

GOOD PRACTICES II.2

Higher Education and Sustainability in Arab states: Sharing Actions for Change

The following experiences are a selection of good practices on higher education and sustainability. Some of them were presented at the 5th International Barcelona Conference on Higher Education and others are part of the GUNi observatory.

The good practices cover the following institutional areas:

Curricula and learning innovation



Community and social engagement



Institutional management



Research



GOOD PRACTICE 1

American University in Madaba Project

Institutional area(s):



LOCATION: Jordan

INSTITUTION: American University in Madaba

The American University in Madaba aims to bring sustained prosperity to the region, coupled with a lifelong sense of belonging that instills peaceful co-existence. It is a higher education institution that utilizes English as its medium of instruction, and which provides quality education based on tolerance, mutual respect, moral fortitude and integrity, to all citizens of the region and beyond. The university's campus will also be environmentally friendly and self-sustainable, and will use geothermal energy for heating and cooling systems.

Detailed information is available at GUNi HEiOBS:

<http://www.guninetwork.org/guni.heiobs/good-practices/madaba-university-project>

GOOD PRACTICE 2

Bard Palestinian Connection

Institutional area(s):



LOCATION: Palestinian Territories

INSTITUTION: Bard Palestinian Connection

The Bard Palestinian Connection (formerly the Bard Palestinian Youth Initiative) is involved in the building of civil society in the West Bank. Through education, cultural and exchange programmes, sports and literacy camps, the building of children's libraries, and hands-on service and construction projects, Bard students and staff contribute to the creation of a viable and sustainable Palestinian state. One of the conclusions they have reached, and that has been corroborated by many, especially the Palestinians, is that creating a strong, working Palestinian civil society is the best way to resolve the challenges of the region.

Detailed information is available at GUNi HEiOBS:

<http://www.guninetwork.org/guni.heiobs/good-practices/bard-palestinian-connection-formerly-the-bard-palestinian-youth-initiative>

GOOD PRACTICE 3

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)

Institutional area(s):



LOCATION: Saudi Arabia

INSTITUTION: KAUST University

Sustainable development is integral to KAUST's overall mission to nurture innovation in science and technology, and support world-class research in areas such as energy and the environment that are important to Saudi Arabia, the region and the world. This emphasis on sustainable practices influences KAUST's research agenda, campus planning, and operations. KAUST integrates sustainable measures into the design of the entire community. The university demonstrates new ways to build in the region, and new ways to live that promote responsible stewardship of energy resources.

Detailed information is available at GUNi HEiOBS:

<http://www.guninetwork.org/guni.heiobs/good-practices/king-abdullah-university-of-science-and-technology-kaust>

GOOD PRACTICE 4

An approach to institution-wide sustainable engagement with industry to democratize knowledge and experiences in order to understand and respond to the needs of community and society

Institutional area(s):



LOCATION: Oman

INSTITUTION: Middle East College of Information Technology

The Middle East College of Information Technology (MECIT) is an HEI in the Sultanate of Oman. It undertook a project to establish a sustainable relationship between the HEI and the industry. A consultative process between MECIT and captains of industry in the Sultanate of Oman brought to light commonalities in certain objectives and needs. Through it, the role of industry was recognized as an institution of knowledge and it was possible to make effective use of the growth and development in various industrial sectors for the betterment of HEIs. As a result, an approach that was constructed with sustainability and engagement as its guiding principles was adopted in bringing MECIT and industry closer.

Detailed information is available at GUNi HEiOBS:

<http://www.guninetwork.org/guni.heiobs/good-practices/an-approach-to-institution-wide-sustainable-engagement-with-the-industry-to-democratise-knowledge-and-experiences-to-understand-and-respond-to-needs-of-community-and-society>

GOOD PRACTICE 5

Advancing research, enabling communities: American University of Beirut outreach from the Beqaa Valley

Institutional area(s):



LOCATION: Lebanon

INSTITUTION: The American University of Beirut (AUB)

Following Israel's war with Lebanon in 2006, AUB joined the reconstruction effort to rebuild shattered livelihoods in southern Lebanon. The Land and People relief programme adapted a model from public health: the mobile rural development 'clinic', providing agricultural and business development advice to rural communities. The management of the Land and People programme was recently moved to AREC (Agriculture Research and Education Center). The programme achieved international recognition. It has featured in the Lebanese, Arab, US Dutch and German media and has won a certificate of appreciation from the United Nations Development Programme for its innovative approach.

Detailed information is available at GUNi HEiOBS:

<http://www.guninetwork.org/guni.heiobs/good-practices/advancing-research-enabling-communities-american-university-of-lebanon-outreach-from-the-beqaa-valley>

The reader can also find the following good practices related to the Arab states at the GUNi Observatory:

- Community College, Social Service Experience
LOCATION: Sudan
INSTITUTION: University of Bakhat Alruda
- IWGDS Capacity Building Program
LOCATION: Sudan
INSTITUTION: Afhad University
- Processing Student Applications Electronically
LOCATION: Oman
INSTITUTION: Oman Ministry of Higher Education
- The UGA -Tunisia Educational Partnerships
LOCATION: Tunisia
INSTITUTION: The University of Georgia
<http://www.guninetwork.org/guni.heiobs>