

Association of Arab Universities

Newsletter

Monthly Magazine

رمضان مبارك

R a m a d a n M u b a r a k

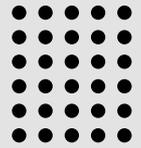
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WELCOME



Prof. Amr Salama Secretary General



Technical Education Drives Progress and Offers Youth Major Opportunities

HE **Prof. Amr Ezzat Salama**, Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, emphasized that technical and vocational education is key to national progress and job creation. Speaking at the **EduTech Egypt 2025** forum, he highlighted the sector's growing importance amid rapid technological and economic changes.

Prof. Salama noted that over 50% of Egyptian high school students are enrolled in technical education, reflecting its critical role in workforce development. He also cited rising investments in advanced educational programs in countries like the UAE, Jordan, and Morocco.

With **Arab youth unemployment at 25%**, he stressed the need to enhance technical education for better employment opportunities. The Association of Arab Universities supports this through regional partnerships, digital transformation, and job networks.

The forum, held in collaboration with international and local organizations, including the **EU, GIZ, and Siemens**, is sponsored by **Telecom Egypt - WE**.



WELCOME

Advancing Higher Education in the Arab World: A Vision for the Future

By *Prof. Dr. Anas Al-Soud*.

Higher education drives sustainable development, innovation, and economic growth. As Executive Director of the Association of Arab Universities (AARU), my goal is to strengthen Arab universities by enhancing academic excellence, research impact, and global competitiveness.

My vision focuses on improving rankings, fostering impactful research, and building international collaborations. AARU must serve as a catalyst for transformation, equipping universities with the tools to expand their global presence.

Bridging academia and industry is key—universities should evolve into hubs of innovation and entrepreneurship. Strengthening partnerships with the private sector and global organizations ensures graduates acquire future-ready skills.

Scientific research fuels progress, yet Arab universities face funding and visibility challenges. AARU will promote regional research collaborations, joint funding, and knowledge-sharing, positioning Arab universities as global leaders in fields like AI, sustainability, and healthcare.

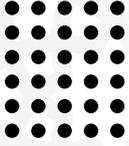
Amid economic and political challenges, **AARU must support universities in crisis-hit regions through financial aid**, capacity-building, and policy advocacy.

The future of Arab universities depends on unity and collaboration. By embracing digital transformation, international accreditation, and sustainable development goals, we can unlock the full potential of Arab higher education. Now is the time to drive transformation and position Arab universities as key players in the global knowledge economy.

If you can support this vision in any way, please get in touch: anas@aaruedu.jo

Prof. Anas Al-Soud
Executive Director





HRH Prince of Asir Hosts the Honoring Ceremony for Arab Universities Participating in the 2024 Arab University Ranking at King Khalid University



His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Governor of the Asir Region and Chairman of the Regional Development Authority, Hosted the honoring ceremony for universities participating in the second Arab university ranking. The event was attended by the Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, H.E. Prof. Amr Ezzat Salama.

Prince Turki welcomed the Arab guests from the Association of Arab Universities, emphasizing the importance of recognizing academic excellence. He praised King Saud University for achieving first place in the Arab ranking and King Khalid University for securing the fifth position overall and the second among Saudi universities.

Dr. Amr Ezzat Salama, Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, expressed his honor in attending this prestigious event, which celebrates universities that have excelled in the second Arab university ranking. The ranking was launched



by the Association of Arab Universities in collaboration with the Arab League and the Arab Organization for Education, Culture, and Science, with King Khalid University in Abha as the host. He added, "University rankings have become a key reference for governments and policymakers in assessing universities and formulating educational development plans. Companies also use them to select academic partners, while students rely on them to choose suitable educational institutions. Furthermore, inclusion in global rankings has become a prerequisite for some education ministries when approving partnerships or establishing university branches." Dr. Salama continued, "There are over 30,000 universities and higher education institutes across 238 countries, with thousands being evaluated and ranked annually through nearly 20 international rankings. This underscores the urgent need for an Arab-specific ranking that reflects our cultural and academic uniqueness while aligning with global standards amidst intense competition and labor market demands." He noted that 373 universities from 16 Arab countries applied for the second Arab university ranking—an increase of 165 institutions compared to the first edition—of which 180 universities successfully met the ranking requirements.

The President of King Khalid University, Dr. Faleh bin Raja Allah Al-Sulami, highlighted that the 2024 Arab university ranking represents a significant step toward fostering integration among Arab universities and opening new avenues for collaboration, particularly in light of global challenges that underscore the importance of joint efforts.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Prince Turki bin Talal honored the Arab universities included in the 2024 Arab ranking, particularly the top ten institutions:

- **10th place:** *University of Tunis El Manar*
- **9th place:** *Taif University*
- **8th place:** *Alexandria University*
- **7th place:** *Mansoura University*
- **6th place:** *Ain Shams University*
- **5th place:** *King Khalid University*
- **4th place:** *University of Sharjah*
- **3rd place:** *United Arab Emirates University*
- **2nd place:** *Cairo University*
- **1st place:** *King Saud University*

The ceremony, held at King Khalid University in Saudi Arabia, was attended by representatives from the Arab League, university presidents, the Executive Director of the Association of Arab Universities, Prof. Anas Al-Saud, the Association's Director of Administration, Lina Al-Bitar, as well as representatives from various organizations, institutions, and participating universities.





The Egyptian Prime Minister Witnesses the Signing of a Partnership Agreement Between the Association of Arab Universities and the Egyptian Knowledge Bank



The Egyptian Prime Minister, HE Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, attended a ceremony to sign a partnership agreement between the Association of Arab Universities and the Egyptian Knowledge Bank (EKB) to expand the knowledge bank's services under the name EKB International. The partnership aims to internationalize the experience and promote scientific research in Arab universities.

According to the agreement, the Egyptian Knowledge Bank, affiliated with the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, will collaborate with publishers to extend its services to the Arab Knowledge Bank, providing its resources to all Arab universities.

HE Dr. Amr Salama, Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, stated that the agreement represents a significant strategic step towards strengthening academic and research collaboration between the Association of Arab Universities and the Egyptian Knowledge Bank.

