

Kingdom University President's Newsletter

January 2023

President's Message



Kingdom University (KU) extends a warm welcome and has been providing top-notch tertiary education to its students since 2001.

From the humble beginnings in 2001, KU is now at an important juncture in its history. With our new 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, our vision for the future

is underpinned by a strong focus on high quality academic programmes, research, and community engagement endeavors—the three overarching pillars identified in the last 2017-2022 Strategic Plan which continue to be our institutional priorities.

In view of the new strategic initiatives, the faculty at KU places great emphasis on fostering a student-centered learning environment that promotes empathy, respect, devotion, inspiration, and excellence. To keep up with the latest developments in higher education, the university regularly updates its hands-on learning and teaching models and strategies, by benchmarking with similar universities abroad and collaborating on undergraduate programmes. This helps ensure that curricula stays at the highest level in all areas.

In addition, KU actively participates in the Higher Education Council's (HEC) national quality assurance cycles and international programme accreditation, contributing to the development of its courses and enhancing the credibility of its degrees. The university also works closely with businesses to prepare students for the ever-changing job market, and places a strong emphasis on promoting research, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

The graduates of KU have secured key positions

in Bahrain's governmental and business sectors, reflecting the university's commitment to serving society and establishing a notable presence in education, locally, regionally, and globally.

To meet the needs of its growing student body, KU is expanding its facilities, and promises to provide a modern education in a setting that will help students achieve their professional and lifelong learning goals. The first issue of the "KU President's Newsletter" is a collective document that will keep track of all the events and happenings at the university. Each staff member is encouraged to contribute their successes and achievements, which will help promote shared values and a sense of unity towards a common goal.

Our stakeholders, including prospective students and alumni, would like to know more about KU, its activities, achievements, and the quality of its performance. This newsletter is one way to showcase the university and differentiate it from the many competitors in the market. We encourage everyone to make it a reality.

Professor Hassan Rafdan AlHajhoj
President
Kingdom University

Gulf Business Incubators and Accelerators Conference “Fifth Edition”



On the 5th January 2023, KU president Prof Hassan AlHajhoj, the Vice president and Prof Saad Darwish attended the conference for incubators and accelerators. This fifth conference is a continuation of the previous four meetings. It is an excellent opportunity to attend and share ideas about future collaborations. This conference which is a leading platform for developing the SMEs in Bahrain's conferences will yield some good recommendations that will push the economy of Bahrain.

Workshop on Accounting and Vat for SMEs



As a part of Kingdom University's contribution to promoting entrepreneurship education in collaboration with SME's Bahrain, Mr. Ghaleb Husain, a founding partner business BCA, presented a workshop at Kingdom university. The event focused on the bookkeeping and VAT for Small Business Enterprises in Bahrain. The speaker illustrated the different tools for bookings that cope with Bahrain's rules and regulations that the audience could benefit from. The presentation covered accounting, computerized bookkeeping, informed decision-making, reporting, and the Bahrain VAT system. The audiences were SME owners, students, startups, and entrepreneurs.

Signing MOU with Alba



On 24th January 2023, Prof. Hassan AlHajhoj, KU President and Prof. Nader al Bastaki, the Vice President, accompanied by the Deans Dr. Abdulrahman Meero, Dr. Nidal Yasseen Hamo, Dr. Ashraf Mohamed Soliman, and Dr. Khalid Walid Mansour visited Alba's CEO Mr. Ali Al Baqali and his team presided over a meeting with Alba officials to discuss future collaborations on common issues related to education and industry. An MOU was signed to facilitate this collaboration. This strategic partnership will benefit our students , provide training opportunities for them and promote research for various topics .



Publish of Research Papers of Prof.Iqbal in World Health Organization (WHO)

Since the spread of the Covid 19 till this date; Prof. Iqbal Hawaldar, Assistant to the President for Quality and accreditation, has conducted 12 research papers that were included in the World Health Organization (WHO) Covid -19 Research Database. This can be considered as an impact of research on society and will help in the institutional and program accreditations, reviews, ranking and marketing of the university.

Publishing a Book in Criminal Law

A book was published by Professor Omar Al-Hadithi with a working group of researchers entitled (Criminal Confrontation of Financial and Administrative Corruption Crimes and Mechanisms or Recovering Money). The book was written by a group of criminal law professors from various universities exploring an important topic which is the crimes of financial and administrative corruption and ways to confront them in comparative criminal legislation.



