SDG 17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

THE IMPACT RANKINGS EVIDENCE REPORT

Indicator 17.2.4

Collaboration for SDG best practice

University of Bahrain

2024-2025

Executive summary

The University of Bahrain (UoB) demonstrates global leadership in advancing SDG best practices through systematic review of comparative approaches and co-development of international standards. Fully aligned with THE Impact Rankings Indicator 17.2.4, UoB leverages strategic partnerships, cross-sectoral alliances, and multi-stakeholder platforms to benchmark, validate, and disseminate solutions that address global sustainability challenges.

The institutional framework brings together international research consortia, UN agencies, global higher-education networks, and public-private innovation hubs to evaluate alternative policies, exchange technical expertise, and co-create adaptable frameworks for sustainable development.

Key Achievements

- **International Scientific and Quantum Innovation:** Continued collaboration with CERN on high-performance computing, GPU-accelerated physics data reconstruction, eco-friendly gas mixture research at the Gamma Irradiation Facility (GIF++), and quantum computing applications via the Open Quantum Institute (OQI).
- **Global Health Standards and WHO Frameworks:** External evaluation by a WHO evaluation team under the Health-Promoting University framework, alongside active contributions to nursing education standards through the WHO Global Network of Collaborating Centers and national rollout of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative.
- **Cross-Sectoral AI and Digital Governance:** Organization of international symposia and conferences—including 3ICT, DATA'25, the IET Smart Cities Symposium, and the International Law Conference on AI Governance—benchmarking global regulatory models, WIPO agreements, and data analytics methodologies.
- **Sustainable Finance and Regional Academic Partnerships:** Hosting the International Conference on Sustainable Islamic Business and Finance in partnership with AAOIFI and Lancaster University, alongside multi-year academic cooperation frameworks established with King Saud University, Universiti Sains Malaysia, and Imam Malik College.

Impact Highlights

- **Global Benchmarking:** Over 50 structured international partnerships and major academic symposia engaging researchers from dozens of countries to compare and review global sustainability methodologies.
- **Institutional Transformation:** Successful adoption and external auditing of international standards, including Advance HE professional framework alignments and WHO institutional health metrics.
- **Student-Led Global Innovation:** Active participation of UoB students in international programs such as the CERN Summer Student Program and the NASA Space Apps Challenge, driving open-data and SDG-focused innovation.

Overall, these initiatives demonstrate the University of Bahrain's structured contribution to SDG 17.2.4 through international collaboration for the review and development of SDG best practices. By benchmarking academic and professional standards, exchanging institutional expertise, comparing research and policy approaches, and disseminating effective practices through partnerships, conferences, networks, and publications, UoB strengthens institutional learning and supports the adaptation of internationally informed solutions to sustainable-development priorities.

Table of Contents

Executive summary 2

1. University of Bahrain and CERN Advance International Best Practice Through Ongoing Scientific Research and Innovation Collaboration 8

2. University of Bahrain Students Participate in CERN Summer Student Program to Advance International Collaboration and Innovation for Sustainable Development 11

3. International Knowledge Exchange and Best Practices in AI and Digital Technologies for Sustainable Development through 3ICT 2025 13

4. UOB and Royal Medical Services Collaborate on Medical Education, Research, and Professional Best Practices 15

5. University of Bahrain Participates in ADIPEC 2024 Hosted by ADNOC to Advance International Collaboration and Exchange of SDG Best Practices 16

6. International Collaboration and Best-Practice Exchange in Sustainable Finance and Digital Innovation 19

7. International Knowledge Exchange and Best Practices in Nature-Based Solutions and Sustainable Technologies 20

8. Regional Best-Practice Exchange and External Academic Evaluation with Imam Malik College 22

9. International Benchmarking and Best-Practice Exchange in Actuarial Science Education 23

10. UOB–RCSI Partnership for International Best-Practice Exchange in Research, Clinical Training, and Digitalization 24

11. Collaborative Best-Practice Exchange in AI, Cloud Innovation, and Public-Sector Solutions 25

12. University of Bahrain and CERN Collaborate on Quantum Computing for Sustainable Development 26

13. Reviewing Comparative Approaches and Best Practices in AI Governance through the Third International Law Conference 27

14. Sharing Best Practices in Data Analytics and AI for Sustainable Development through DATA'25 29

15. International Best-Practice Exchange in Sustainable Biomass and Waste Conversion 30

16. UOB–Huawei Collaboration on International ICT Training and Certification Best Practices 31

17. International Academic Exchange and Collaboration with Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies 32

18. International Collaboration and Best-Practice Exchange between UOB and USM .. 33

19. International Academic and Research Best-Practice Exchange between UOB and King Saud University 34

20. University of Bahrain Strengthens Regional Collaboration and Exchange of Best Practices through GCC Higher Education Leaders' Meeting 35

21. International Collaboration for Data Analytics and Digital Innovation Best Practices through ICDABI 2024 36

22. Sharing Best Practices in Sustainable Finance and Islamic Finance through SIBF 2024 38

23. Sharing Best Practices in Smart City Innovation and Sustainable Urban Development through the 9th IET Smart Cities Symposium 40

24. Reviewing International Best Practices in AI Governance through the Third International Law Conference 41

25. International Research Collaboration Advances Best Practice in Immersive Social Experiences 43

26. International Knowledge Exchange and Best Practices for Sustainable Heritage Conservation through ICSH 2025 45

27. SPE Oman and University of Bahrain Facilitate Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Future Opportunities in the Energy Sector 47

28. Sharing Best Practices in Digital Innovation for Sustainable Heritage Conservation 49

29. International Collaboration and Best-Practice Exchange for Smart and Sustainable Urban Development 51

30. Sharing Best Practices in AI, Clinical Simulation, and Technology-Enabled Health Education 52

31. Implementing WHO Best Practices through the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative ... 54

32. International Dissemination of Evidence-Based Nursing and Health-Education Practices through the WHO Global Network 55

33. Transferring WHO Best Practices in Responsible Antibiotic Use through the AWaRe Workshop 57

34. Regional Recognition and Sharing of Good Practices in Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness 58

35. Applying and Evaluating WHO International Best Practice through the Health-Promoting University Framework 59

36. Sharing Bahrain's Nursing Education Experience and Good Practices through WHO Regional Collaboration 61

37. International Exchange and Application of Best Practices in Physical Literacy and Lifelong Sport 62

38. Sharing and Applying Good Practices in Responsible AI for Higher Education 64

39. International Best-Practice Collaboration and Professional Standards Alignment with Advance HE 65

40. International and Cross-Sectoral Exchange of Best Practices for Sustainable and Innovative Higher Education 66

41. International Exchange of Academic Leadership Best Practices through UOB–Advance HE Collaboration 67

42. Strengthening Institutional Governance through Risk-Based Audit Practices 68

43. Regional Collaboration to Align Public-Sector IT Audit Practices with International Standards 69

44. Best-Practice Exchange in AI, Analytics, and Forensic Governance 70

45. International Research Collaboration and Best-Practice Exchange through the BENEFIT Advanced AI & Computing Lab 71

46. Regional Collaboration and Best-Practice Exchange in Quality Assurance, Accreditation, and Research 72

47. Industry-Academia Knowledge Transfer and ICT Skills Development through the Huawei ICT Academy 74

48. International Knowledge Exchange and Best Practices in Digital Technologies for Sustainable Development through 3ICT 2024 75

49. Comparative Evaluation and Exchange of Best Practices in Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development 76

50. International and Cross-Sector Collaboration through NASA Space Apps Challenge 2025 78

51. Long-Term Collaboration for Best Practice in Sustainable Housing and Urban Development 79

52. Best-Practice Collaboration through the UOB Cloud Innovation Center 80

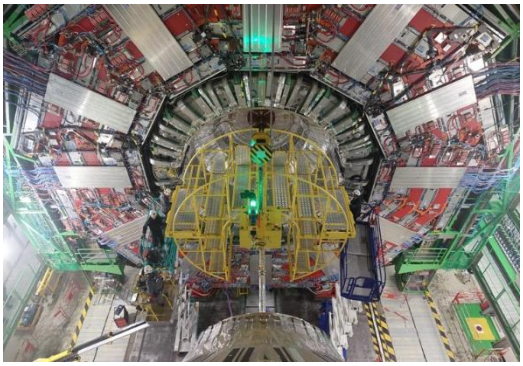
53. Cross-Sector Collaboration and Best-Practice Exchange in Sustainable Urban Development 81

54. Sharing Digital Higher-Education Best Practices at GITEX Global 2024 82

55. UOB Exchanges Digital Education and Responsible AI Best Practices through GCC Higher-Education Cooperation 83

1. University of Bahrain and CERN Advance International Best Practice Through Ongoing Scientific Research and Innovation Collaboration

During the academic year 2024–2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) continued to strengthen its international collaboration with the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) under the International Cooperation Agreement signed in 2023. The ongoing partnership promotes international research collaboration, technology transfer, knowledge exchange, capacity building, and the development of best practices in scientific research, engineering innovation, and sustainable technology development.



Through this collaboration, University of Bahrain researchers and students actively contribute to internationally recognized projects within the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment, working alongside CERN scientists and international research teams. The partnership provides University of Bahrain researchers with access to international scientific infrastructure, advanced research facilities, and cross-border research opportunities that would otherwise be unavailable. Through active participation in CERN projects, researchers contribute directly to global scientific initiatives, exchange expertise with international specialists, and apply internationally recognized practices in computing, engineering, detector technologies, and sustainable research infrastructure.

During the academic year 2024–2025, the collaboration included several ongoing research and development projects:

- **Project 1: Design of GPU Code for CMS Physics Data Reconstruction**

Researchers contributed to the design and optimization of Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) code for physics data reconstruction within the CMS experiment. By accelerating data processing and reducing computational bottlenecks, the project promotes best practices in high-performance computing, resource optimization, and energy-efficient scientific research.

- **Project 2: Design of Fast Electronics System for the MTD Detector**

The project focused on the development of high-speed front-end electronics and data acquisition systems for the Minimum Ionizing Particle Timing Detector (MTD). The collaboration facilitates international knowledge exchange and supports innovation in precision measurement systems and next-generation detector technologies.

- **Project 3: Design of Mechanical Support Structure for the MTD Detector**

Researchers collaborated on the engineering and validation of mechanical support structures for MTD detector integration. The project applies international engineering standards and best practices related to structural reliability, thermal performance, and precision alignment in large-scale scientific infrastructure.

- **Project 4: Safety Analysis and Risk Prevention for Power Systems**

The project involved safety assessments and the development of risk mitigation strategies for electrical power systems supporting CMS infrastructure. The work supports international best practices in operational resilience, workplace safety, risk management, and sustainable research facility operations.

- **Project 5: Software Design for the CMS Trigger System**

Researchers contributed to the design and optimization of software algorithms for the CMS Trigger and Data Acquisition (TriDAS) system. By enabling efficient real-time selection of scientifically significant events, the project promotes best practices in scientific computing, data management, and research infrastructure optimization.

- **Project 6: Development and Installation of Next-Generation iRPC Detectors and Eco-Friendly Gas Mixture Research**

The collaboration included the development and installation of improved Resistive Plate Chamber (iRPC) detectors for the CMS muon system and research conducted at CERN's Gamma Irradiation Facility (GIF++) on environmentally friendly gas mixtures. The project advances both detector performance and environmental sustainability by supporting the development of greener technologies for future scientific infrastructure.

Beyond these projects, the UOB–CERN partnership promotes collaborative research on sustainable materials and environmentally responsible engineering solutions, including the industrial application of aluminum alloys. These activities contribute to sustainable technology development while strengthening links between higher education, scientific research, and national industrial advancement.

The partnership also extends beyond research through a wide range of public engagement, STEM outreach, and educational awareness activities. University of Bahrain organizes school visits, interactive exhibitions, scientific demonstrations, and community programs that showcase the role of scientific innovation in addressing global challenges and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. These initiatives increase public

understanding of science and technology while encouraging future generations to pursue careers in research, engineering, and innovation.

Through ongoing research collaboration, technology transfer, public engagement, and capacity-building activities, the UOB–CERN partnership serves as a model of how international academic partnerships translate global best practice into tangible impact on education, innovation, scientific advancement, and sustainability. The collaboration enables the exchange of expertise, promotes comparative learning, strengthens research capabilities, and supports the implementation of internationally recognized approaches across multiple scientific and engineering disciplines.