He added that the agreement opens new opportunities for Arab universities to benefit from the analytical tools offered by the Knowledge Bank.



Dr. Salama expressed his gratitude to everyone who contributed to this agreement and urged all Arab universities and academic institutions to seize this unique opportunity. "We must unite to advance scientific research, as we need a new generation of researchers capable of addressing global challenges," he said.

Meanwhile, HE Dr. Mohamed Ayman Ashour, the Egyptian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, emphasized that this partnership supports educational, academic, and research activities in the Arab region. Dr. Gina El-Feky, Acting President of the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology and General Supervisor of the Egyptian Knowledge Bank, described the bank as a promising and successful initiative that serves as a model in the field of digital learning platforms and portals worldwide.

The Association of Arab Universities Signs MOU with the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education to Establish a Fund for Supporting Palestinian Universities



The Association of Arab Universities signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today with the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education to establish a fund aimed at mobilizing financial support for higher education institutions in Palestine from various Arab and international sources to address the financial deficits faced by these institutions.

The MoU, signed by Dr. Amr Ezzat Salama, Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, and Professor Dr. Amjad Barham, Palestinian Minister of Education and Higher Education, also aims to enhance the quality of education, develop the academic and research environment, and increase the competitiveness of higher education institutions both locally and internationally.

The agreement stipulates that both parties will cooperate in:

- Providing scholarships that cover tuition fees fully or partially for students.
- Supporting research projects that promote innovation and collaboration among researchers.
- Funding equipment, tools, and software that facilitate learning in crisis situations.
- Supporting development projects and sustainable environment initiatives.

Following the signing, Dr. Salama stated: "This MoU represents a strategic step in supporting higher education institutions in Palestine, which face significant financial challenges affecting their sustainability and the quality of their educational services. The establishment of this fund is a genuine commitment by the Association and its

partners across the Arab world and internationally to strengthen Palestinian higher education, ensuring its sustainability and development. We look forward to this support contributing to improving education quality and fostering a more advanced academic and research environment, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of Palestinian universities regionally and globally."

For his part, Dr. Amjad Barham emphasized that this agreement is a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to support and develop higher education institutions in Palestine, which face major financial constraints affecting their stability and academic progress. He added: "The establishment of this fund reflects our commitment to providing a sustainable educational and research environment, as well as strengthening partnerships with Arab and international entities to ensure the continuity and advancement of Palestinian universities. This collaboration will effectively contribute to improving education quality and enhancing academic competitiveness at both the local and international levels, ultimately serving the aspirations of our students and academics in building a brighter future."

The signing ceremony was attended by Professor Dr. Anas Al-Soud, Executive Director of the Association of Arab Universities, Professor Dr. Imad Al-Zeer, President of Palestine Ahliya University, Lina Al-Bitar, Director of Administration at the Association, Professor Dr. Walid Salama, Adviser to the Association, and Waheeb Karaja, Director of Public Relations and Media.

AACSB and AArU Begin Groundbreaking Partnership to Advance Quality Education Across the Arab World



Dubai, UAE — The Association of Arab Universities (AArU) and AACSB International (AACSB) have formalized a strategic partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), during AACSB's Middle East and North Africa conference in Dubai, UAE.

The agreement outlines a shared commitment to providing opportunities for schools within the AArU membership to experience the advantages of specified membership benefits in both AACSB and AArU. AArU members will be provided the opportunity to work towards advancing accreditation efforts, and promote best practices in business education. This partnership will support universities across the Arab world in achieving global standards of excellence while addressing region-specific challenges in higher education and economic development.

"The Association of Arab Universities seeks to enhance the quality of higher education and elevate the level of academic accreditation to meet international standards. This agreement with AACSB, one of the most important international accreditation institutions, is part of the Association's vision

to develop academic excellence, improve the efficiency of Arab educational institutions, and enhance their competitiveness.", says Professor Dr. Amr Salama, Secretary General of AArU.

"AACSB is proud to collaborate with the Association of Arab Universities supporting the advancement of quality education in the Arab region. This partnership underscores our shared commitment to fostering excellence, innovation, and impact in education worldwide. With a century old tradition of continuous improvement and impact, we are honored to join AArU today and celebrate our mutual commitment to quality education.", says Lily Bi President and CEO of AACSB.

The MOU is a testament to the shared vision of both organizations to nurture future-ready business leaders in higher education. The AArU, established in 1964, is dedicated to strengthening cooperation between its 450 member universities in the Arab world and supporting their contributions to sustainable development. AACSB, with its global network of over 1,900 member organizations, has been driving excellence in business education for more than a century.

The Association of Arab Universities Participates in the Preparatory High Committee Meeting for the Fourth Educational Forum



The Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, HE Professor Amr Ezzat Salama, participated in the meeting of the Preparatory High Committee for the Fourth Educational Forum on education, higher education, and e-learning. The meeting was chaired by former Prime Minister HE Professor Adnan Badran under the theme: "Quality Education: Quantity and Quality."

The meeting, attended by the Executive Director of the Association of Arab Universities, Prof. Anas Ratib Alsoud, was held in preparation for the forum scheduled to take place at the end of next April. The discussions focused on key topics, including vocational and technical training as a bridge to the labor market, managing quality and quantity in education, moving towards future-oriented specializations in higher education, and linking education quality with labor market requirements.

Prominent figures from various sectors participated in the meeting, including the Chairman of the National Center for Curriculum Development, Professor Mohieddin Touq, the Rapporteur of the Education Committee in the Jordanian Senate, Dr. Suhad Al-Jundi AlJundi, and member of the Education Committee in the Jordanian House of Representatives, Issa Nassar.

The meeting also included representatives from the education and human resource development sectors, as well as vocational training. Notable attendees included the President of the National Center for Human Resource Development, Professor

Abdullah Ababneh, the General Manager of the Rosary Sisters School, Ms. Lilia Al-Namri, and the Strategic Institutions Program Director at the "Jo Academy" educational platform, Mr. Ihab Abu Dayyeh.