Participation as External Juror for Interior Design Engineering Graduation Project at Gulf University

Assistant Professor Dr. Ibtisam Mohammad Ziyad Alhoutary from the College of Architectural Engineering and Design has participated as an External Juror for the Interior Design Engineering graduation project at Gulf University, which was held on January 11, 2023 along with Architects and Engineers from the industry.



First summit linking Small and Large Enterprises Towards an overall Sustainable Development and Economic Prosperity

On the 26th December 2022, Prof Saad Darwish HCECE -representing KU - attended the first summit meeting with SME's Bahrain. The committee discussed the preparations for the next expected conference taking place in Bahrain around 12th-15th Jun 2023. The conference will be about linking Small and Large Enterprises towards an overall Sustainable Development and Economic Prosperity. This is a great opportunity to participate and share ideas for future collaborations.



Workshop about the Basics of Project Management

The workshop aims to improve the trainee's understanding of project management fundamentals; it delivers the fundamental elements of project management under the supervision of a professionally certified trainer, with 12 hours of training required for a professional certification from the Project Management Institute in the United States. In this class, the presenter Yousif Ameen was hosted by the Unit for Internships, Alumni Affairs, and Career Guidance.



Final Design Jury for the Course IDES311-Interior Design Studio III (Construction)

The Interior design III final jury was conducted on 12th January 2023. This course was delivered by Dr. Mahtab Asvar during the first academic semester. Dr. Omar from Gulf University was invited as an external juror to assess our 3rd year students for their final projects. Students successfully completed the course requirements and passed their course.



Workshop Entitled for Self-confidence and Presentation Skills

This session was conducted by the Internship, Alumni Affairs, and Career Guidance Unit in partnership with HUB BAHRAIN. The goal of the session is to improve students' comprehension as well as their mental and psychological preparedness for the needs of presentations and training them to increase their ability and confidence. The most crucial part of body language is to allow them to provide professional presentations in any team competition.



External Juror in Gulf University

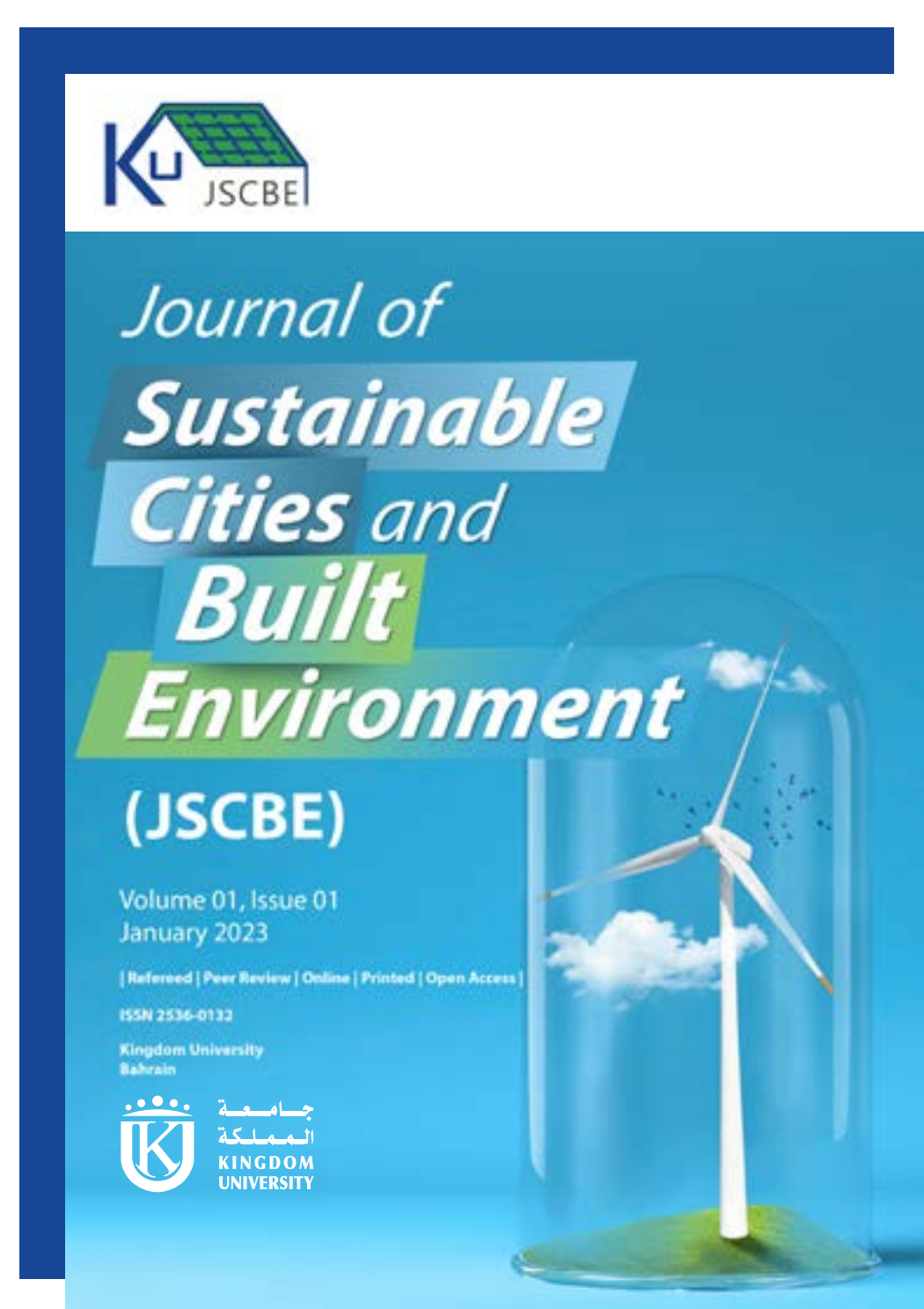
Arch.Hana was invited as an External Juror at Gulf University, Department of Interior Design Engineering to assess the final students' projects for Interior Design Engineering studio IV, where the theme was renovating an existing Incubator center. The project spotted the light on designing functional interiors considering sustainability and technical aspects from HVAC to MEP.