The collaboration operates as a mutually beneficial partnership in which University of Bahrain researchers contribute to international research projects while benefiting from knowledge exchange, technology transfer, capacity building, access to world-leading scientific facilities, and opportunities to engage with global scientific communities. This exchange enables researchers and students to participate actively in cutting-edge international research while contributing expertise and innovative solutions to CERN's scientific programs.

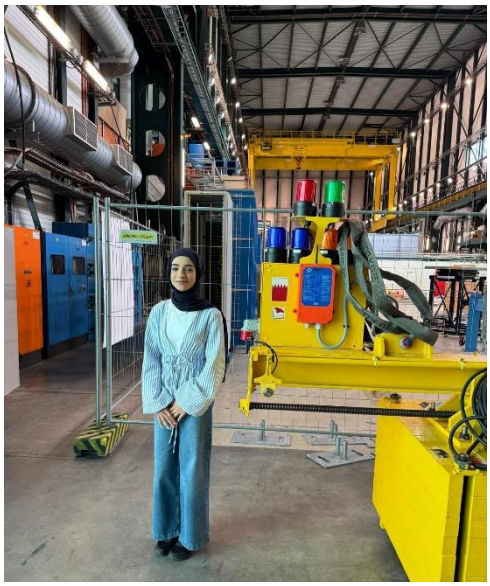
This ongoing collaboration supports Indicator 17.2.4 by facilitating international research collaboration, exchange of expertise, technology transfer, comparative review of scientific approaches, capacity building, and the development and implementation of international best practices. Through joint research projects, sustainable engineering initiatives, innovation-focused activities, and educational outreach programs, the partnership contributes to scientific excellence and sustainable development at local, regional, and international levels.

Supporting Evidence:

- THE website: The University of Bahrain's collaboration at CERN: active partnerships for real-world impact

2. University of Bahrain Students Participate in CERN Summer Student Program to Advance International Collaboration and Innovation for Sustainable Development

During the academic year 2024–2025, students from the University of Bahrain participated in the 2025 CERN Summer Student Program in Switzerland, an internationally recognized program through which the University has engaged with the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) since 2016. The program provides opportunities for students to collaborate with leading international researchers, gain exposure to advanced scientific research, and engage with emerging technologies that support sustainable development.

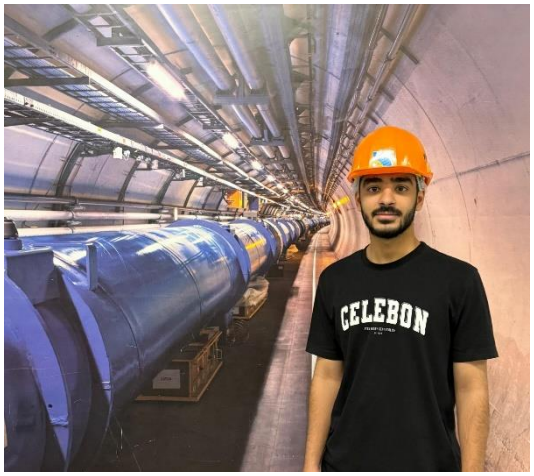


The 2025 participants included Nibras Jafil, a Mathematics student with a minor in Computer Science from the College of Science, and Ali Ridha Al-Adraj from the Civil Engineering Department at the College of Engineering. Throughout the program, students participated in specialized scientific visits, technical lectures, and collaborative learning activities led by CERN experts and international research teams.



As part of the program, Nibras Jafil contributed to a research project conducted in collaboration with CERN's Information Technology Department and the LHCb experiment at the Large Hadron Collider. The project focused on the development of an intelligent knowledge-based chatbot capable of responding to technical questions related to the LHCb experiment through the application of artificial intelligence techniques and specialized knowledge databases.

Nibras also participated in CERN's international scientific hackathon, where multidisciplinary and multinational teams collaborated to develop innovative solutions aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Her team explored the use of quantum computing to identify high-conductivity materials capable of reducing energy loss and supporting innovation across the energy, healthcare, and industrial sectors.



Meanwhile, Ali Ridha Al-Adraj contributed to engineering projects related to construction site assessment, facility design, and infrastructure improvement. Through technical training in safety and radiation protection and practical engineering assignments, he gained experience in applying international engineering standards and operational best practices within a world-leading scientific research environment.

The program facilitated international collaboration, knowledge exchange, comparative learning, and capacity building by bringing together students, researchers, engineers, and scientists from diverse countries and disciplines. Through participation in collaborative projects, advanced research activities, and SDG-focused innovation challenges, University of Bahrain students gained direct exposure to internationally recognized approaches in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, research infrastructure, and engineering innovation.



This initiative supports Indicator 17.2.4 by enabling international collaboration and the exchange of expertise through participation in CERN's global research and education programs. Through collaborative projects, multinational research teams, and innovation challenges linked to the Sustainable Development Goals, students engaged with international best practices, explored innovative technological solutions, and contributed to the dissemination of knowledge that supports sustainable development and scientific advancement.

Supporting Evidence: https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-students-participate-in-cern-summer-program/

3. International Knowledge Exchange and Best Practices in AI and Digital Technologies for Sustainable Development through 3ICT 2025



The University of Bahrain hosted the 8th 3ICT from November 17–19, 2025, creating an international platform for researchers, academics, industry practitioners, and technology specialists to exchange expertise, review comparative approaches, and disseminate best practices, evidence-based methodologies, and transferable technological solutions. The conference featured 137 research papers, including 29 University of Bahrain papers, spanning artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, healthcare, smart cities, sustainable systems, FinTech, e-government, agriculture, telecommunications, and digital innovation.



The program demonstrated concrete comparative learning and best-practice exchange. Research on smart-city bandwidth allocation synthesized 736 publications and developed an evidence base for adaptive and scalable strategies relevant to municipal planners. Smart-agriculture research integrated IoT monitoring, AI-based plant-disease detection, and market analytics, while research on intelligent agricultural watering presented a scalable, low-cost approach to reduce water waste. Another study compared four generations of YOLO models for intelligent fire-protection systems, demonstrating systematic evaluation of alternative approaches.

Best-practice dissemination extended to sustainable resource management and healthcare. Research on AI-driven food-waste forecasting compared multiple machine-learning models and developed a scalable decision-support framework for reducing waste

and optimizing resources. Research on Medical IoT demonstrated an energy-aware scheduling approach producing up to 35% energy savings compared with baseline approaches. Other studies comparatively evaluated models for healthcare diagnostics, cybersecurity, climate-risk analysis, renewable and smart-energy management, and sustainable transportation.

International knowledge sharing was reinforced through keynote expertise from Beyon Cyber, the University of Portsmouth, Ulster University, and Lebanese American University, connecting academic research and professional practice.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) by promoting comparative learning, best-practice exchange, knowledge sharing, evidence-based approaches, innovative methodologies, and scalable and transferable solutions that can be adapted across sectors and institutional contexts to support sustainable digital transformation.

Evidence Sources:

- **Conference link:** https://iiict.uob.edu.bh/3ict25
- **Evidence Source:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-showcases-latest-computing-and-innovation-trends-at-the-8th-ict-conference/

4. UOB and Royal Medical Services Collaborate on Medical Education, Research, and Professional Best Practices



On 17 November 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) and the Royal Medical Services (RMS) signed a cooperation agreement to strengthen medical education, training, scientific research, and the exchange of academic and professional expertise in Bahrain.

The agreement establishes mechanisms for knowledge and professional-practice exchange through joint educational and training programs in medical fields, scientific research and knowledge sharing, conferences, specialized courses and workshops, and the exchange of academic and medical expertise. It also aims to strengthen clinical training and national capacity development in support of medical education and healthcare services.

Additional cooperation mechanisms established under the agreement include academic consultancy upon formal request, exchange of studies and publications, research activities, and reciprocal participation of faculty in training programs, providing structured channels for academic, research, and professional knowledge exchange between the two institutions.

The partnership therefore supports SDG 17.2.4 – Collaboration for SDG Best Practice by establishing a cross-sector framework through which a national university and healthcare institution can share academic and medical expertise, research knowledge, training approaches, and professional practices. The collaboration contributes particularly to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by linking higher-education expertise with healthcare training, research, and professional capacity-building. The UOB public record itself identifies the cooperation under SDGs 3, 4 and 17.

Evidence Source: RMS, UOB Sign Cooperation Agreement to Enhance Medical Education in Bahrain

5. University of Bahrain Participates in ADIPEC 2024 Hosted by ADNOC to Advance International Collaboration and Exchange of SDG Best Practices

Supporting Evidence: https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-students-represent-bahrain-at-adipec-2024/





During the academic year 2024–2025, the University of Bahrain, through its Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Student Chapter, participated in ADIPEC 2024, hosted by ADNOC in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates. Representing the University of Bahrain SPE Student Chapter and the SPE Bahrain Section, students Salman AlMahmood, Raghad Nasser, and Maya Owais engaged with international energy leaders, researchers, industry professionals, professional societies, and academic institutions to explore innovative solutions and emerging approaches to sustainability challenges facing the global energy sector.



Through participation in technical sessions, expert panels, and collaborative forums, students examined international best

practices, compared approaches adopted by leading organizations, and gained insights into innovative strategies that support sustainable energy development, responsible resource management, and technological advancement. The program facilitated international collaboration and knowledge exchange, enabling participants to learn from successful global experiences and share perspectives on addressing sustainability challenges.

By engaging with international stakeholders and reviewing comparative approaches to sustainable development, the University of Bahrain contributed to the dissemination of best practices and strengthened its commitment to fostering international collaboration in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).






SPE International
University of Bahrain
SPE Student Chapter
SPE ADIPEC UNIVERSITY
PROGRAMME
ADIPEC
ADNOC


SPE International
University of Bahrain
SPE Student Chapter
SPE
ADIPEC
Final Day Highlights at ADIPEC 2024
ADIPEC
ADNOC

6. International Collaboration and Best-Practice Exchange in Sustainable Finance and Digital Innovation

The University of Bahrain hosted the 5th International Conference on Sustainable Islamic Business and Finance on December 9–10, 2025, in partnership with AAOIFI and Lancaster University, with support from Al Salam Bank, Bahrain Islamic Bank (BISB), IEEE, and IEEE Bahrain Section. The conference provided an international platform for financial institutions, universities, professional bodies, researchers, technology specialists, and industry experts to exchange expertise, review comparative approaches, and disseminate international best practices and evidence-based solutions for sustainable development.



Through keynote addresses, expert panels, industry workshops, and 85 research papers, participants shared transferable frameworks, innovative methodologies, scalable solutions, and comparative international experience in sustainable finance, governance, renewable energy, financial inclusion, ESG, and responsible technological innovation.



Research outputs provided particularly strong evidence of best-practice review and comparative learning. UOB research on blue finance compared MENA and GCC initiatives, policy instruments, stakeholder-engagement mechanisms, and governance models, identifying transferable practices in impact measurement, institutional capacity, blended finance, and adaptive governance. Research on solar-energy adoption compared international experiences in the United States, Germany, China, and the UAE and translated successful approaches into strategies for Bahrain, including supportive regulation, clean-energy investment, solar integration into buildings, research and awareness, rooftop deployment, and domestic industry development.

UOB research also comparatively assessed sustainability-linked loans, green bonds, and green sukuk across GCC countries using 2019–2024 data, identifying successful regional practices and policy opportunities to expand sustainable finance. International collaborative research between UOB and the American University of the Middle East in Kuwait compared Sharia-compliant tokenization initiatives and developed an Islamic Tokenomics Framework and due-diligence approach for regulators and institutions, demonstrating a transferable governance methodology for sustainable digital finance.