This meeting holds significant importance in achieving the anticipated objectives of the forum, which aim to improve the quality of education and align its outcomes with labor market demands. Additionally, it seeks to enhance students' personal skills and develop teachers' capabilities through modern curricula being prepared by the National Center for Curriculum Development.



Prof. Salama Participates in Moscow State University's Celebration of its 270th Anniversary



LOMONOSOV MOSCOW
STATE UNIVERSITY



His Excellency Dr. Amr Salama, Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, participated in the grand celebration held by Moscow State University on the occasion of its 270th anniversary. The event was attended by prominent academic and diplomatic figures from around the world.

A Milestone Celebration

During the celebration, which was attended by the university president, Professor Viktor Sadovnichiy, Dr. Salama delivered a speech praising the university's rich legacy and its pioneering role in science, culture, and education, affirming that this institution is a source of pride not only for Russia but for the entire world.

Education: A Bridge Between Civilizations

Dr. Salama emphasized the importance of international cooperation in education, stating:

"Academic relations should serve as bridges of communication, fostering mutual understanding and tolerance between different cultures."

Dr. Salama also expressed the pride of the Association of Arab Universities in its close ties with Moscow State University, which aligns with the association's vision

of enhancing academic cooperation and building strong bridges between civilizations.

Well-Deserved Recognition

In a significant global acknowledgment, Moscow State University awarded Dr. Salama an honorary doctorate, a gesture that reflects the mutual respect between Arab universities and this globally renowned academic institution.

Towards a Shared Future

Dr. Salama highlighted the association's plans to organize joint events with Moscow State University and other global universities to strengthen academic and research collaboration. He also called for increased investment in education and technology to achieve sustainable development in the Arab world.

Distinguished Attendance

The event witnessed extensive participation from university presidents and notable figures, reflecting the global significance of this historic occasion.



Conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Institutions of the Association of Arab Universities at Sultan Qaboos University



The 21st Annual Meeting of the Institutions of the Association of Arab Universities was recently concluded at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) in the Sultanate of Oman.

During the meeting, H.E. Prof. Amr Salama, Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, emphasized that this gathering marks a new starting point for strengthening academic cooperation among higher education institutions in the Arab world.

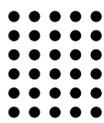
Prof. Salama highlighted that unifying efforts, exchanging knowledge, and sharing expertise are the most effective ways to address contemporary challenges in higher education and scientific research. He stated that this 21st annual meeting, hosted at SQU, represents a significant step forward in fostering deeper academic collaboration among Arab universities. He also emphasized the strategic importance of this annual meeting as a platform for coordination and consultation on future visions for developing the performance of academic institutions affiliated with the Association, underscored the importance of promoting innovation and scientific research.

He also expressed his gratitude to SQU and the Sultanate of Oman for their

generous hospitality, excellent organization, and meticulous preparation for this important meeting. He wished for continued cooperation and joint coordination to further excellence and leadership in Arab higher education. For his part, Prof. Amer Al-Hinai Vice President of SQU for Graduate Studies and Research, emphasized the importance of this meeting in fostering academic cooperation and exchanging expertise and future visions. Al-Hinai reaffirmed SQU's commitment to supporting the Association's efforts and enhancing collaboration among Arab universities to achieve shared goals. Prof. Anas Ratib Alsoud Executive Director of the Association of Arab Universities, stressed the importance of following up on the comprehensive strategic plan of the Association and implementing its provisions to achieve its strategic goals in cooperation and coordination with the relevant academic institutions.

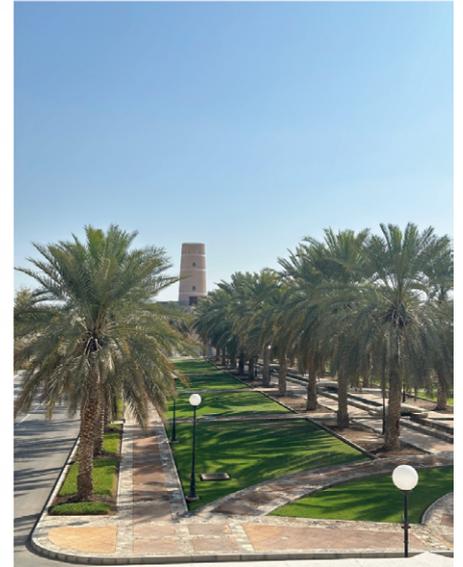
The meeting also included discussions among the secretaries of scientific associations, directors of councils, and centers affiliated with the Association on several key topics related to enhancing their performance and addressing challenges that some institutions face in achieving their vision and objectives.

The meeting was attended by several university presidents, vice presidents, deans, secretaries of scientific associations, directors of councils and centers affiliated with the Association, as well as Lina Albitar, Director of General Administration of the Association, Waheeb Karajeh, Director of Media and Public Relations, and Dina Abu Rizq, Coordinator of Institutions and Activities.



جامعة السلطان قابوس
Sultan Qaboos University

SQU
Beautiful Campus





Strengthening Academic Ties Between the Arab and Indian Higher Education Sectors

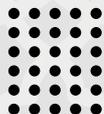
During the first Indian-Arab Universities' Presidents' Conference held on the 5th and 6th of February 2025 in New Delhi, a strategic collaboration agreement was signed between the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) and the Association Of Indian Universities (AIU), marking a significant step toward fostering academic partnerships and enhancing higher education cooperation between the Arab world and India.

The agreement was signed by H.E. Prof. Amr Salama, Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities and Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak, President of the Association of Indian Universities. This partnership will serve as a foundation for joint academic programs, faculty and student exchanges, collaborative research initiatives, and knowledge-sharing between universities in both regions. By leveraging our shared commitment to



excellence in higher education, we aim to enhance innovation, scientific research, and global engagement across institutions.

The signing ceremony was attended by His Excellency Ambassador Yousef Mohammed Abdullah Jameel, Head of the Arab League Mission to India, Prof. Anas Ratib Alsoud, Executive Director of the Association of Arab Universities, Dr. Faraj Al-Ajami, Director of Education and Scientific Research at the League of Arab States, Lina Albitar, Director of General Administration at the Association of Arab Universities.