Dr Abdul Rahman Meero, Dean of College of Business - Distinguished Achievement to become a Chartered Manager

Congratulations to Dr Meero!

A Chartered Manager is a professional who has achieved the highest status in the management and leadership industry. They have exceptional skills and a high commitment to continuing professional development (CPD), and their status as a Chartered professional is in recognition of their expertise. To become a Chartered Manager requires investing in building the necessary skills, knowledge, and expertise to make a successful application for the status, which the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) will grant or deny. The CMI is the only professional body that can make you a Chartered Manager, although it is possible to study CMI-accredited courses at other institutions.



Publishing a Book on Sustainable Built Environment

In collaboration with the professional engineer Mr. Mohamed Da'abis, Dr Ashraf Soliman published a chapter entitled "Guidelines to Cope with Challenging Problems Facing the Building Construction Industry Due COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis" in the book entitled "Sustainable Built Environment."

Kingdom University and the “Human Rights Observatory” Sign a Memorandum of Understanding

Kingdom University signed a joint memorandum of understanding with the Al-Marsad Society for Human Rights with the aim of spreading the culture of national awareness in society, promoting human rights and consolidating the values of democracy and citizenship. Prof. Hassan AlHajhoj, President of the University, stated, “As an important part of the Bahraini society, Kingdom University is constantly and diligently working to prepare national cadres that contribute to the advancement of the country based on instilling values and promoting principles of religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence and ensuring the protection of human rights at all levels as well. The university has an important academic role, as it has worked to double its outputs from studies and research to complete the march achieved by the Kingdom of remarkable progress in the field of human rights protection”. He also affirmed the university’s readiness to activate the memorandum of understanding with the Al-Marsad Association, and to strive to achieve the greatest means of cooperation in various fields that benefit the public.



Faculty, Students, and Graduates of “Kingdom University” Celebrate the National Day

The Student Affairs Department supervised the National Day event as one of the activities that students and alumni from different faculties compete in. Prof. Hassan bin Rafdan AlHajhoj stated that “ Kingdom University family, being an important part of Bahraini society, shared the joys of the Kingdom of Bahrain’s leadership, government, and people on this important national occasion that enhances the national spirit of our students and graduates, and enhances many skills they have, perhaps the most prominent of which is creative thinking”. The Student Council and Alumni Club worked hard to make this event a success. The celebration featured poetry evenings, singing passages, carnival games, and food stalls. The university invited graduates who own home projects and small and medium companies to the event.