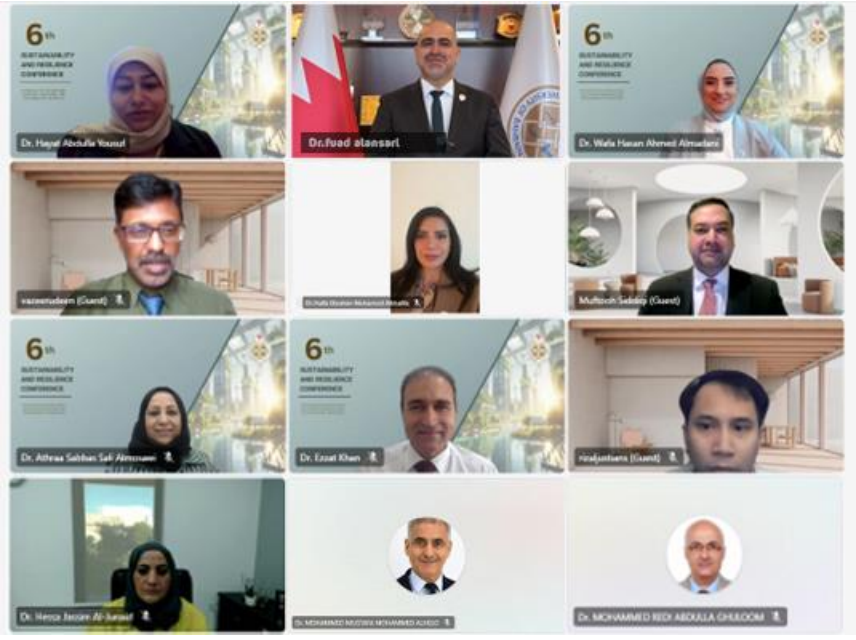
This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 by fostering international collaboration, comparative learning, best-practice exchange, knowledge sharing, evidence-based approaches, and transferable solutions that can be adapted across institutions, markets, and national contexts to advance sustainable finance and responsible technological innovation.

Evidence Resource:

- **Evidence Source:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-holds-5th-international-conference-on-sustainable-islamic-business-and-finance/
- **Conference Link:** https://icsibf.uob.edu.bh/
- **Conference Proceeding**: https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/conhome/11455269/proceeding

7. International Knowledge Exchange and Best Practices in Nature-Based Solutions and Sustainable Technologies

The University of Bahrain's 6th Sustainability and Resilience Conference (SRC'24) provided an international platform for researchers, universities, industry experts, professional organizations, and sustainability practitioners to exchange best



practices, review comparative approaches, and disseminate evidence-based and transferable solutions. .

The conference engaged 127 attendees and featured 25 research papers involving authors from 13 countries,, including 11 University of Bahrain papers enabling comparative learning across renewable energy, water conservation, circular economy, climate resilience, sustainable construction, green infrastructure, environmental monitoring, and nature-based solutions. Research outputs provided concrete examples of innovative methodologies and scalable practices. A University of Bahrain study comparing green-roof implementation in Bahrain and Singapore used SWOT analysis to evaluate environmental and economic differences and developed recommendations including financial incentives and treated wastewater to maximize environmental benefits while reducing costs.

Other contributions demonstrated measurable and transferable sustainability solutions. Research on solar-powered desalination in drought-prone areas demonstrated renewable-energy applications for sustainable clean-water production; UOB research on atmospheric water harvesting identified an optimal modeled current that produced 7.98 liters of condensed water over the simulation period; and UOB desalination research comparatively evaluated four design alternatives, renewable-energy integration, economics, and carbon emissions to identify a preferred configuration. Sustainable construction research evaluated fly ash in self-consolidating concrete, while circular-economy studies examined waste cooking oil and mushroom waste as alternative energy resources.

The conference also facilitated industry-academia best-practice exchange through UOB–ALBA research on carbon-capture technology, which evaluated operational parameters and demonstrated CO_2 removal efficiency exceeding 99.99% under optimal study conditions.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) by facilitating comparative learning, best-practice exchange, knowledge sharing, evidence-based solutions, transferable methodologies, and scalable sustainability approaches across institutions, countries, disciplines, and sectors.

Evidence Sources:

- **Conference website:** srcdi.uob.edu.bh
- **Evidence Source:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/6th-sustainability-and-resilience-conference-discusses-innovative-strategies-solutions/
- **Conference Proceedings:** https://srcdi.uob.edu.bh/src24-conference-proceeding/

8. Regional Best-Practice Exchange and External Academic Evaluation with Imam Malik College





On 8 April 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Imam Malik College of Sharia and Law in the United Arab Emirates, establishing a formal framework for regional academic cooperation, exchange of expertise, and collaboration in areas of mutual interest.



The agreement provides structured mechanisms for cooperation in scientific research and publishing, joint academic programs and activities, faculty exchange, and the exchange of external examiners for the external evaluation of academic programs. The inclusion of external examiners is particularly relevant to institutional knowledge exchange because it enables academic programs to benefit from independent expertise and external perspectives on academic quality.

Through research collaboration, faculty engagement, joint programs, and external academic evaluation, the partnership establishes channels through which the two institutions can exchange academic expertise and effective educational practices, strengthen program development, and support continuous improvement in teaching and academic quality.

The partnership supports SDG 17.2.4 – Collaboration for SDG Best Practice by establishing a regional mechanism for the exchange of academic expertise, research and publishing practices, faculty knowledge, and external quality-evaluation approaches between Bahrain and the UAE. It contributes particularly to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by strengthening institutional collaboration and facilitating the sharing and adaptation of academic practices across higher-education institutions.

Evidence Source: UOB signs MoU with Imam Malik College of Sharia and Law in the UAE

9. International Benchmarking and Best-Practice Exchange in Actuarial Science Education

On 27 April 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) College of Science received a joint delegation from the UK Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA) and the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) to explore cooperation aimed at strengthening UOB's Actuarial Science Program and enhancing graduates' professional readiness. The delegation included the President of IFoA.



The engagement focused on aligning actuarial education with international professional standards and labor-market requirements. Discussions explored opportunities to introduce new elective courses, enable students to pursue internationally recognized professional certifications aligned with IFoA standards, develop international training opportunities, and organize a joint actuarial science and business conference. The discussions also considered the program's review by Bahrain's Education and Training Quality Authority and its inclusion in the National Qualifications Framework.

By bringing together UOB, an international professional actuarial body, and a national professional education institution, the initiative created a mechanism for comparing academic provision with professional expectations and for exchanging expertise on curriculum development, certification, professional training, and graduate employability.

This engagement supports SDG 17.2.4 – Collaboration for SDG Best Practice by enabling UOB to benchmark its actuarial education against internationally recognized professional standards and explore the adaptation of effective practices in teaching, certification, training, and professional preparation. It contributes particularly to SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Evidence: University of Bahrain Receives Joint Delegation from IFoA and BIBF

10. UOB–RCSI Partnership for International Best-Practice Exchange in Research, Clinical Training, and Digitalization



In September 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) and RCSI Medical University of Bahrain reaffirmed their strategic partnership and discussed renewing their Memorandum of Understanding to expand academic, research, and professional collaboration.

The discussions identified concrete areas for institutional knowledge and best-practice exchange, including collaborative research, specialized training in Good Clinical Practice (GCP) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), positive psychology and mental health, digitalization strategies, and interdisciplinary collaboration across information technology, engineering, nursing, and medical sciences. The partnership therefore provides a mechanism for connecting UOB academic and research capabilities with internationally recognized practices in clinical research, data governance, healthcare education, and digital transformation.

The collaboration also strengthens interdisciplinary knowledge exchange by linking expertise across health, technology, engineering, and nursing, while supporting professional capacity development and collaborative research. Its priorities align with broader goals for innovation, sustainability, human-capital development, and Bahrain Vision 2030.

The partnership supports SDG 17.2.4 – Collaboration for SDG Best Practice by enabling UOB to exchange, adapt, and apply international expertise and established practices in research, clinical training, data protection, interdisciplinary education, and digitalization. It contributes particularly to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Evidence Source: RCSI Medical University of Bahrain and University of Bahrain Strengthen Strategic Partnership through Renewed Collaboration

11. Collaborative Best-Practice Exchange in AI, Cloud Innovation, and Public-Sector Solutions

During the 2024–2025 academic year, UOB's Cloud Innovation Center connected AWS technical expertise, university capabilities, and public-sector domain knowledge through four completed challenge-based academic prototypes: QuestAI, VIBE, SenseAI, and TaqyeemPro.

Students applied professional innovation practices including stakeholder requirements gathering, cloud and AI development, system design, prototype demonstrations, technical testing, documentation, and iterative refinement based on AWS and stakeholder feedback. The resulting prototypes applied AI and cloud technologies to real organizational challenges: QuestAI supported examination development; VIBE explored AI-enabled interactive reading; SenseAI addressed customs transaction risk analysis and audit support; and TaqyeemPro applied AI to educational assessment and exam creation.

Through this model, UOB facilitated the exchange and practical application of AWS technological expertise, public-sector operational knowledge, academic capabilities, and requirements-driven innovation practices. The initiative supports SDG 17.2.4 – Collaboration for SDG Best Practice by translating cross-sector expertise into completed prototypes addressing public-sector challenges and sharing approaches to AI, cloud innovation, digital transformation, and collaborative problem-solving, particularly supporting SDGs 4, 9, and 17.

Evidence Source: https://cic.uob.edu.bh/

12. University of Bahrain and CERN Collaborate on Quantum Computing for Sustainable Development



During the academic year 2024-2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB), in collaboration with CERN, organized a workshop entitled “Quantum Computing for Sustainable Development” as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen international collaboration, promote knowledge exchange, and explore innovative solutions to global sustainability challenges.

The workshop brought together University leaders, deans, faculty members, researchers, and students to engage with emerging applications of quantum computing and its potential contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). During the event, Mr. Martin Gastal, CERN Advisor for the MENA Region, presented an overview of CERN, the CMS experiment, and the Open Quantum Institute (OQI), highlighting CERN’s international program for exploring quantum-computing applications that support SDG-related challenges in health, clean energy, climate action, clean water, and food security.

The workshop facilitated the exchange of international expertise and provided participants with exposure to emerging technological approaches being developed through global scientific collaboration. Mr. Abdulla Ebrahim Subah, Research and Teaching Assistant at the University of Bahrain’s College of Information Technology, introduced participants to the fundamentals of quantum computing and its potential role in advancing innovation and sustainable development.

Through collaborative group activities, participants examined real-world case studies and developed proposals linking quantum-computing applications to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These proposals were subsequently presented, reviewed, and discussed among participants, creating opportunities for comparative learning, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the exchange of innovative ideas. Selected outputs were identified for showcasing through CERN's Open Quantum Institute (OQI) platform, enabling further international dissemination and knowledge sharing.

This initiative supports Indicator 17.2.4 by facilitating international collaboration, knowledge exchange, comparative review of emerging technological approaches, and the dissemination of innovative practices for sustainable development. Through engagement with CERN and participation in the Open Quantum Institute program, the University of Bahrain contributed to the exchange of expertise and the exploration of internationally relevant solutions that support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Evidence Source: UOB in Cooperation with CERN Reviews Quantum Computing for Sustainable Development

13. Reviewing Comparative Approaches and Best Practices in AI Governance through the Third International Law Conference

The University of Bahrain hosted the Third International Conference on "Legal Challenges of Artificial Intelligence Technology" on April 23–24, 2025. The conference brought together academics, legal experts, representatives of judicial and public prosecution bodies, regulatory and professional institutions, and AI specialists to exchange expertise and examine emerging challenges associated with artificial intelligence.



The conference featured a keynote presentation by Dr. Jassim Haji Jassim, Executive Advisor for the His Highness Shaikh Nasser Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Centre and

Chairman of the Global Group for Artificial Intelligence. Through expert discussions, specialized workshops, and the presentation of 22 research papers, including three papers from the University of Bahrain, participants reviewed legal and regulatory approaches to AI governance and examined how legislative and judicial systems can respond to rapid technological developments.

A key outcome of the conference was the review of comparative approaches, international best practices, and evidence-based frameworks for regulating artificial intelligence. Participants evaluated the adequacy of existing legislative frameworks and developed recommendations informed by European regulations, international conventions, and global experiences in AI governance. Discussions examined best practices related to human rights protection, human security, ethical safeguards, AI-generated intellectual property, blockchain-based contracts, AI-assisted investigations, judicial innovation, and public-sector AI applications.

The conference also explored the potential adaptation of Shanghai's AI-supported judicial system to the Bahraini legal context and proposed an international agreement under the umbrella of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to regulate the protection of AI-generated works. Additional recommendations addressed legal responsibility for self-driving vehicles, regulatory frameworks for AI use in public administration, and governance mechanisms for the responsible use of AI within judicial institutions.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) by facilitating the exchange of best practices, reviewing comparative regulatory approaches, promoting knowledge sharing, and developing evidence-based recommendations for responsible AI governance. Through the examination of international models and the adaptation of successful legal and judicial practices, the conference contributed to the development of effective and sustainable governance frameworks for emerging technologies.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-explores-legal-challenges-of-ai-at-third-international-law-conference/

14. Sharing Best Practices in Data Analytics and AI for Sustainable Development through DATA'25

The University of Bahrain's Deanship of Graduate Studies and Scientific Research organized the 6th International Conference on Data Analytics for Business and Industry (DATA'25) on October 29–30, 2025, in collaboration with INFORMS Bahrain and with technical support from IEEE. The conference provided a platform for researchers, academics, technology specialists, and industry practitioners to exchange expertise, review comparative approaches, and disseminate best practices, evidence-based methodologies, and transferable solutions in data analytics and artificial intelligence. The conference featured 115 scientific papers, including 38 papers authored by University of Bahrain researchers.