The Association of Arab Universities Participates in the Future Directions Forum in Saudi Arabia



منتدى
توجهات
المستقبل
الجامعات والتنمية المستدامة



The Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, His Excellency Professor Dr. Amr Ezzat Salama, participated in the Future Directions Forum, titled "Universities and Sustainable Development," which concluded its activities at King Khalid University in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The forum, which saw broad participation from international experts, explored the role of universities in achieving sustainable development, enhancing the knowledge economy, and promoting research innovation in line with the objectives of Saudi Vision 2030.

During the forum, which was attended by Dr. Anas Al-Soud, the Executive Director of the Association of Arab Universities, Lina Al-Bitar, the Director of Administration, and Dr. Waleed Salama, the Association's Advisor, Dr. Amr Ezzat Salama stated:

"I am honored to be among you today at this esteemed academic and intellectual gathering, which embodies the importance of joint efforts between academic and governmental institutions to achieve sustainable development and reinforce the role of universities as hubs of expertise contributing to shaping a bright future for future generations."

He emphasized that universities are not merely educational institutions but also centers of knowledge dissemination and key drivers of sustainable development. They generate knowledge, innovate solutions, and contribute to societal progress through scientific research, education, and training. He also highlighted that in today's world, universities play a crucial role in human resource development and community service by offering academic and training programs that enhance digital and innovative skills.



Dr. Salama pointed out that the Association of Arab Universities is one of the leading institutions of joint Arab efforts, comprising over 450 Arab universities. Through its 2019–2030 strategic plan, the Association aims to support higher education in the Arab world and promote scientific research and innovation, with a focus on keeping pace with developments in the Fourth Industrial Revolution and artificial intelligence. Additionally, the Association prioritizes achieving sustainable development goals through the establishment of specialized councils and centers, such as the Arab Council for Sustainable Development, which strengthens universities' role in community service and links higher education with economic and social conditions.

His Excellency Professor Dr. Faleh bin Raja Allah Al-Sulami, President of King Khalid University, affirmed that the university is aligning its strategy with the development strategy of the Asir region by enhancing academic programs and specialized research centers. He noted that universities play a fundamental role in supporting development through research and innovation.

The forum featured several research papers and panel discussions. It began with a session titled "Universities and Their Role in Enhancing Human Capital," followed by a research paper



titled "Saudi Universities and Strengthening National Environmental Capabilities: Development Mechanisms and Innovation Opportunities." Another paper was presented on "The Importance of Universities in Enhancing Environmental Capabilities at the Global Level: Challenges and Sustainable Solutions." Additionally, the forum included a panel discussion on "Universities and Their Role in Developing the Knowledge Economy." The forum concluded with a discussion

session moderated by His Royal Highness Prince Turki bin Talal bin Abdulaziz, Governor of the Asir region and Chairman of its Development Authority. The session included two groups:

The first group of international experts:

- His Excellency Professor **Dr. Amr Ezzat Salama**, Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities
- **Professor Dr. Anas Al-Soud**, Executive Director of the Association
- **Mr. Nick Davis**, Head of the Middle East and North Africa region at Times Higher Education (THE)
- **Mr. Rami Awad**, Regional Director at QS World University Rankings
- **Professor Dr. Wael Abdel Hakim Mousa**, Dean of the Institute of Entrepreneurship at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals

The second group:

- His Excellency Professor **Dr. Faleh Al-Sulami**, President of King Khalid University, along with a team from the university.

Dr. Anas Al-Soud stated that King Khalid University has become a global model for applied scientific research. He highlighted that the university's researchers have published 24,375 scientific papers indexed by Scopus over the past five years, accumulating

292,220 citations, with an average of 12 citations per paper and a field-weighted citation impact of 1.74. He emphasized that these figures indicate the high quality of research produced by the university, noting that the impact of research should not be measured merely by the number of publications but also by how this knowledge can be leveraged to benefit local and regional communities.





The Association of Arab Universities Participates in the Annual Meeting of the Arab Council for Training and Student Creativity



The Executive Director of the Association of Arab Universities, Professor Dr. Anas Al-Saud, participated in the 32nd annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arab Council for Training and Student Creativity, held at the University of Tunis El Manar in the Republic of Tunisia. The meeting was chaired by the Board President, HE Professor Dr. Nathir Obeidat, President of the University of Jordan.

The meeting included a detailed presentation of the council's activities, the annual training report for the past year, and the planned activities for 2025, in addition to approving the general budget.

The meeting concluded with several key recommendations, most notably: expanding activities and developing the council's work, establishing an Arab training platform, and launching the Arab Training Week program, with its first edition to be held this year in collaboration with the University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Additionally, committees were formed to follow up on the council's operations.

Attendees included: Dr. Moez Al-Shafra, President of the University of Tunis El Manar; Dr. Abu Al-Qasim Shalouf, President of the Open University of Libya; Dr. Imad Al-Zeer, President of Palestine Ahliya University; Dr. Mushtaq Taleb Al-Nada, President of the University of Anbar; Dr. Fawaz Al-Zghoul, Director of the Arab Council; and his assistant, Engineer Jihad Al-Kharraz.

Attendees via video conferencing were: Engineer Ziad Al-Saaydeh, Chairman of the Energy and Minerals Regulatory Commission in Jordan; Dr. Hala Al-Munoufi, a member of the Board of Trustees of Misr University for Science and Technology; and Dr. Yousef Al-Hayek, Vice President of the University of Sharjah.



Honoring and Crowning Prof. Amr Ezzat Salama with the "Man of the Year – Inspirational Leader" Award from the African-Asian Union (AFASU)



The Concorde El Salam Hotel in Heliopolis hosted a grand ceremony to honor Prof. Amr Ezzat Salama, Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, with the prestigious "Man of the Year – Inspirational Leader" award from the African-Asian Union (AFASU), under the presidency of Dr. Hossam Darwish. The award recognizes his outstanding contributions to higher education, scientific research, technology, tourism, health, culture, and sustainable development.

High-Level Attendance

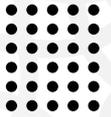
The event was attended by an elite group of distinguished figures, including academics, university presidents, deans, current and former ministers. It was held under the patronage of Major General Dr. Khaled Fouda, Advisor to the President of the Republic for Development and Heritage, and honorary president of AFASU. Also in attendance was His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Awad Tag El-Din, Advisor to the President for Health Affairs, alongside media figures, writers, and journalists.

