality of education in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He pointed out that this achievement is the result of a teamwork that reflects the university's vision and strategic plan, which seeks to improve the quality of its academic programs, to keep pace with the sustainable development and strategic plans of the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Kingdom University signed an agreement and a memorandum of understanding with the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Kingdom University signed an agreement and a memorandum of understanding with the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This came as part of signing of 13 agreements and memorandum of understanding between the Chamber and higher education institutions to enhance scientific research and innovation to serve the national goals of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

On this occasion, Dr. Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Daij Al Khalifa, Secretary-General of the Higher Education Council and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the HEC, emphasizes the importance of the agreement in achieving integration between the higher education sector and various sectors through “Bahrain Chamber”, and strengthening teamwork in research and students' training. This event hosted by the Chamber is the first of its kind to build bridges of cooperation between higher education institutions and sectors.



Kingdom University supports employability, entrepreneurship and innovation skills



In accordance with the requirements labor market, the College of Business Administration at Kingdom University is constantly reviewing and developing its programs. Over the past two years, the college has updated its study plans and developed courses that support employability, entrepreneurship, and innovation skills. All programs of the College of Business Administration include Entrepreneurship as a compulsory course within the study plan, in addition to Entrepreneurial Finance and Venture Capital as an elective course in all programs.

The college also focuses on supporting these skills through the Entrepreneurship Center, which provides advice and support to entrepreneurs and to students and graduates who have the desire to open their own businesses, as well as to those outside the university as community services provided by the center. In addition, the college organizes extracurricular activities by hosting speakers from outside the university to talk about their successful experiences as role models and a source of inspiration for students, or field visits to public and private business companies. In addition, the College of Business Administration, in cooperation with the Graduate and Professional Development Unit at the university, follows up with students after their graduation and provides them with the professional guidance they need in their current work or future projects.

The College of Business Administration is keen to refine the students' professional side through partnerships with international professional bodies that enable graduates to obtain specialized professional certificates. Last year, the college obtained accreditations for all its programs by (CMI - The Chartered Management Institute). This accreditation indicates that there is a compatibility between what the programs offer and the requirements of (CMI). The College graduates are granted a professional certificate - the fifth level - by (CMI) which enables them to obtain a professional manager certificate (Chartered Manager).

The college is also dedicated to develop faculty members in line with the requirements of the labor market and the development of academic work through gaining specialized professional certificates. All faculty members in the college obtained the British Associate Certificate (HEA), and many of them obtained professional certificates in various fields, such as:

Wealth Management Professional, Chartered Manager, Artificial Intelligence Application in Business and Financial Technology Business Application.

Kingdom University is also keen to review and develop its programs in line with the variables and requirements of the labor market, especially regarding work skills in the private sector, as the private sector, especially small and medium enterprises, has become one of the largest fields in employing manpower.

Congratulations to Prof Saad Darwish Chartered Manager CMI

Kingdom University congratulates Prof. Saad Darwish for this distinguished achievement. It's important to note that a Chartered Manager is a professional who has reached the highest management and leadership level. He has a solid commitment to CPD, which stands for continuing professional development, and a lot of excellent skills. His status is "Chartered Professional" in recognition of his expertise.