The proceedings demonstrate substantial comparative learning and best-practice development across sustainable-development challenges. Research on decarbonizing economic growth combined panel-data econometrics with AI-supported text analytics to examine Net-Zero pathways across SAARC countries and developed evidence-based strategies for renewable-energy investment, green growth, climate finance, and regional coordination. Research on sustainable agriculture demonstrated an IoT-integrated water-pumping system combining real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, and adaptive control, with the study reporting reduced energy consumption and improved water-flow stability compared with conventional approaches.

Additional research disseminated innovative and transferable practices across healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, and digital security. A review of maize-disease detection compared traditional diagnosis, machine learning, deep learning, UAV sensing, and different datasets and proposed a roadmap toward scalable, interpretable, and field-deployable solutions supporting sustainable agriculture and food security. Research on medical imaging compared federated-learning approaches and examined privacy, robustness, fairness, and scalability for collaborative AI applications across healthcare institutions. Another study developed a secure searchable-encryption approach for medical images and

validated it across multiple standardized datasets, providing a reproducible approach to privacy-preserving medical-data management.

The proceedings also demonstrated best-practice exchange in sustainable infrastructure. University of Bahrain researchers used the Artificial Bee Colony algorithm to optimize an existing composite pedestrian bridge design, reporting a 38.6% reduction in structural weight for the best solution while satisfying structural design requirements. Another UOB study developed an optimized FRP-reinforced concrete-frame methodology and highlighted FRP's potential as a sustainable alternative to conventional steel reinforcement.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) by facilitating best-practice exchange, comparative learning, knowledge sharing, evidence-based approaches, innovative methodologies, and transferable and scalable solutions across countries, disciplines, and application areas. DATA'25 enabled researchers and practitioners to compare approaches and disseminate practical solutions supporting climate action, clean energy transition, sustainable agriculture, food security, healthcare, sustainable infrastructure, cybersecurity, and responsible digital transformation.

Evidence Source:

- **Evidence Source:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/uobs-international-data-analytics-conference-explores-latest-innovations-and-challenges/
- **Conference link:** https://icdabi.uob.edu.bh/
- **Conference Proceeding Link:** https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/conhome/11547356/proceeding

15. International Best-Practice Exchange in Sustainable Biomass and Waste Conversion

In December 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) contributed its research expertise to the Second International Conference on Biomass Valorization for Sustainable Development through Dr. Maysoon Nedham Awad, Assistant Professor of Environmental Biotechnology at UOB, who participated as a keynote speaker. The conference was organized by



the University of M'Hamed BouGara Boumerdès under the auspices of the Algerian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Representing UOB's research expertise, Dr. Awad presented published research conducted at the University of Bahrain on the use of bacterial enzymes to convert agricultural and industrial waste into sustainable products. The presentation enabled UOB to share applied research and approaches to biomass valorization, waste conversion, biotechnology, and circular use of resources with an international academic and professional audience.

The conference provided a platform for international knowledge and best-practice exchange on sustainable biomass utilization. Its recommendations called for stronger joint research on biomass-conversion efficiency, closer collaboration between academia and industry, and the integration of clean technologies into national and regional sustainable-development strategies.

Through this international engagement, UOB contributed to the exchange and dissemination of research-based practices for transforming waste into useful and sustainable resources while engaging with wider approaches to clean technology and biomass valorization. The initiative supports SDG 17.2.4 – Collaboration for SDG Best Practice by sharing UOB-developed research internationally and participating in the exchange of scientific approaches that can strengthen sustainable waste management and resource efficiency. It contributes particularly to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Evidence: Academic from UOB Presents Innovative Enzymatic Solutions for Waste Conversion at International Conference

16. UOB–Huawei Collaboration on International ICT Training and Certification Best Practices

In March 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) strengthened engagement with Huawei Bahrain to explore expanded collaboration in ICT education, professional training, and technical certification. UOB President Dr. Fuad Mohammed Al-Ansari met with Mr. Eric Lee, Managing Director of Huawei Bahrain, and Ms. Julie Paul, Public Relations Manager of Huawei Bahrain, with participation from UOB's College of Information



Technology, to discuss opportunities for strengthening the University's role in supporting the Huawei ICT Academy.

The discussions focused on transferring and applying international industry practices within UOB's ICT education and professional-development ecosystem. Proposed areas included Train-the-Trainer programs, comprehensive ICT courses, advanced programs for developing young technology talent, and pathways enabling students and professionals to acquire industry-relevant technical skills and certifications.

The engagement provides a mechanism through which UOB can connect academic education with Huawei's global ICT expertise, professional certification frameworks, and industry-based approaches to technology skills development. This supports closer alignment between higher education and evolving professional standards while strengthening opportunities for technical capacity-building and workforce development in Bahrain.

The initiative supports SDG 17.2.4 – Collaboration for SDG Best Practice through the exchange and potential adoption of international ICT training approaches, professional certification standards, and Train-the-Trainer practices within higher education. By connecting UOB's academic capabilities with Huawei's international technology and professional-development expertise, the collaboration contributes particularly to SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure).

Evidence: UOB Discusses Strengthening Cooperation with Huawei

17. International Academic Exchange and Collaboration with Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies

In February 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) welcomed a delegation from Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies (TSUOS), Uzbekistan, to explore opportunities for international academic and research collaboration. The discussions considered mechanisms for strengthening knowledge exchange and cooperation across institutional and national boundaries.



The two universities explored cooperation in joint scientific research projects, collaborative publication of books and academic articles, organization of scientific conferences, and student and faculty exchanges. These proposed areas provide a framework through which researchers and academic communities in Bahrain and Uzbekistan can share expertise, research practices, and institutional experience.

The engagement supports SDG 17.2.4 – Collaboration for SDG Best Practice by establishing a pathway for international knowledge exchange, collaborative research, academic mobility, and the sharing of research and educational practices between UOB and TSUOS. Through these proposed mechanisms, the universities can strengthen comparative learning and international cooperation relevant to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Evidence: University of Bahrain Explores Cooperation with Tashkent University Delegation

18. International Collaboration and Best-Practice Exchange between UOB and USM



In May 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) established a five-year framework for sustained international academic, research, and knowledge exchange. The agreement strengthens cooperation between Bahrain and Malaysia through structured mechanisms that enable both institutions to share academic expertise, research practices, and institutional experience.

The collaboration covers foreign-language education, humanities and arts, alongside the establishment of joint research chairs and joint research groups to strengthen academic research platforms. It also provides for the exchange of visiting faculty and students, academic and research scholarships, and research opportunities, creating multiple channels through which expertise and effective practices can move between the two institutions.

These mechanisms complement wider cooperation in postgraduate education, academic research, scholarly exchange, and collaborative academic activities, establishing an institutional relationship that extends beyond a single event. The five-year framework provides continuity for joint knowledge creation, researcher and faculty engagement, academic mobility, and the exchange and adaptation of institutional practices.

The partnership supports SDG 17.2.4 – Collaboration for SDG Best Practice by establishing a long-term international mechanism for knowledge exchange, collaborative research, joint research capacity, academic mobility, and the sharing of educational and research practices between Bahrain and Malaysia. The initiative contributes particularly to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by strengthening sustained international cooperation and institutional capacity.

Evidence: During HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's official visit to Malaysia, UoB signs MoU with USM

19. International Academic and Research Best-Practice Exchange between UOB and King Saud University



In December 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) and King Saud University signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing a formal framework for sustained academic and scientific cooperation between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. The agreement was concluded on the sidelines of the fourth meeting of the Bahraini-Saudi Coordination Council, strengthening institutional cooperation in higher education and research.

The MoU establishes mechanisms for the exchange of expertise, joint planning, scientific research and publication, academic program cooperation, and faculty and student exchange. It also supports the development of teaching and research initiatives and the professional capabilities of faculty members and students at both universities.

Through these mechanisms, the partnership provides a structured basis for the two universities to share academic and research expertise, exchange institutional practices,

strengthen teaching and research approaches, and develop collaborative academic and scientific activities. Faculty and student mobility further supports knowledge transfer and comparative learning between the two higher-education systems.

The partnership supports SDG 17.2.4 – Collaboration for SDG Best Practice by establishing a sustained regional mechanism for the exchange and adaptation of academic expertise, scientific research practices, institutional knowledge, and capacity-building approaches. It contributes particularly to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by strengthening Bahrain-Saudi higher-education collaboration and creating institutional channels through which effective academic and research practices can be shared.

Evidence: University of Bahrain and King Saud University Sign MoU to Enhance Academic and Scientific Cooperation

20. University of Bahrain Strengthens Regional Collaboration and Exchange of Best Practices through GCC Higher Education Leaders' Meeting

In October 2025, the President of the University of Bahrain, Dr. Fuad Mohammed Al Ansari, participated in the 28th Meeting of the Committee of Presidents and Directors of Universities and Higher Education Institutions in the GCC Countries, hosted by Al-Jouf University in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 21 October 2025.



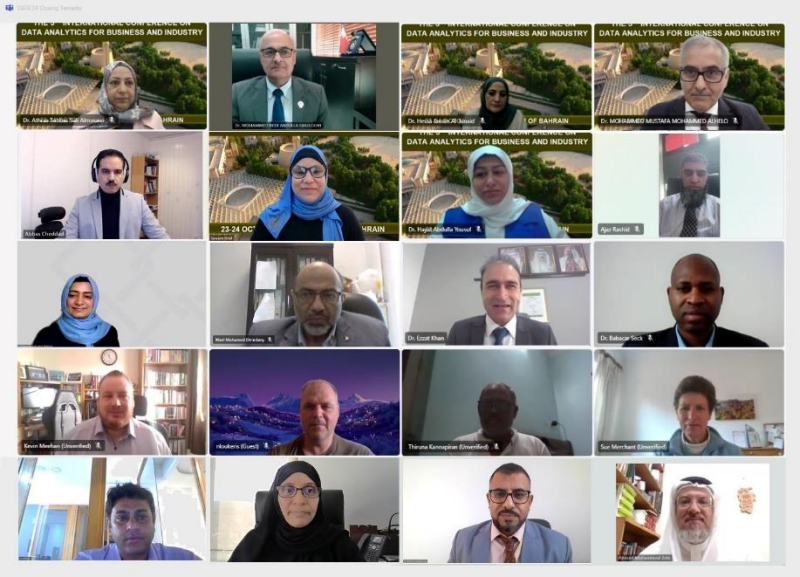
The meeting strengthened regional collaboration and knowledge exchange among universities and higher education institutions across the GCC. Participating leaders discussed institutional approaches to digital transformation, cybersecurity, entrepreneurship, higher education development, and scientific research cooperation, with a shared focus on improving institutional efficiency and the quality of university outcomes.

Through these regional discussions, participating institutions exchanged experiences and reviewed approaches to addressing common priorities in higher education and research. The meeting supported closer cooperation among GCC universities and provided an opportunity to identify effective institutional practices that can contribute to greater regional integration, academic quality, innovation, and international competitiveness.

This participation supports Indicator 17.2.4 by facilitating regional collaboration, comparative review of institutional approaches, knowledge exchange, and the sharing of effective practices in higher education and scientific research. The meeting enabled GCC institutions to learn from regional experiences and strengthen collaborative approaches in digital transformation, cybersecurity, entrepreneurship, and institutional quality.

Evidence Source: UOB President Participates in the 28th Meeting of the Committee of Presidents and Directors of Universities and Higher Education Institutions in the GCC Countries

21. International Collaboration for Data Analytics and Digital Innovation Best Practices through ICDABI 2024



During the academic year 2024-2025, the University of Bahrain hosted the 5th International Conference on Data Analytics for Business and Industry (ICDABI 2024), in collaboration with INFORMS Bahrain, the Bahrain International Group of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS), and with sponsorship from the IEEE Bahrain Section. The conference provided an international platform for researchers, data scientists, business managers, and industry practitioners to exchange expertise and share best practices in data analytics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, cybersecurity, business intelligence, and digital innovation.

The conference facilitated international knowledge sharing through keynote presentations, technical sessions, specialized workshops, and the presentation of 38 accepted research papers, including 20 papers from the University of Bahrain, with participation from 200 attendees and 124 authors representing Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and the United States. The diverse international participation strengthened collaboration and enabled the exchange of comparative approaches across academic, business, and technology communities.