Inspirational Achievements

In his speech, Major General Dr. Khaled Fouda praised Prof. Amr Ezzat Salama's well-deserved recognition, describing him as a prominent academic figure who has held multiple leadership positions in higher education institutions across Egypt and the Arab world.

Dr. Salama holds a PhD in Civil Engineering from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, UK, and has made significant scientific and research contributions in his field. He has served as Egypt's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, playing a crucial role in developing educational policies and advancing research within Egyptian universities.

As Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, Prof. Salama has led numerous initiatives aimed at fostering academic cooperation among Arab universities. Under his leadership, the association has witnessed notable growth in membership and joint projects, including the establishment of joint educational programs, international scientific conferences, and enhanced academic and research exchange programs.



A Prestigious International Award

Dr. Hossam Darwish, President of AFASU, described the "Man of the Year – Inspirational Leader" award as one of the prestigious AFASU Golden Awards, which honors individuals who embody the spirit of inspirational leadership and leave a positive impact in their fields and society.

The award aims to highlight figures with exceptional vision, a strong ability to serve as role models for youth, and a commitment to motivating others toward success and innovation, all while upholding human values and responsible leadership.

The international judging panel for the AFASU Golden Awards consists of leading global experts in education, sustainable development, culture, leadership, technology, tourism, and scientific research. Most committee members belong to esteemed international organizations and institutions, ensuring impartiality and high expertise in the selection process. Recognizing Prof. Amr Ezzat Salama as the "Man of the Year – Inspirational Leader" is not merely an acknowledgment of his achievements. According to the AFASU Awards jury, he is a man of great accomplishments with a profound impact on civil and scientific communities, as well as in health, engineering, innovation, and research. He is a multi-talented leader who deserves this honor as a symbol of leadership, creativity, and inspiration—not just in Egypt and the Arab world, but globally.

Transparency and Integrity

Major General Hossam Badr El-Din, Secretary-General of AFASU, emphasized that the selection process for the "Man of the Year – Inspirational Leader" award is conducted by a 43-member international committee, following strict and transparent criteria to ensure fairness. The process involves nominating up to five candidates,

followed by comprehensive discussions and evaluations before a final vote is held to select the winner by majority.

Dr. Salama's extensive experience and remarkable track record made him the most deserving recipient of this award. Throughout his career, he has held key leadership positions, including:

- Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research (twice)
- President of Helwan University
- Head of the Housing and Building Research Center
- Advisor at The American University in Cairo (AUC)
- Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities since 2017

Dr. Badr El-Din also highlighted Dr. Salama's dedication to education, scientific research, and development, as well as his many national and international honors, making him a role model for every Egyptian and Arab.

A Speech of Appreciation and Admiration

Major General Dr. Ahmed Abdullah, former Governor of the Red Sea, expressed his deep respect for Dr. Salama, saying:

"I am honored to be present at this distinguished event organized by AFASU to honor one of the most beloved figures—Dr. Amr Ezzat Salama. He is a man whose dedication to his nation, education, scientific research, and community service is truly inspiring. His unwavering commitment has led to countless valuable contributions in the fields of science and society across the Arab world."

A Great Man, A Beloved Leader

During the ceremony, several distinguished speakers praised Dr. Salama's contributions, including:

- His Excellency Minister & Presidential Advisor Dr. Mohamed Awad Tag El-Din
- Major General Dr. Ahmed Abdullah
- Dr. Tarek Shawki
- Dr. Ahmed Zaki Badr
- Ambassador Kamal Hassan Ali
- Dr. Ebada Sarhan

Additionally, many esteemed attendees shared their admiration, including:

- Dr. Mohamed Lotfy
- Dr. Ahmed Gamal El-Din Moussa
- Dr. Gamal El-Din Abu El-Magd
- Dr. Hany Helal
- Dr. Mohamed Sami Abdel Sadeq
- Dr. Mamdouh Moawad
- Dr. Mohamed Abdel Latif
- Dr. Mohamed Abdel Fattah
- Dr. Nevine Galal
- Dr. Adela Ragab
- Dr. Amani Mostafa
- Dr. Omnia Negm
- Dr. Amr El-Farasy
- Engineer Adel El-Gendy
- International Tourism Expert Amr Sedky
- Dr. Ghada Shalaby, Former Deputy Minister of Tourism

All agreed that Dr. Amr Ezzat Salama is a man of science, integrity, and great character who truly deserves this prestigious award—and more.

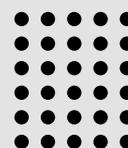
A Moment of Well-Deserved Recognition

Prof. Amr Ezzat Salama received the award shield amid loud applause, expressing his deep gratitude to AFASU for this honor.

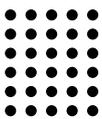
In his speech, he emphasized that this recognition serves as a motivation to continue his work and dedication. He extended heartfelt thanks to AFASU's leadership, members, and affiliates for this great honor, acknowledging that success is always a result of collective effort and teamwork.



The event concluded with the official awarding of the shield to prof. Salama, followed by a series of memorable photo sessions with attendees.



QS Delegation Visits the Association of Arab Universities to Strengthen Collaboration on Higher Education Excellence



A high-level delegation from QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) represented by Dr. Ashwin Fernandes, AMESA Director, and Mr. Rami Awad, AMESA Regional Manager visited the Association of Arab Universities (AAU) headquarters in Amman, to congratulate Prof. Anas Alsoud for starting his new role as the executive director of the association, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening cooperation in advancing higher education excellence across the Arab world.

During the visit, the QS delegation held productive discussions with HE Prof. Amr Salama, Secretary-General of AAU, and Prof. Anas Alsoud, Executive Director of AAU, focusing on strategic initiatives aimed at improving university rankings, enhancing academic reputation, and fostering impactful scientific research.