Kingdom University and the SME's Society Discuss Future Collaborations

Kingdom University President Prof. Dr Hassan bin Rafdan AlHajhoj welcomed Bahrain Small Enterprises Association President Dr Abdul Hassan Al-Dairy and the Board of Directors. SME's supported entrepreneurs and small business owners, and It was agreed that a public workshop would be delivered and collaborated on for the yearly conference. Kingdom University is creating and developing a center for entrepreneurship on its campus. It will improve the way the university encourages people to start their own businesses, give business owners the skills they need to run their projects, and help Bahrain's economy to improve.



The International Association for the Development of Business Schools Visits Kingdom University

Mr. Ihsan Thabet, Regional President of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), Europe, Middle East, and Africa office in Amsterdam paid a visit to Kingdom University's, courtesy of the Higher Education Council. The meeting aimed at identifying ways to improve collaboration between the two institutions. Prof. Hassan bin Rafdan AlHajhoj, the university President, Prof. Nader Muhammad Al-Bastaki, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Scientific Research, and Dr. Abdul Rahman Miro, Dean of the College of Business Administration represented Kingdom University. Prof. Hassan AlHajhoj expressed his heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency the Regional President of the Association for his visit and the unwavering support that the university, represented by the College of Business Administration, got from this worldwide organization. It is worth mentioning that the main international institution (AACSB) is the highest official reference that awards accreditation to business schools. It is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1916 and provides academic services to educational organizations and institutions all over the globe.



Kingdom University visits Al-Yamamah University in Riyadh



Kingdom University and Al-Yamamah University will meet in Riyadh to discuss how they can work together more effectively. Al-Yamamah University in Riyadh coordinated a meeting with the administration of Kingdom University. The meeting aimed to expand the horizons and ways of cooperation between the two universities. The meeting included the following:

- Discussing the possibility of exchanging experiences in the academic and educational fields.
- Exchanging students' and faculty members' visits, in addition to enriching scientific research.
- Spreading knowledge and exchanging experiences in the field of local, regional, and international credits in a way that contributes to the development of the educational process.

The two universities are looking forward to signing a memorandum of understanding in the coming months to start building bridges of cooperation between them.



Member of Southern Municipality Visits Kingdom University

Prof. Hassan bin Rafdan AlHajhoj, President of Kingdom University, received a member of the Municipal Council of the Fourth District in the Southern Governorate, Prof. Muhammad Hussein Darraj. Prof. AlHajhoj congratulated Prof. Darraj who gained the confidence of the citizens through his election to the municipal council, stressing that Kingdom University works hand in hand with the municipal council by harnessing all that is necessary to achieve the principle of community partnership, which is one of the most important pillars of the university and its strategic plan. It was also agreed to organize a number of specific events that serve the Bahraini community, most notably the Sports Day, which was held on the second of next February.