Best-practice exchange was further supported through keynote presentations by Dr. Cheddad Abbas (Sweden) and Dr. Mohammad Allaymoun (Bahrain), alongside technical sessions and workshops focused on the practical application of data technologies across business and industry sectors. Research presented at the conference showcased evidence-based and transferable approaches, including Developing a Strategic Framework for Cloud Adoption in Higher Education, Predicting Environmental, Social, and Governance Scores with Machine Learning: A Systematic Literature Review, ESG Score Prediction Using Machine Learning, Gap Analysis, Load Shifting of Residential Load for Demand Side Management Using Tunicate Swarm Algorithm, and Small and Medium Enterprises' Digital Transformation Intention. These contributions promoted the dissemination of innovative methodologies, analytical frameworks, and scalable solutions that can be adapted across institutions and sectors.

The conference proceedings were published by IEEE and disseminated through IEEE Xplore, extending the global reach of the knowledge generated and promoting the dissemination of international best practices in data-driven decision-making and innovation.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) by fostering international collaboration among higher education institutions, professional organizations, technology experts, and industry practitioners to exchange expertise, review comparative approaches, disseminate research findings, and promote best practices that support sustainable technological and economic development.

Evidence Source:

- **Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-hosts-5th-international-conference-on-data-analytics-for-business-and-industry/**
- **Conference Proceeding:** https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/conhome/10799938/proceeding
- **https://icdabi.uob.edu.bh/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/DATA24_BOOKLET.pdf**

22. Sharing Best Practices in Sustainable Finance and Islamic Finance through SIBF 2024



The University of Bahrain hosted the 4th International Conference on Sustainable Islamic Business and Finance (SIBF during the academic year 2024-2025, in partnership with AAOIFI, with support from Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) and technical partnership from IEEE. The conference provided a platform for researchers, practitioners, financial institutions, professional organizations, and international experts to exchange expertise, review comparative approaches, and disseminate best practices and evidence-based solutions in sustainable and Islamic finance.

The conference engaged 200 participants and featured 61 accepted research papers, including 33 University of Bahrain papers, covering green finance, ESG integration, financial inclusion, renewable energy, circular economy, sustainable development policy, governance, regulatory compliance, and responsible investment. Through research presentations, expert panels, and knowledge exchange, participants examined transferable frameworks, innovative methodologies, and scalable approaches that can support sustainable and inclusive economic development across different institutional and national contexts.

The proceedings provided concrete evidence of best-practice development. Research on Green Finance for Sustainable Development Policy: Pathway to Environmental, Economic and Social Resilience examined experiences across MENA and GCC contexts and identified approaches involving stronger standards, expanded access to green finance, blended public-private financing, ESG reporting, and transparency. Research on Maqasid Al-Shariah and Green Finance: A Theoretical Framework on Islamic Finance with Sustainable Development Goals for a Greener Future reviewed practices across several international contexts and developed an SDG-aligned framework connecting Islamic finance, green

financial instruments, regulatory support, and sustainable investment. Other studies examined financial inclusion strategies using machine learning, RegTech solutions for compliance and efficiency, and the integration of Islamic moral economics with circular-economy principles, broadening the exchange of innovative and adaptable approaches to sustainable finance.

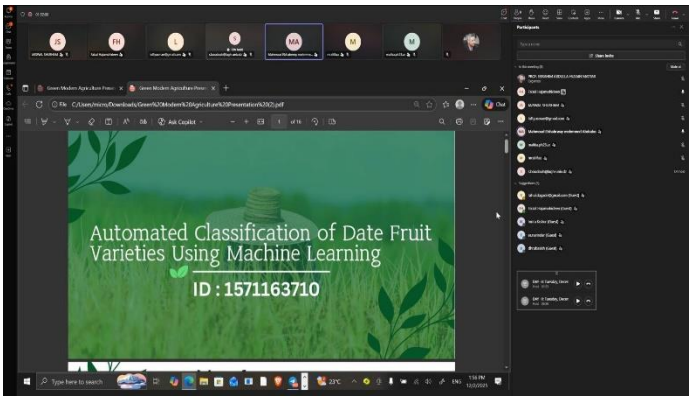
The conference further strengthened comparative learning and knowledge sharing through keynote presentations and a dedicated panel on integrating Maqasid al-Shariah with sustainability principles, involving academic, banking, and standards-setting expertise. This enabled participants to examine how Islamic-finance principles, governance mechanisms, and sustainable-finance practices can be applied across institutions and markets.

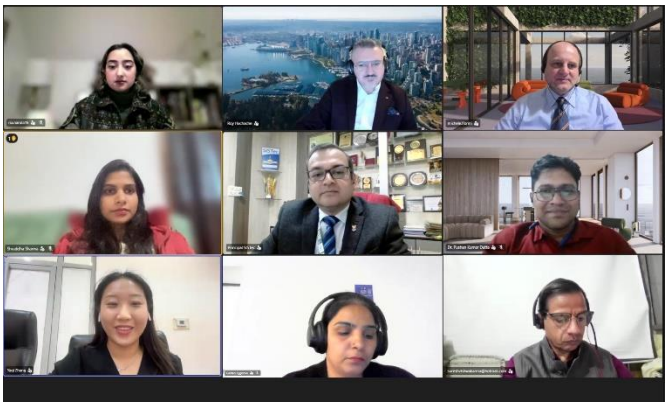
This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) by promoting best-practice exchange, comparative learning, knowledge sharing, evidence-based approaches, transferable frameworks, and scalable solutions for sustainable finance and Islamic finance, supporting the wider development and adoption of practices aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Evidence Source:

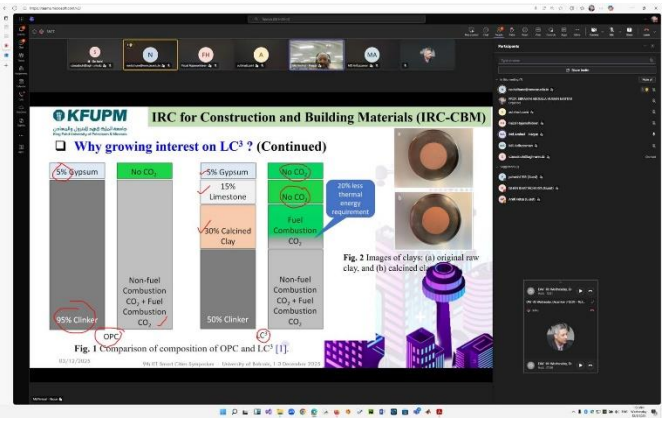
- **Evidence Source:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-launches-fourth-international-conference-on-sustainable-islamic-business-and-finance/
- Conference Link: https://icsibf.uob.edu.bh
- Conference Proceeding: https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/conhome/10883769/proceeding

23. Sharing Best Practices in Smart City Innovation and Sustainable Urban Development through the 9th IET Smart Cities Symposium





The University of Bahrain, in partnership with the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), organized the 9th IET Smart Cities Symposium from December 1–3, 2025, creating an international platform for the exchange of expertise and the dissemination of best practices in smart city development, sustainability, and emerging technologies. The symposium featured 153 accepted research papers, including 31 papers from the University of Bahrain, enabling researchers and practitioners to share evidence-based approaches, innovative methodologies, and practical solutions for urban sustainability challenges.



International keynote speakers contributed expertise on sustainable ports and maritime transport, cybersecurity and data analytics, smart manufacturing, hydrogen energy systems, sustainable waste management, biometric data protection, and resilient smart energy infrastructure. These presentations enabled participants to review comparative approaches and successful practices from different regions and sectors, while exploring how technological innovation can contribute to sustainable cities.

The symposium further promoted knowledge sharing and the dissemination of transferable practices through research sessions covering renewable energy systems, smart transportation, digital twins, artificial intelligence in healthcare, cybersecurity, Internet of Things applications, robotics, and smart city design. By bringing together international experts, researchers, industry leaders, and practitioners, the event facilitated the exchange

of innovative solutions that can be adapted across cities and institutions to improve sustainability, resilience, efficiency, and quality of life.



This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) by promoting best-practice exchange, comparative learning, knowledge sharing, and the dissemination of evidence-based solutions that support sustainable urban development and the advancement of smart city technologies.

Evidence source:

- **Evidence Source:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-hosts-the-9th-iet-smart-cities-symposium/
- **THE website:** https://www.timeshighereducation.com/research/university-bahrain/how-university-bahrains-iet-smart-cities-symposium-encourages-innovation-and-networking

24. Reviewing International Best Practices in AI Governance through the Third International Law Conference

The University of Bahrain hosted the Third International Conference on Legal Challenges of Artificial Intelligence Technology on April 23–24, 2025. The conference brought together academics, legal experts, representatives of judicial and public prosecution bodies, specialists in law and technology, and AI experts to examine the legal, ethical, and regulatory challenges associated with artificial intelligence and to facilitate the exchange of best practices in AI governance.



The conference featured a keynote presentation by Dr. Jassim Haji Jassim, Executive Advisor for the His Highness Shaikh Nasser Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Centre and Chairman of the Global Group for Artificial Intelligence. Through expert discussions,

specialized workshops, and the presentation of 22 research papers, including three papers from the University of Bahrain, participants reviewed comparative approaches, shared legal expertise, and evaluated regulatory frameworks designed to balance technological innovation with legal protections, ethical safeguards, human rights, and human security.



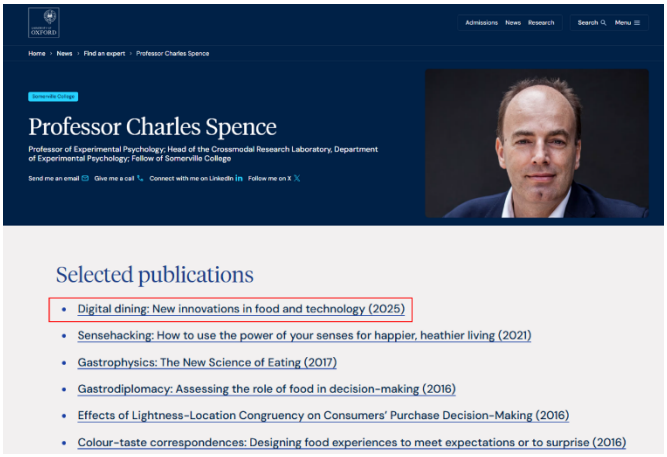
A major focus of the conference was the review of international best practices and evidence-based approaches to AI regulation. Participants examined European regulatory frameworks, international conventions, and proposed an international agreement under the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to address the protection of AI-generated works. Discussions also considered the experience of Shanghai's AI-supported judicial system as a potential model for adaptation within Bahrain's legal framework. Additional recommendations addressed AI governance, blockchain-based contracts, self-driving vehicle liability, AI-assisted investigations, judicial case management, and the responsible use of AI in public administration.

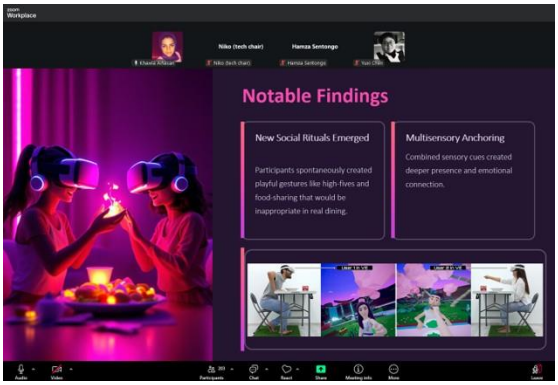
The conference generated evidence-based recommendations and transferable practices that support responsible AI governance while encouraging the adaptation of successful regulatory and judicial models to local contexts. By facilitating knowledge sharing, reviewing comparative regulatory approaches, and promoting best-practice exchange among legal, judicial, academic, and technology stakeholders, this initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 – Collaboration for SDG Best Practice and contributes to the development of sustainable, accountable, and inclusive governance frameworks for emerging technologies.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-concludes-international-law-conference-issues-key-legislative-and-academic-recommendations/

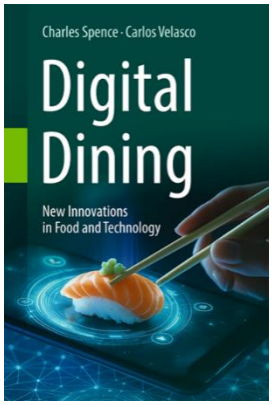
25. International Research Collaboration Advances Best Practice in Immersive Social Experiences

During the academic year 2024–2025, the University of Bahrain supported international research led by Khawla Alhasan, a University of Bahrain academic and PhD researcher in Creative Technologies at the University of Kent, United Kingdom. The research involved international collaboration and knowledge exchange with academics and researchers from multiple institutions and countries, contributing to the advancement of emerging best practices in immersive technologies and virtual social interaction.