The QS representatives confirmed their dedication to working closely with AArU to provide Arab universities with valuable insights, benchmarking tools, and collaborative opportunities that can elevate their global standing. Both sides emphasized the importance of continuous engagement and joint efforts in addressing key challenges in higher education, ensuring that Arab institutions gain greater recognition on the global stage.

This visit marks a significant step in strengthening ties between QS and AArU, paving the way for innovative partnerships that will benefit universities, scholars, and students across the Arab region.



Prof.Salama Participates in the Graduation Ceremony of the 2023 and 2024 Cohorts of the Research and Training Complex in Nigeria.



The Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, Prof.Amr Ezzat Salama, participated in the graduation ceremony for the 2023 and 2024 cohorts of students from the Research and Training Complex in Lagos, Nigeria, who studied Arabic and Islamic sciences. Prof.Salama expressed his appreciation for the outstanding efforts made by the faculty, administrators, and students of the Research and Training Complex in promoting the Arabic language and

strengthening Islamic sciences with a balanced approach. He emphasized the importance of graduating teachers and preachers who contribute to reinforcing an accurate understanding of Islamic culture in their communities. He highlighted that the Arabic language, chosen by God to be the language of His final message, is the language of the Quran, the Prophet's teachings, prayer, pilgrimage, and supplication, as well as the language of Islamic civilization, which has flourished throughout history. He considered learning Arabic a duty for every Muslim, as it is the fundamental means of understanding Islam correctly and comprehensively. Prof. Salama added that the mission of the Association of Arab Universities is to shed light on the true image of Islam and the noble values it embodies, in addition to supporting academic and scientific efforts aimed at spreading Islamic

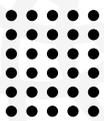
teachings derived from the Quran and the Prophet's traditions.

He also spoke about the significant role played by the Association of Colleges of Sharia in Arab universities affiliated with the Association in advancing Islamic research and studies and supporting Sharia colleges in achieving their goals of spreading correct Islamic principles and fostering constructive cultural dialogue.

Prof. Salama pointed out the Association's efforts to enhance cooperation with academic institutions in Nigeria, particularly in the fields of Arabic language education, Islamic studies, and history. He revealed that the Association is organizing training courses for students of the Research and Training Complex in Arab universities, reaffirming its commitment to supporting higher education and addressing issues concerning the Islamic nation.

For his part, the President of the Research and Training Complex in Lagos, Dr. Saeed Ahmed Al-Rifai, welcomed the participation of the Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities in the graduation ceremony. He expressed his hope for strengthening cooperation between the Association and the Research Complex in organizing seminars and training programs in the fields of Arabic and Islamic sciences.

The graduation ceremony was attended by many university presidents from Nigeria, as well as the Governor of Lagos State. Also, in attendance from the Association of Arab Universities was the Director of Public Relations and Media, Mr. Wahib Karaja.



AArU Holds the 6th Edition of the Student Training Program Under the Theme “*Developing Innovation & Entrepreneurship Skills*”



The Association of Arab Universities (AArU) successfully organized the sixth edition of the Student Training Program for Preparing Young Arab Leaders, under the theme “Developing Innovation and Entrepreneurship Skills.” The program was held in collaboration with the University of Sharjah, UAE, and the Leaders Preparation Institute at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Egypt.

The program was inaugurated by H.E. Prof. Amr Ezzat Salama, Secretary-General of AArU, who expressed his great pleasure in hosting such impactful initiatives that bring together promising young Arab leaders. He extended his deep appreciation to H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and President of



the University of Sharjah, for his continuous support and commitment to higher education in the Arab world. He also praised the University of Sharjah, represented by Prof. Hamid Majul Al Nuaimi, for hosting the training program and for its pioneering contributions to fostering an innovation and entrepreneurship-friendly environment. Prof. Salama further commended the United Arab Emirates for its leadership in innovation, highlighting the National Innovation Strategy, which places innovation at the heart of the country's strategic vision.

Fostering Innovation and Leadership Among Arab University Students



Prof. Salama emphasized the importance of such programs in enhancing cooperation and integration among Arab university students, developing their innovation skills and leadership capabilities, and shaping a unified Arab vision toward a knowledge-based economy and sustainable development.

The program featured a comprehensive series of lectures, workshops, and interactive activities covering key topics such as:

- Leadership skills for personal and professional growth
- Artificial intelligence applications in entrepreneurship
- Strategic planning and team building
- The entrepreneurial journey from zero to the impossible
- The role of sustainability in leadership development and achieving sustainable growth

Additionally, participants explored the latest advancements in renewable energy, climate change, and innovation in space sciences and astronomy. As part of the program, students had an educational tour at the Sharjah Academy for Space Science and Technology, where they gained insights into cutting-edge space research. Discussions also covered leadership, diplomacy, and soft skills, highlighting their importance in transforming abstract concepts into real-world impact.

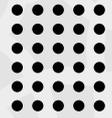
A special cultural exhibition was also held, where students showcased traditional handicrafts and cultural artifacts from various Arab countries, reflecting their unique heritage, customs, and traditions.

Program Highlights and Closing Ceremony

The four-day program, held from February 17 to February 20, 2025, welcomed 80 students from 18 Arab countries, representing various universities across the Arab world.

The event was attended by key AArU representatives, including Ms. Lina Al-Bitar, Director of General Administration at AArU, and Ms. Dina Mahmoud Abu Rizq, Coordinator of AArU Institutional Activities.

The program concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony, honoring the participating students for their engagement and achievements throughout the event.



Reflecting on a Remarkable Conclusion to the 1st India-Arab Universities' Presidents' Conference

By: Prof. Anas Alsoud - Executive Director



In the final session of the 1st India-Arab universities' Presidents' Conference, I had the honor of presenting the closing remarks on behalf of the Association of Arab Universities and the Arab delegation, summarizing the key takeaways and outlining a clear set of practical recommendations that will guide future collaboration between Indian and Arab universities.