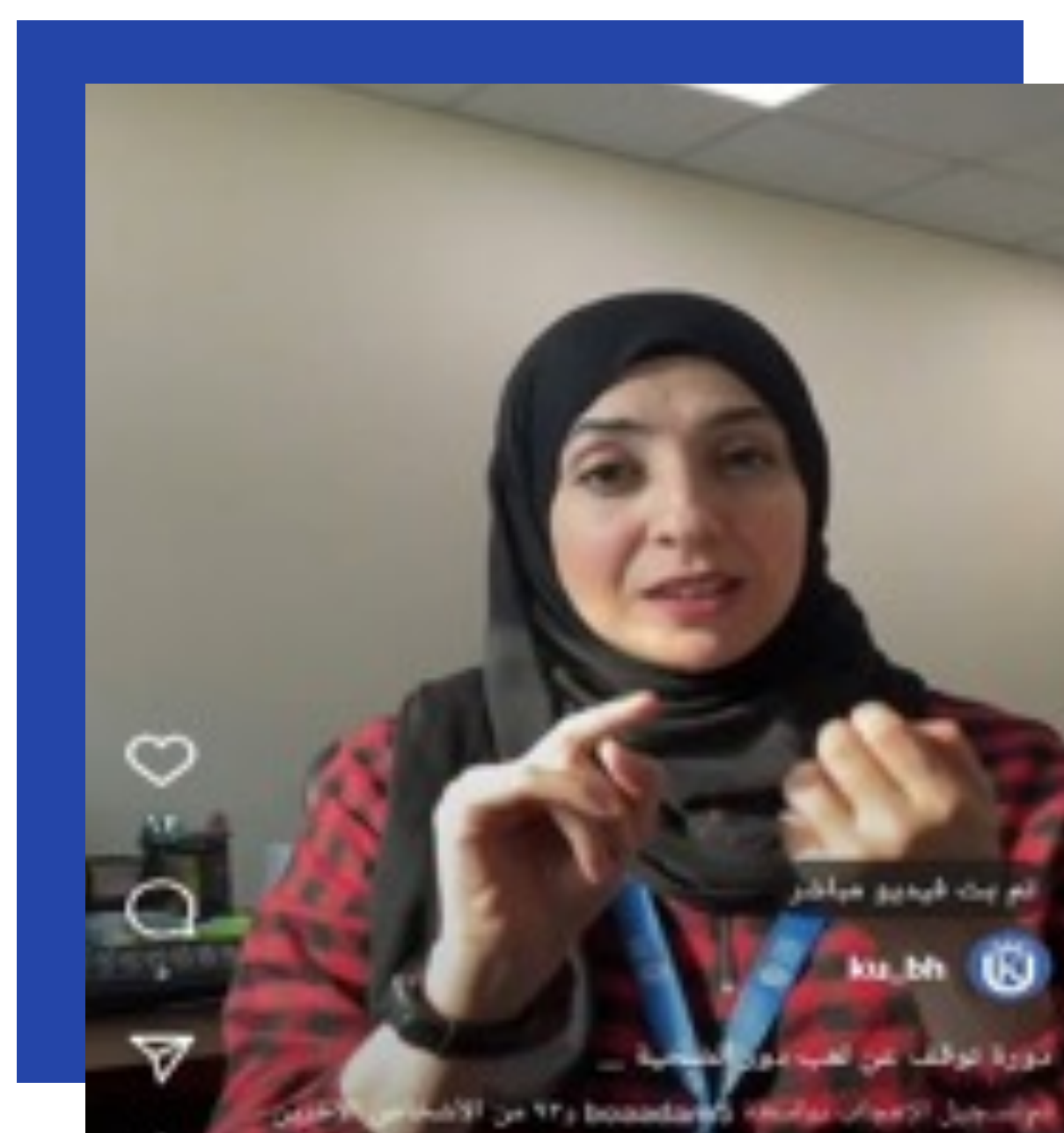
Bahrain Institute for Political Development

On Wednesday, 4th January, 2023, the Bahrain Institute for Political Development and Kingdom University announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding to enhance cooperation with the aim of spreading a culture of national awareness in society, supporting and strengthening the academic aspect, scientific research and awareness in the areas of political participation of students at the university. The Institute was represented at the signing of the agreement by the Executive Director, Mrs Iman Faisal Janahi, and on the university side, Professor Hassan bin Rafdan AlHajhoj, the University President. Prof. Hassan AlHajhoj, affirmed that all the achievements of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of political development place it in a leading position in the Arab world, and even regionally and internationally.



Workshop on “Stop Playing the Victim”

On the 25th of January, a psychosocial course via Instagram Live, was presented by the student mentor, Ms. Lina. It aimed to develop the students' skill of taking responsibility for their lives, their decisions, as well as their personal mistakes, and show the impact of the victim mentality on a person's success and his/her psychological stability.



Orientation Day for New Students

The Student Affairs Administration organized a preparation day for new students for the second semester of the academic year 2022/2023, on Sunday, 29th January, 2023, on the ground floor at the university campus. The event began with a welcome speech by the President of the University, Professor Hassan AlHajhoj, followed by a welcome speech by the Deans of the faculties. The event included a speech honoring the graduates of the College of Business Administration and presenting the CMI certificates. The event was concluded with an introductory tour for new students to explore the university's departments and facilities.