The study, *Eating Together Apart: Designing Immersive, Multisensory Commensality Experiences in Virtual Reality*, investigated how immersive technologies can facilitate meaningful social connections between individuals in different locations through shared virtual dining experiences. Using a three-phase research methodology that included participant surveys, prototype development, and user evaluation, the study explored the integration of Virtual Reality and multisensory interaction involving smell, taste, airflow, and touch.



Through international research collaboration, the study examined comparative approaches to virtual socialization and identified opportunities and challenges associated with immersive dining experiences. The findings highlighted the potential of multisensory design to strengthen social connection and engagement while addressing key considerations related to authenticity, cultural representation, behavioral responses, and the relationship between virtual and physical experiences.

The research achieved international recognition through its acceptance for presentation at the Academic Mindtrek 2025 Conference, providing an international platform for peer

review, knowledge exchange, and dissemination of research outcomes. The study was also selected for inclusion in the book Digital Dining: New Innovations in Food and Technology, edited by internationally recognized researchers Professor Charles Spence of the University of Oxford and Professor Carlos Velasco, who also contributed as a co-author of the research. The publication brings together leading international expertise on sensory technologies, digital experiences, and innovation in food-related research.


Academic Mindtrek 2025 final decision for submission 6637 and further information

Inbox ×

Mindtrek 2025 <mindtrek2025@easychair.org> Mon, Aug 25, 2025, 6:13 PM

to me

Dear Khawla Alhasan,

This is the final notification that the revisions to your paper Eating together apart: Designing immersive, multisensory commensality experiences in Virtual Reality have been checked by the Track Chairs, and your paper is now officially accepted to the Academic Mindtrek 2025 Conference.

Please carefully follow the steps outlined below to finalise your paper for publication and prepare for the conference presentation:

This initiative supports Indicator 17.2.4 by demonstrating international collaboration, interdisciplinary research, comparative analysis of emerging approaches, and the international dissemination of knowledge through conference presentation and academic publication. Through collaboration with international researchers and institutions, the project contributed to the exchange of expertise and the development of evidence-based best practices in immersive technologies, virtual social interaction, and multisensory experience design, supporting innovation and knowledge sharing across the global research community.

Evidence Source:

- https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-oxford-publishes-uob-research-on-virtual-sensory-experiences/
- https://kar.kent.ac.uk/110275/
- (PDF) Eating together apart: Designing immersive, multisensory commensality experiences in Virtual Reality

26. International Knowledge Exchange and Best Practices for Sustainable Heritage Conservation through ICSH 2025



The University of Bahrain organized the 3rd International Conference on Sustaining Heritage (ICSH 2025) on November 26–27, 2025, bringing together 153 researchers, experts, practitioners, and stakeholders from 21 countries across the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. The conference created an international platform for knowledge sharing, comparative learning, and best-practice exchange on sustainable approaches to cultural heritage conservation, management, and digital transformation.

International expertise was strengthened through keynote contributions from Prof. Christer Gustafsson (Sweden), Prof. Hossam Elborombaly (Egypt), Sh. Mohamed Khalifa Al-Khalifa of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), and Prof. Noman Ahmed, Pro Vice Chancellor and UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Urban Development (Pakistan). Practical workshops further enabled participants to exchange transferable practices and build capacity in the application of smart digital tools for heritage documentation, conservation, and management.

The conference featured 34 peer-reviewed scientific papers, including 15 papers from the University of Bahrain, presenting evidence-based approaches and innovative methodologies for sustainable heritage. Research included comparative drone-based heritage documentation of Bahrain Fort and Cyprus's Curium archaeological site; digital approaches to preserving and adaptively reusing Manama's modernist heritage; smart early-warning systems for climate-vulnerable coastal heritage sites across Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE; and AI-enabled approaches to sustainable heritage documentation.

The conference provided concrete opportunities to review comparative approaches, evidence-based solutions, and transferable best practices for sustainability challenges. Research on drone technology for sustainable heritage preservation compared Bahrain Fort with the Curium archaeological site in Cyprus, evaluating traditional documentation against UAV-based approaches and identifying opportunities for Bahrain to strengthen conservation practices in line with global standards. Other research applied machine-learning models to

predict water scarcity severity, demonstrating how data-driven forecasting could support early-warning systems, sustainable water resource management, and long-term climate resilience. Together, these studies demonstrate the conference's role in sharing innovative methodologies, comparative international experience, and adaptable practices that can inform sustainable heritage conservation and resource management.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) by enabling international researchers, heritage authorities, universities, sustainability specialists, and technology experts to review comparative approaches, exchange best practices, share evidence-based solutions, and disseminate transferable methodologies for safeguarding cultural heritage. These collaborative approaches directly support SDG 11, particularly Target 11.4, while strengthening international knowledge exchange on sustainable urban development, climate resilience, and cultural heritage conservation.

Evidence source:

- Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-conference-explores-heritage-sustainability-amid-global-digital-developments/
- Conference website: https://icsh.uob.edu.bh/
- Conference Proceeding: https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/conhome/11547911/proceeding

27. SPE Oman and University of Bahrain Facilitate Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Future Opportunities in the Energy Sector



During the academic year 2024-2025, as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration between student chapters and promote professional development within the energy sector, the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) University of Bahrain Student Chapter organized a collaborative knowledge-sharing session with SPE Oman entitled "Society of Petroleum Engineers and Future Opportunities."



The session was delivered by Eng. Maan Alaasfor, Membership Chairman of SPE Oman, in the presence of the University of Bahrain Chapter Liaison Eng. Abdulla Aljowder, as well as distinguished industry guests Abdulla Garadah and Maryam Alqassab from Bapco Upstream.

During the session, participants gained valuable insights into the role of the Society of Petroleum Engineers in supporting the development of future energy professionals. Discussions highlighted emerging trends in the energy industry, the importance of professional networking, career development opportunities, leadership pathways, and the value of active engagement in international professional organizations.

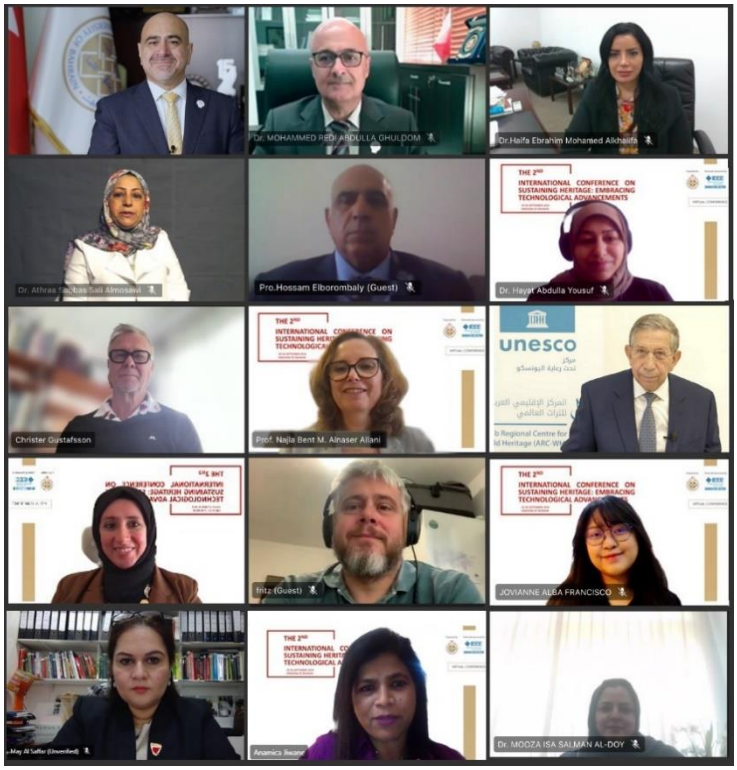


The session provided a platform for knowledge exchange between students, industry representatives, and professional society leaders, fostering dialogue on the evolving needs of the energy sector and the skills required for future success. It also emphasized the importance of collaboration between academia and industry in preparing the next generation of petroleum and energy professionals.

The initiative reflects the shared commitment of SPE Oman, SPE University of Bahrain Student Chapter, and Bapco Upstream to supporting talent development, professional networking, and industry engagement, while strengthening regional collaboration across the energy sector.

Evidence URL: https://www.uob.edu.bh/spe-oman-and-university-of-bahrain-spe-student-chapter-host-knowledge-sharing-session-on-future-opportunities-in-the-energy-sector/

28. Sharing Best Practices in Digital Innovation for Sustainable Heritage Conservation



During the academic year 2024-2025, the University of Bahrain's 2nd International Conference on Sustaining Heritage (ICSH 2024) created a platform for researchers, heritage practitioners, technology experts, and professional organizations to exchange best practices, review comparative approaches, and disseminate evidence-based solutions for sustainable cultural heritage conservation. The conference engaged 46 attendees and featured 28 accepted research papers, including six University of Bahrain papers, with contributions spanning digital heritage, sustainable tourism, conservation technologies, urban revitalization, and cultural heritage management.

Best-practice exchange was demonstrated through research comparing and evaluating innovative approaches to heritage preservation. Examples included A Deep Learning-Based Approach for Damage Detection in Cultural Heritage Images and Generating Heat Maps; Preserving the Unseen: Innovative Approaches to Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Expressions Through Immersive Technologies; Machine Learning's Significance in Improving the Conservation of Traditional Building Facades in Heritage Areas; and Data-Driven Solutions for Revitalizing Historical Urban Areas: Case of Lado Sarai Delhi. The latter demonstrated how data analytics, GIS, and smart-city technologies can support informed policy decisions, resource allocation, community engagement, and sustainable heritage-led urban development.

The proceedings also documented transferable practices and scalable methodologies. Research on Bahrain's heritage areas examined machine learning solutions aligned with Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities conservation efforts and national development planning, while another study presented 3D scanning combined with GIS as a

repeatable approach to heritage documentation and conservation. Research on smart technologies in museums proposed an implementation methodology incorporating assessment, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and stakeholder engagement.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) by facilitating knowledge sharing, comparative learning, best-practice exchange, and dissemination of evidence-based and transferable approaches for sustainable heritage preservation, supporting the wider adoption of innovative conservation methods across institutions and cultural contexts.

Evidence Sources:

- **Evidence Source:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/the-2nd-international-conference-on-sustaining-heritage-discussed-23-research-papers-uob-conference-calls-for-the-adoption-of-innovative-digital-solutions-to-preserve-cultural-heritage/
- **Conference link:** https://icsh.uob.edu.bh/
- **Conference proceeding:** **https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/conhome/10779587/proceeding**

29. International Collaboration and Best-Practice Exchange for Smart and Sustainable Urban Development

During the academic year 2024-2025, the University of Bahrain, in collaboration with the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), hosted the 8th IET Smart Cities Symposium, creating an international platform for researchers, industry professionals, technology experts, and practitioners to exchange expertise, review comparative approaches, and disseminate best practices and evidence-based solutions for sustainable smart-city development. The symposium engaged 310 attendees and featured 155 accepted papers, including 29 UOB papers.



The technical program provided concrete evidence of comparative learning and transferable practices. UOB research compared smart and sustainable urban approaches in Bahrain Bay and examined urban redevelopment in Muharraq and Diyar Al Muharraq, including strategies, challenges, and community engagement. Other research evaluated smart-city climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, digital technologies for environmental sustainability, smart transportation, renewable-energy integration, e-waste management, and AI-supported energy optimization.

Best-practice exchange also addressed sustainable resource management. Research examined IoT-enabled urban water management, solar-powered water-quality monitoring, wastewater-treatment optimization, energy-positive buildings, offshore wind potential in Bahrain, and renewable-energy integration into smart cities. UOB research conducted with Bahrain's Electricity and Water Authority investigated electric-vehicle integration into Bahrain's distribution network, strengthening the connection between academic research and practical infrastructure management.