The discussions over the conference two days have been transformative, emphasizing the importance of academic partnerships, research collaboration, and skill development as pillars for sustainable progress in both regions. Our collective efforts with the Indian Ministry of External Affairs and University Grants Commission (UGC) India, have resulted in a concrete roadmap that will foster deeper engagement in areas such as:

- Strengthening joint research initiatives in AI, Quantum Computing, and Biotechnology.
- Enhancing student and faculty exchange programs to build bridges of knowledge and cultural understanding.
- Developing dual-degree vocational programs and capacity-building initiatives to align with evolving industry needs.
- Establishing structured mechanisms for knowledge transfer between our institutions (Arab-Indian Universities Consortium).

A key highlight of the final day was the insightful session on "Framework for Promoting Faculty & Student Exchange; and Cooperation in Curriculum Development," featuring esteemed panelists Prof. Imad Al Zeer, President of Palestine Ahliya University, and Prof. Prof. Amer Al-Hinai, Vice President of Sultan Qaboos University. Their perspectives underscored the importance of cross-border academic mobility and the harmonization of curricula to create a more interconnected and globally competitive higher education landscape.

It was truly inspiring to see the commitment from university leaders and policymakers on both sides, reinforcing the shared vision of a stronger, more interconnected academic ecosystem.

A special thank you to H.E. Prof. Amr Salama, Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities, for his leadership and dedication throughout this conference. Thanks to my colleague Lina Albitar, Director of General Administration and all the great team at AArU. I also extend my gratitude to our Indian counterparts for their warm hospitality and their commitment to driving impactful partnerships.

This is just the beginning! We look forward to translating these recommendations into action and ensuring that this collaboration leads to tangible outcomes for our students, researchers, and institutions.



Association of Arab Universities Participates in the International Symposium on Arab and International Scientific Cooperation



The Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities (AAU), Prof. Amr Ezzat Salama, participated in the International Symposium on Arab and International Scientific Cooperation in Research and Innovation at Sohar University in the Sultanate of Oman.

Prof. Salama expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the organization of this important event and to Sohar University for hosting it at a time when the global landscape of research and innovation is undergoing significant transformations. He emphasized that this symposium reflects a shared commitment to scientific research and innovation as fundamental pillars for achieving sustainable development and building a knowledge-based economy.

He also extended his thanks to H.E. Prof. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation of Oman, for her continuous support in advancing research and innovation in the Sultanate. He praised her dedication to enhancing

scientific collaboration between Arab and international academic and research institutions, which contributes to sustainable development and the creation of a future driven by knowledge and creativity.

Scientific Cooperation: A Necessity for Knowledge-Based Economies

Prof. Salama highlighted that given the challenges facing the Arab region and the world, scientific cooperation between nations is no longer optional but rather a necessity for building knowledge-based economies. He referenced global reports indicating that countries investing over 2.5% of their GDP in research and development (R&D), such as South Korea, the United States, and Germany, achieve higher economic growth and competitiveness. However, he pointed out that R&D spending in Arab countries remains below 1% of GDP, calling for stronger policies that support innovation and investment in research and development.

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He further emphasized that in the era of the Fourth and Fifth Industrial Revolutions, innovation is essential for sustainable development. As an example, the United Arab Emirates has significantly fostered an innovation-driven environment, ranking among the top 32 countries in the Global Innovation Index (GII) for 2024. Likewise, Oman has made notable progress, advancing 10 places in the GII 2023 and achieving remarkable success in patent filings, knowledge production, and research dissemination.

AArU's Role in Supporting Arab Higher Education and Research

Prof. Salama reaffirmed that the Association of Arab Universities is one of the most prominent institutions of joint Arab action, representing over 450 Arab universities. As a platform for higher education institutions and stakeholders in the Arab region, AARU is dedicated to supporting scientific research and innovation as outlined in its 2019-2030 strategic plan, with a focus on aligning

with the latest advancements in artificial intelligence and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

He expressed his deep appreciation for the efforts of the Omani Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation, led by H.E. Prof. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, and to Sohar University, represented by its President, H.E. Prof. Hamdan bin Suleiman Al Fazari. He also acknowledged the Association of Arab Scientific Research Councils, represented by its Secretary-General, H.E. Prof. Abdelmajid Benamara, for co-organizing the symposium. Additionally, he thanked all participating organizations, researchers, and speakers, wishing them fruitful discussions that will strengthen scientific collaboration and reinforce innovation as a key driver of a better future.

Enhancing Scientific Partnerships in the Arab World

For his part, Prof. Abdelmajid Benamara, Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Scientific Research Councils,



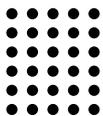
emphasized that this symposium underscores the shared commitment to strengthening scientific cooperation between universities and research centers in the Arab world and internationally.

He highlighted that AArU's participation in the symposium reflects the importance of building a strong network of scientific partnerships, which can play a pivotal role in developing knowledge economies in the region. He expressed his hope that the discussions would yield valuable outcomes that prioritize innovation and scientific collaboration on the Arab agenda, fostering a future characterized by creativity and prosperity.

A Strategic Moment for Research and Innovation in the Arab Region

This symposium comes at a crucial time for showcasing successful Arab experiences in research, innovation, and entrepreneurship while exploring opportunities for collaboration between research and development institutions in Oman and the Arab world.

The event also provides a platform to discuss Oman's National Strategy for Scientific Research and Development 2040 and the National Innovation Strategy 2040, enabling an exchange of perspectives on effective research policies that can enhance the role of innovation in economic and social development.



جامعة صحرار
Sohar University



Association of Arab Universities Presents the Arab Ranking Shield to the University of Sharjah



The Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, **Professor Dr. Amr Ezzat Salama**, presented the Arab Universities Ranking Shield for 2024 to the President of the University of Sharjah, **Professor Dr. Hamid Al-Naimiy**, in recognition of the university's academic achievement.

This honor follows the University of Sharjah's attainment of **fourth place in the Arab Ranking** for Universities 2024, reflecting its excellence in scientific research and higher education.

The award ceremony was held on the sidelines of the Sixth Arab Student Forum for Leadership, organized by the Association of Arab Universities in collaboration with the University of Sharjah and the Institute for Leadership Development, and hosted by the University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. In the presence of Professor Dr.