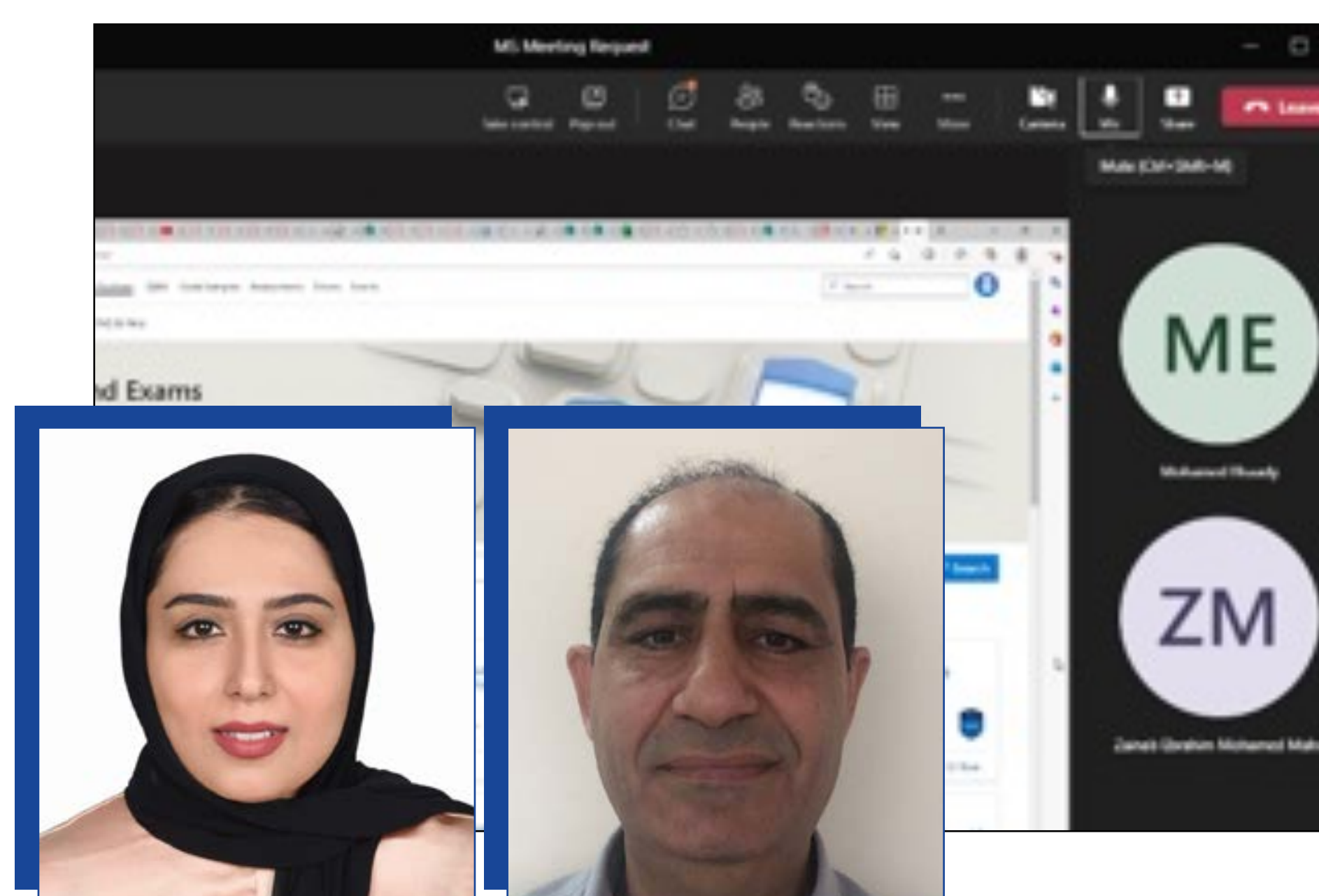
Workshop on Choosing a University Major, for Alia Private School Students

A specialized course was presented by the student mentor Ms. Lina, to train students on the most important skill of choosing a university major from a psychological and social angle and knowing the criteria for determining the suitability of the major for the individual's personality and job vacancies. The most important university majors were also reviewed.