International comparative learning extended to smart-city design and governance. Research involving the Jeddah Development Authority examined machine-learning methods for concrete-strength prediction, while sessions addressed climate-resilient smart cities, smart-city approaches for Small Island Developing States, community-centered design, urban greening, and smart public spaces.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) by facilitating international collaboration, comparative learning, best-practice exchange, knowledge sharing, evidence-based approaches, and transferable solutions for renewable energy, sustainable transportation, smart infrastructure, climate resilience, water management, and sustainable urban development.

Evidence Sources:

- **Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-hosts-the-8th-iet-smart-cities-symposium/**

30. Sharing Best Practices in AI, Clinical Simulation, and Technology-Enabled Health Education



In December 2025, the University of Bahrain's "Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Education and Practice" Forum brought together local and international experts in artificial intelligence, clinical simulation, healthcare education, technology, and industry to exchange expertise and examine innovative approaches and emerging best practices for technology-enabled health-professions education.



International and professional expertise included the University of Greenwich and the Association for Simulated Practice in Healthcare (ASPiH), alongside regional expertise from the Arabian Gulf University, AI expertise from the HH Shaikh Nasser Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Centre, technology-industry expertise from Gaumard Scientific, and interdisciplinary expertise from UOB's health sciences and information

technology disciplines. This enabled knowledge sharing and comparative learning across academic, clinical, technological, and professional contexts.

A dedicated scientific discussion examined opportunities and challenges associated with AI in health training and clinical simulation, while the wider forum explored strategies for developing students' AI competencies and strengthening the integration of emerging technologies into health education. The University's planned Advanced Clinical Simulation Skills Center further provided an institutional pathway for applying AI and virtual reality technologies in health-professions education while maintaining professional and humanitarian ethics.

The forum therefore facilitated the exchange of innovative training approaches, technology-enabled learning practices, clinical simulation expertise, and transferable educational strategies that can strengthen healthcare education and future workforce preparedness.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) by promoting best-practice exchange, comparative learning, knowledge sharing, innovative methodologies, and transferable approaches to AI-enabled health education and clinical simulation. It contributes particularly to SDG 3 and SDG 4 by connecting innovation in educational practice with the development of competent and future-ready healthcare professionals.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/at-artificial-intelligence-in-healthcare-education-and-practice-forum-experts-recommend-enhancing-ai-use-in-health-education-at-uob-2/

31. Implementing WHO Best Practices through the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative



During the academic year 2024–2025, University of Bahrain nursing faculty members were selected as assessors for the World Health Organization's (WHO) Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) in Bahrain. The initiative is an internationally recognized, evidence-based framework that promotes breastfeeding, optimal infant feeding, maternal care, and mother–baby bonding.

Through their professional involvement, UOB faculty contribute to the implementation and assessment of internationally recognized best practices in maternal and newborn care. Their participation supports the transfer of WHO-recommended approaches, including the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding, into healthcare practice and professional capacity building.

The initiative creates opportunities to strengthen collaboration between international health organizations, national healthcare institutions, and academic experts. It also supports the integration of evidence-based maternal and infant health practices into nursing education and professional development, helping prepare future healthcare professionals to apply internationally recognized standards in clinical settings.

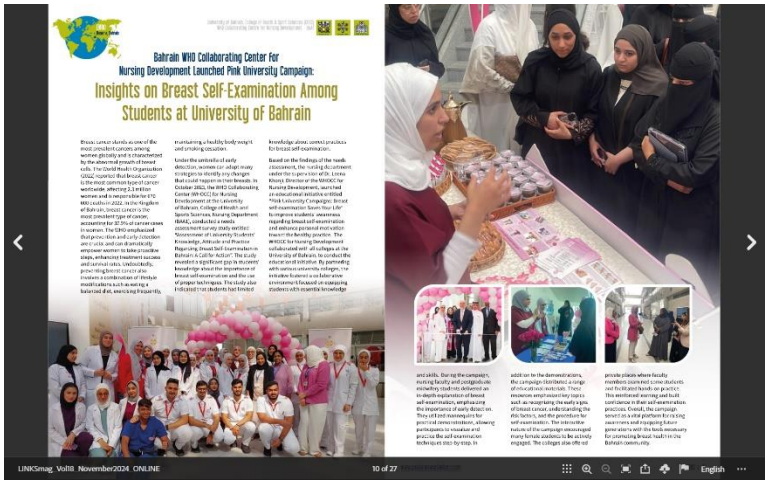
The collaboration demonstrates a pathway from international best practice to local implementation and capacity building: WHO provides the evidence-based framework; healthcare professionals and academic experts contribute technical expertise and assessment; healthcare institutions apply and adapt the recommended practices; and the University of Bahrain supports knowledge transfer and the development of future nursing professionals.

The initiative contributes to SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through collaboration with international health organizations and the transfer of internationally recognized best practices to the Bahraini healthcare and education context. It also directly supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by promoting breastfeeding, maternal and infant health, and evidence-based newborn care.

Supporting evidence:
WHO Training Workshop in Bahrain on the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative

32. International Dissemination of Evidence-Based Nursing and Health-Education Practices through the WHO Global Network

As a WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Development, during the academic year 2024-2025, the University of Bahrain's Nursing Department contributes to LINKS, the magazine of the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centers for Nursing and Midwifery. UOB's contributions are disseminated through the network and its CORE repository, providing a mechanism for international knowledge sharing, dissemination of good practices, and exchange of evidence-based approaches among nursing and midwifery collaborating centers worldwide.



UOB's contributions demonstrate how locally implemented health and educational practices are shared with an international professional community. In LINKS Volume 18, UOB's WHO Collaborating Centre presented the Pink University Campaign: Breast Self-Examination Saves Your Life, which was developed following a needs-assessment survey that identified gaps in students' knowledge of breast self-examination. The initiative translated those findings into an educational intervention involving faculty and postgraduate midwifery students, practical demonstrations, health-education materials, and opportunities for hands-on learning. The campaign promoted early detection and preventive health knowledge relevant to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

Another UOB contribution, From Classroom Cases to Clinical Competence, documented the Nursing Department's implementation of case-based learning within undergraduate nursing education. The approach was aligned with WHO priorities for competency-based education and used authentic clinical scenarios, structured case discussions, systematic assessment, critical reasoning, collaborative decision-making, and evidence-informed teaching to strengthen students' clinical competencies. The contribution demonstrates how UOB applies and disseminates evidence-based educational practices aligned with international quality standards.

These contributions demonstrate a two-way best-practice pathway: UOB applies evidence-informed approaches in nursing and health education locally and then disseminates the resulting practices and experience through an established international WHO professional network. This supports comparative learning, international knowledge exchange, professional capacity development, and wider adoption of effective practices.



This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) through the international dissemination of evidence-based practices, knowledge sharing, good-practice exchange, competency-based education, and transferable health-education approaches. It also contributes directly to SDG 3 through preventive health education and stronger nursing practice, and SDG 4 (Quality Education) through evidence-informed and competency-based nursing education.

Supporting evidence:

- Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centers for Nursing and Midwifery
- LINKS Volume 18
- LINKS Volume 21

33. Transferring WHO Best Practices in Responsible Antibiotic Use through the AWaRe Workshop

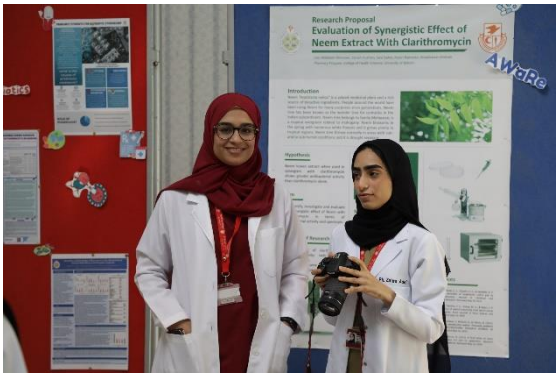


During the academic year 2024-2025, the University of Bahrain's Pharmacy Program at the College of Health and Sport Sciences collaborated with the WHO Country Office in Bahrain to organize the AWaRe Antibiotics Workshop for newly graduated physicians and dentists.

The workshop transferred evidence-based international health guidance into professional practice by strengthening participants' understanding of appropriate antibiotic use and responsible prescribing. It addressed the growing challenge of antimicrobial resistance and targeted clinicians at the beginning of their careers, when prescribing practices and professional habits are being established.



Through this WHO-UOB collaboration, international guidance on responsible antibiotic use was translated into professional education, capacity building, and clinical best-practice development for Bahrain's emerging healthcare workforce. The activity demonstrates how UOB works with an international health organization to disseminate internationally recognized approaches and strengthen their practical application in the national healthcare context.

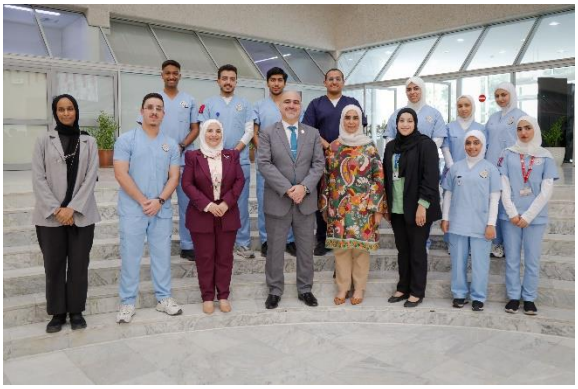




This initiative supports SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) through international collaboration, best-practice transfer, knowledge sharing, professional capacity building, and application of evidence-based healthcare approaches. It directly contributes to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by supporting antimicrobial stewardship, safer prescribing, patient protection, and efforts to address antimicrobial resistance.

Supporting evidence:
UOB AWaRe Antibiotics Workshop with WHO Bahrain

34. Regional Recognition and Sharing of Good Practices in Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness



During the 2024–2025 academic year, nursing students from the University of Bahrain were recognized by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean for their contribution to raising awareness of the risks associated with the misuse and overuse of antibiotics.

UOB students achieved leading positions among four winners selected through the WHO regional competition, marking the second time their work had received WHO recognition.

The initiative demonstrates how student-led health education can contribute to regional efforts to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a major public-health challenge. Through their participation, UOB nursing students developed and communicated awareness messages promoting responsible antibiotic use, translating health knowledge into educational approaches that can support better community understanding and safer health behaviors.



Recognition through a WHO regional initiative placed UOB's student work within a broader international professional context, enabling locally developed awareness practices to contribute to regional knowledge exchange and dissemination of good practices in antimicrobial stewardship and health education. It also demonstrates the role of nursing education in preparing students to contribute beyond clinical practice to preventive health, community education, and responsible use of medicines.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) through regional knowledge sharing, dissemination of good practices, professional learning, health-education practice, and international recognition through WHO. It directly supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by promoting responsible antibiotic use and strengthening awareness of antimicrobial resistance.

Evidence Source:

WHO Recognizes UOB Students' Contributions to Raising Awareness of Antibiotics Risks

35. Applying and Evaluating WHO International Best Practice through the Health-Promoting University Framework

The University of Bahrain has adopted the WHO Health Promoting Universities framework through its Healthy University Initiative, launched in 2024 and implemented throughout 2025. The initiative translates an internationally recognized health-promotion framework into institutional practice, integrating health and well-being across university policy, curriculum, nutrition, mental health, physical activity, sanitation, waste management, and green space.



Implementation is coordinated through a Health Promoting University Executive Committee comprising academic, clinical, and administrative members, providing an institutional mechanism for embedding health and well-being into university policies and everyday campus practice. Activities include health education, workshops and health fairs addressing nutrition, mental health, and physical activity, alongside improvements to sanitation, waste management, and campus green space.





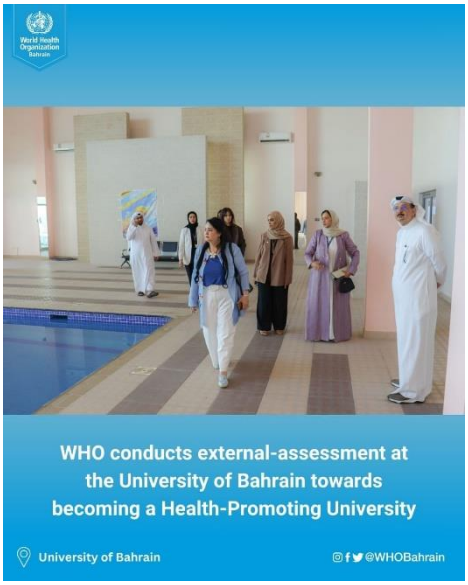
Importantly, UOB did not only adopt the international framework. On November 19, 2025, a WHO evaluation team, in coordination with Bahrain's Ministry of Health and Higher Education Council, conducted an external assessment of the University's implementation. Evaluators met university leadership, faculty members, and students, observed initiatives in practice, and reviewed the institutional policies underpinning health and well-being across the campus.