Nawar Thabet, Dean of the College of Sciences at the University of Sharjah, and Professor Dr. Hussein Al-Mahdi, Dean of Academic Affairs for Branch Campuses and Director of the Conference Center at the University of Sharjah, along with the delegation of the Association of Arab Universities, represented by the Director of General Administration, Ms. Lina Al-Bitar, and Ms. Dina Abu Rizq.

AARU Presents the Arab Ranking Shield to Tunis El Manar University



The Executive Director of the Association of Arab Universities, **Prof. Anas Ratib Alsoud**, presented the 2024 Arab Universities Ranking Shield to the President of Tunis El Manar University, **Professor Dr. Moez Chafra**. University of Tunis El Manar secured the tenth position in the 2024 Arab Universities Ranking.

The award ceremony was held on the sidelines of the meeting of the Arab Council for Creativity and Student Training, affiliated with the Association of Arab Universities, which took place at Tunis El Manar University.

The ceremony was attended by **HE Abdullah Abu Roman**, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Tunisia, **HE Abdul Hakim Ismail Al-Qassab**, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to Tunisia, **He Prof. Nathir Obeidat**, Chairman of the Board of the Arab Council for Creativity and Student Training, and **Prof. Fawaz AL Zaghoul**, Director of the Council.

During the ceremony, Dr. Al-Saud stated: "It is my great pleasure and honor, as

the Executive Director of the Association of Arab Universities, to participate in this joyous occasion celebrating the recognition of Tunis El Manar University, which has achieved the tenth position in the 2024 Arab Universities Ranking."

He added:

"I extend my sincere congratulations to Professor Dr. Moez Chafra, President of Tunis El Manar University, as well as to all faculty members, students, and staff for this remarkable achievement." Dr. Al-Saud emphasized that this ranking reflects the university's dedication and relentless efforts to enhance the quality of education, scientific research, and the development of national talents.

He concluded:

"I wish Tunis El Manar University continued progress and success in its journey and hope it serves as a model for other Arab universities striving for excellence and leadership. At the Association of Arab Universities, we look forward to continuing our collaboration with all Arab universities to achieve our shared vision of building a bright future for future generations."

President of Ajman University Visits the Association of Arab Universities



جامعة عجمان
AJMAN UNIVERSITY

Amman – On Sunday, February 2, 2025, Prof. ANAS RATIB ALSOUD, the Executive Director of the Association of Arab Universities, welcomed Prof. Karim Seghir, President of Ajman University, along with Prof. Khaled Assaleh, Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the accompanying delegation at the General Secretariat headquarters of the Association. The meeting was also attended by Lina Albitar, the Association's Administration Director, and Ahmed Atwa, the Financial Director.

Dr. Alsoud provided an overview of the establishment and development of the Association of Arab Universities, highlighting key initiatives currently undertaken by the organization. These include the Arab University Ranking Project, the Unified Arab Qualifications Framework, and the Arab Journals Platform.

He also expressed his aspirations for a strategic partnership with Ajman University, recognizing it as a leading academic institution that has achieved significant scientific accomplishments, strengthening its distinguished global reputation. Dr. Alsoud outlined his strategic vision for the Association, under the guidance of H.E. Dr. Amr Salama, Secretary-General of the Association, in collaboration with over 450 member universities from 22 Arab countries.

Dr. Seghir commended the Association's role and its continuous efforts in enhancing the quality of higher education in the Arab world. He reaffirmed Ajman University's commitment to supporting the Association's mission and its ongoing collaboration to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development for all Arab universities.





AARU Welcomes Prof. Al-Soud as its New Executive Director

Prof. Dr. Anas Ratib Al-Soud has officially begun his tenure as the Executive Director of the Association of Arab Universities (AARU) as part of ongoing efforts to enhance and develop the administrative performance of the organization.

Prof. Al-Soud is currently serves as **Global Higher Education Innovation Fellow** at the Technology and Entrepreneurship Center at **Harvard University**, and previously served as Vice President of Al-Ahliyya Amman University and holds the rank of **Professor in Informatics** (Electronic Systems). He earned his Bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems from the **University of Jordan** in 2006, a Master's degree in IT Management from the **University of Salford, UK**, in 2007, and a PhD in Informatics from the **University of Reading, UK**, in 2012.

Before joining Al-Ahliyya Amman University in 2012, Dr. Al-Soud began his professional journey as an administrator in the Administrative Affairs Department at the **Royal Hashemite Court**. During his time at the university, he held several key administrative positions, including Head of Business and E-Commerce and Management Information Systems departments, Dean of Student Affairs, Director of Accreditation, and Supervisor of the Business Incubator, Center for Innovation and Excellence, and the Global Engagement Center. He also served as Assistant to the University President for Accreditation and International Ranking Affairs.

Prof. Al-Soud is a renowned expert in international accreditation and university rankings. In 2022, he was appointed to the Times Higher Education (THE) Advisory Board, and in 2024, he joined the Advisory Board of **the American-Jordanian Higher Education Network (Rawabit)**, as well



anas@seas.harvard.edu

as the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Council at the University of Jordan.

As a visiting professor at several international universities, most recently at **Management & Science University (MSU)** in Malaysia, Prof. Al-Soud has contributed extensively to academic research, with over 75 peer-reviewed studies published in top-ranked international journals indexed in Scopus. His contributions have earned him numerous local, regional, and international awards.

In addition to his academic and administrative roles, Prof. Al-Soud has also served as an executive director for multiple startups in Jordan. He is a board member of ALefredo Books, one of the largest Arabic platforms for used book sales and digital educational summaries. Passionate about supporting startups, he believes in their role as key drivers of investment, innovation, and entrepreneurship in Jordan and the Arab world.

JOIN US



The Upcoming General Assembly

The General Secretariat of the Association of Arab Universities extends its warmest greetings and is pleased to invite you to attend **the 57th General Conference Meetings of the Association of Arab Universities**, which will be hosted by the **International University - Kuwait in the State of Kuwait from April 2025 ,24-23.**

With the participation of more than 250 universities, this event presents a valuable opportunity for academic dialogue, collaboration, and the advancement of higher education.

Join us—Together, we build a more advanced academic future!

We look forward to your presence and active participation.

To attend and participate in the general assembly,

get in touch: secgen@aarU.edu.jo



Association of Arab Universities

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