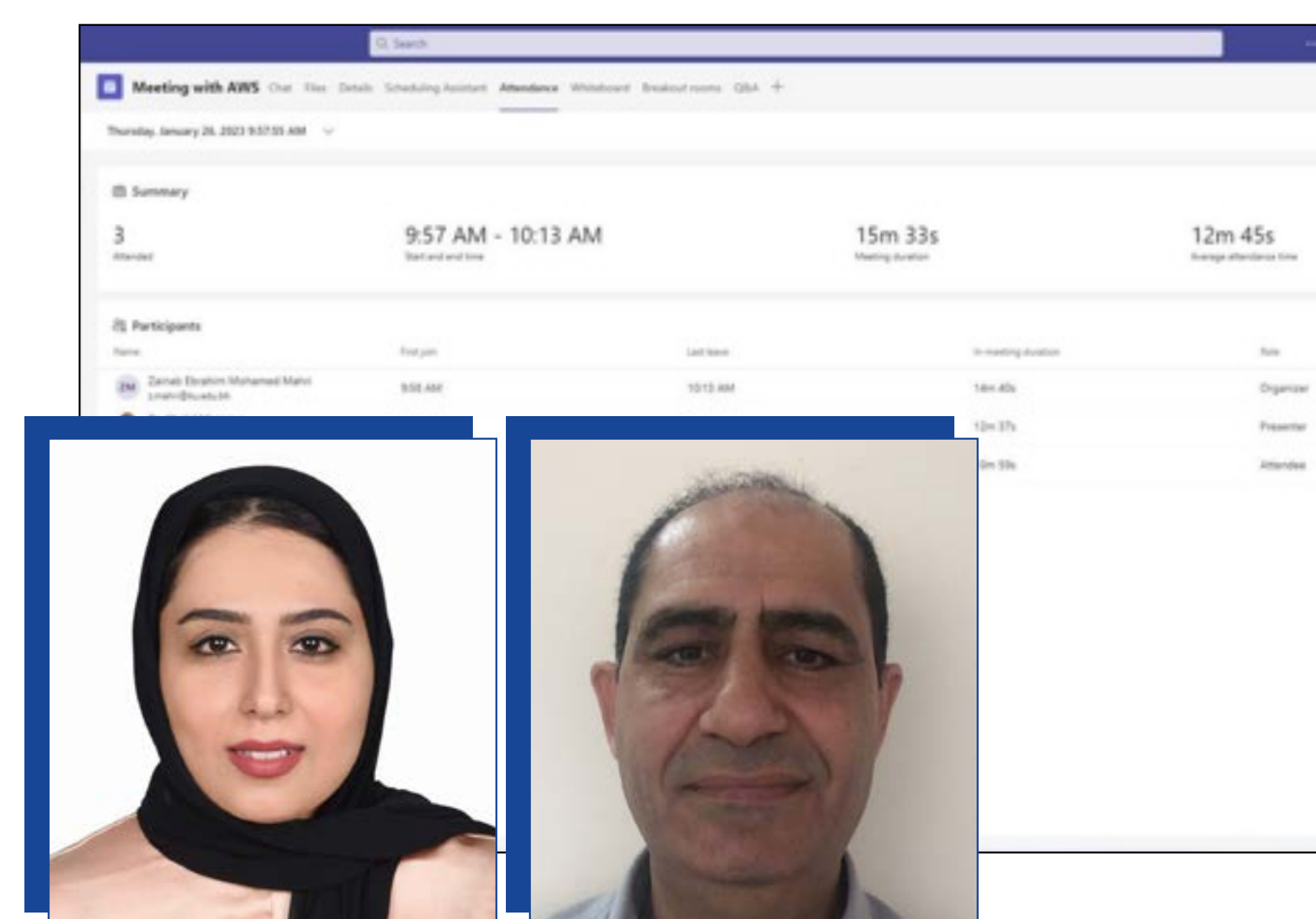
Online Meeting with Microsoft Representative for Hosting a Speaker

This online meeting was held with Mr. Mohamed El Saady to discuss the possibility of hosting a speaker from Microsoft at Kingdom University to discuss issues related to certifications and future careers. The meeting was attended by Dr. Khalid Mansour, Dean of IT College, and Ms. Zainab Ebrahim, Head of IT Department.



Online Meeting with AWS MENA Lead for Hosting a Speaker

This online meeting was with Mr. Mohamed Youssef, the AWS MENA Lead, to discuss the possibility of hosting a speaker from AWS at Kingdom University to discuss the issues related to Education and Workforce. The meeting was attended by Dr. Khalid Mansour, Dean of the IT College, and Ms. Zainab Ebrahim, Head of the IT Department.



Our Students in Injaz Team are Working very Hard to Achieve Success

Under the guidance of mentors from the business world who have volunteered to be a part of the program, students can go through the whole life cycle of a start-up company and learn about being an entrepreneur. The Company Program is INJAZ Bahrain's most popular course, and universities offer it to give students this chance. Students who participate in the program learn about free markets and how they work while getting hands-on experience. Kingdom University is proud of what INJAZ Bahrain has done. It is known as one of the first organizations to help young people in Bahrain and give them the tools they need to start their careers and run successful businesses. This group, along with the others, is competing to complete the project successfully. Prof Saad Darwish, with his assistant Ms Marwa Haji is hosting the groups in the entrepreneurship center to provide support and guidance.