This demonstrates a clear international best-practice cycle: UOB adopted an internationally recognized WHO framework, adapted it to its institutional context, implemented health-promoting interventions, undertook assessment, and subjected its institutional practices to

external review against the international framework. The process provides a basis for evidence-informed evaluation, continuous improvement, institutional learning, and transfer of international health-promotion standards into university practice.







This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) through international collaboration, adoption of international best practice, knowledge transfer, implementation of an internationally recognized framework, evidence-based evaluation, and continuous improvement. It directly contributes to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by embedding health promotion into university policy, education, campus environments, and institutional practice.

Supporting evidence:

- WHO assesses the University of Bahrain under the Health-Promoting University program
- UOB conducts a self-assessment towards becoming a Health-Promoting University

36. Sharing Bahrain's Nursing Education Experience and Good Practices through WHO Regional Collaboration





In February 2025, the University of Bahrain contributed to a regional workshop in Kuwait on leadership and governance in health-professions education, organized by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean in collaboration with the Kuwait Medical Association and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences. The workshop brought together leaders of health-professions education institutions from across the Eastern Mediterranean Region, creating a platform for regional knowledge exchange and professional learning.

Representing UOB, Dr. Leena Mohammad Khonji, Dean of the College of Health and Sport Sciences and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Development, presented Bahrain's experience in developing nursing education and its regional role in advancing the nursing profession. By sharing Bahrain's institutional experience with health-professions leaders from across the region, UOB contributed national expertise to a wider regional discussion on leadership, governance, and the development of health-professions education.

The activity demonstrates an international pathway for sharing institutional experience, exchanging professional knowledge, reviewing approaches across different health-education contexts, and supporting regional learning. UOB's participation enabled Bahrain's nursing-education experience to be presented as a reference point within a WHO-facilitated regional environment where institutions could learn from approaches implemented across different national settings.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) through international collaboration, regional knowledge exchange, comparative learning, dissemination of good practice, leadership and governance exchange, and sharing of

transferable experience in health-professions education. It contributes directly to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by strengthening nursing and health-workforce development and to SDG 4 (Quality Education) through regional exchange on the quality, leadership, and governance of health-professions education.

Evidence Sources:

- UOB Shares Nursing Sector Developments at Regional Workshop in Kuwait
- UOB supporting social media evidence

37. International Exchange and Application of Best Practices in Physical Literacy and Lifelong Sport

During the academic year 2024-2025 , the University of Bahrain collaborated with the Bahrain Olympic Committee and Bahrain Olympic Academy and international experts from Sport for Life Society to host Bahrain's first International Physical Literacy Conference. The collaboration provided a structured environment for international knowledge sharing, best-practice exchange, professional capacity building, and transfer of physical-literacy approaches into the Bahraini sporting and educational context.



Figure 1 Closing ceremony of the conference and launch of the physical literacy book, in the presence of the President of the University of Bahrain

The conference connected physical education teachers, coaches, national sports federations and clubs, international specialists, and 780 UOB students with practical and theoretical approaches to fundamental movement skills, long-term athlete development, meaningful competition, and lifelong engagement in physical activity.

Importantly, international expertise was not limited to presentations. UOB's sports facilities were used for practical training and application of physical-literacy methods, including movement preparation, footwork and agility drills, team relays, reaction activities, strength

challenges, and small-sided games. Sport for Life experts worked alongside University and Olympic Academy lecturers, enabling participating teachers, coaches, and students to experience methods that could be transferred into education, coaching, and community sport.



Figure 2 Practical sessions in the University of Bahrain sports hall (team games across the full court, footwork and agility drills, a push-up challenge and a team relay) and international experts leading sessions during the conference

The conference also produced a knowledge-dissemination output through the launch of a physical-literacy book, strengthening the educational legacy of the collaboration beyond the three-day event.

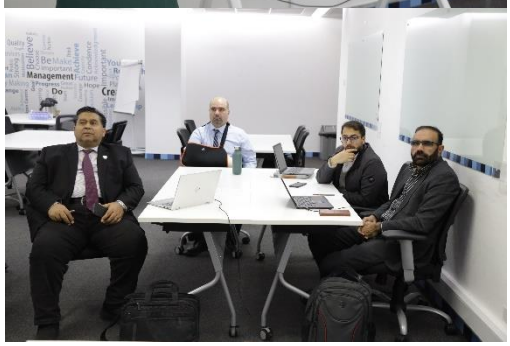
This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) through international collaboration, best-practice exchange, knowledge transfer, professional learning, practical application, and dissemination of transferable approaches to physical literacy and lifelong participation in sport. It contributes to SDG 3 through health-enhancing physical activity and disease prevention and SDG 4 through capacity building for students, teachers, coaches, and sport professionals.

Evidence Sources

- **Bahrain welcomes 780 students to first Physical Literacy Conference**
- **Bahrain Olympic Committee: Conference conclusion and book launch**
- **Bahrain Olympic Academy: International Physical Literacy Conference Bahrain 2024**
- **Sport for Life**

38. Sharing and Applying Good Practices in Responsible AI for Higher Education





The University of Bahrain's Unit for Teaching Excellence and Leadership organized the "Artificial Intelligence Strategies for Higher Education" workshop to strengthen institutional capacity for the responsible application of artificial intelligence in teaching, academic work, and university operations.

Led by an expert from Bahrain's Education and Training Quality Authority, the workshop enabled UOB faculty and staff to examine effective AI strategies, ethical AI use, practical applications, and approaches for improving operational efficiency and addressing higher-education challenges.

A key component of the workshop was the translation of AI knowledge into institutional practice. Participants explored how different AI approaches could be adapted and implemented according to their academic objectives, institutional goals, and professional needs. This strengthened knowledge sharing around responsible AI adoption rather than limiting the activity to general awareness of emerging technology.

The workshop therefore supported the exchange of good practices, practical methodologies, responsible-use principles, and transferable AI strategies that can be applied across academic and administrative functions.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) through knowledge sharing, exchange of good practices, responsible innovation, transferable approaches, institutional capacity building, and practical application of AI strategies in higher education. It contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) through improved teaching and institutional capacity and SDG 9 through responsible adoption of artificial intelligence and digital innovation.

Supporting link: https://www.uob.edu.bh/artificial-intelligence-and-higher-education-at-the-university-of-bahrain/

39. International Best-Practice Collaboration and Professional Standards Alignment with Advance HE





The University of Bahrain, through its Unit for Teaching Excellence and Leadership (UTEL), maintains an ongoing collaboration with Advance HE to strengthen academic leadership, professional development, teaching quality, and institutional capacity. The collaboration combines international professional standards, best-practice exchange, external benchmarking, and continuous professional development to strengthen higher education practice at UOB.

A central element is the ongoing Academic Leadership Program (ALP), which develops collaborative, adaptive, and inclusive leadership among academic and professional-service leaders. Participants examine different leadership models, identify institutional and learning-and-teaching challenges, work collaboratively to develop solutions, and prepare action plans for institutional change. The program explicitly identifies sharing best practices in aligning individual and institutional objectives, systems thinking, collaborative leadership, psychological safety, and adaptive leadership among its institutional benefits.



The ALP also enables multi-institutional knowledge exchange, with participants from UOB and other Bahraini higher education and public-sector institutions. Leaders from different institutional contexts share experiences, compare leadership approaches, identify common challenges, and develop practical and transferable solutions for higher education improvement.

This best-practice collaboration is reinforced through UOB's alignment with Advance HE's Professional Standards Framework 2023 (PSF 2023). UTEL achieved accreditation for the Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PCAP), Certificate of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in English and Arabic, and New to Teaching in Bahrain (NTB). The accreditation represents a continuing relationship with international professional standards, building on UTEL's earlier accreditation and subsequent renewal.

Together, the Academic Leadership Program and PSF-aligned professional development demonstrate a sustained institutional approach to international benchmarking, best-practice adoption, comparative learning, knowledge transfer, professional standards alignment, external quality assurance, and continuous improvement.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) by enabling UOB to review, adopt, apply, share, and benchmark internationally recognized practices in academic leadership and professional development. It directly supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) by strengthening faculty capability, academic leadership, teaching quality, and institutional effectiveness.

Evidence source:

- https://www.uob.edu.bh/our-centers/unit-for-teaching-excellence-and-leadership/services/academic-leadership-programme/
- https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-achieves-advance-he-accreditation-for-new-psf2023-in-its-professional-development-programs/

40. International and Cross-Sectoral Exchange of Best Practices for Sustainable and Innovative Higher Education

In September 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB), through its Unit for Teaching Excellence and Leadership (UTEL), organized the Symposium on Pedagogical Innovations for Sustaining Excellence in Higher Education (PISEH 2025) as a collaborative platform for educators, researchers, and professionals to exchange research-informed practices, innovative pedagogies, and approaches to sustainable higher education.



The symposium connected UOB with external and international expertise, including James Dunphy, Director of Educational Excellence at Advance HE in the United Kingdom, whose keynote drew on Advance HE's global work to share future-focused approaches to enhancing teaching and learning. Contributors were also associated with the University of Birmingham Dubai, Dhofar University, General Assembly Bahrain, and Skills Bahrain, alongside UOB faculty and students, enabling institutional and professional exchange across different educational contexts.

A significant component of this best-practice exchange was the presentation of 13 research papers, covering areas including pedagogical innovation, student engagement, sustainability education, digital assessment technologies, artificial intelligence integration, and cognitive skill

development. The wider program also addressed inclusive teaching, innovative assessment, experiential learning, educational technology, and approaches integrating environmental, social, and economic sustainability into higher education.

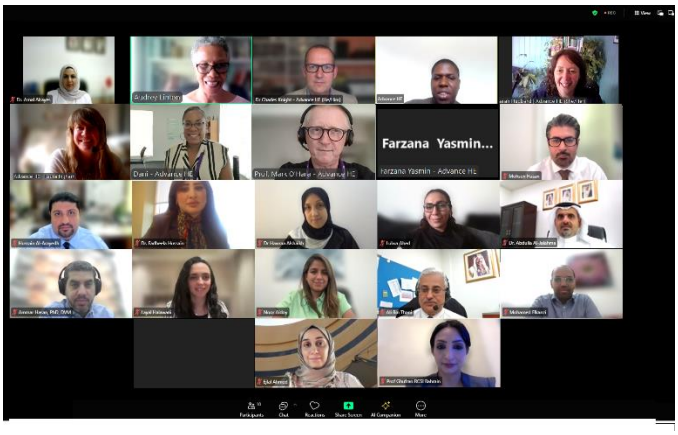
The symposium included practical approaches to embedding sustainability and social responsibility in teaching, providing educators with strategies that could be adapted within their own educational settings. This strengthened the symposium's role as a mechanism for sharing not only research findings but also transferable practices and approaches to sustainable education.

Through the exchange of 13 research contributions, international and cross-sectoral expertise, and practical teaching approaches, UOB supported collaboration for SDG best practice, particularly in relation to SDG 4 (Quality Education). PISEH 2025 provided a structured forum for sharing and disseminating approaches to inclusive, innovative, technology-enabled, and sustainability-oriented higher education that educators and institutions could apply in their own contexts.

Evidence:

- UTEL Symposium 2025 website
- Symposium_Booklet_2025_V2
- https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-organizes-symposium-on-pedagogical-innovations-for-sustaining-excellence-in-higher-education/

41. International Exchange of Academic Leadership Best Practices through UOB–Advance HE Collaboration



In June 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB), through its Unit for Teaching Excellence and Leadership (UTEL), collaborated with Advance HE to deliver a four-day Academic Leadership Program, strengthening institutional capacity through the exchange and application of international good practices in higher-education leadership.

Delivered by Advance HE specialists, the program addressed leadership purpose and values, collaboration and stakeholder engagement, leading organizational change, development of high-performing teams, adaptive leadership, innovation, and transformative practice. Through four structured workshops, participants engaged with leadership approaches designed to strengthen their ability to influence change, build effective relationships and trust, and translate learning into practical improvements within their institutional contexts.

The collaboration demonstrates UOB's engagement with an international higher-education organization to exchange professional expertise, strengthen institutional practice, and build leadership capacity relevant to sustainable and effective higher education. By transferring internationally informed leadership approaches into professional development at UOB, the initiative supports collaboration for SDG best practice, particularly in relation to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Evidence source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-organizes-academic-leadership-program-in-collaboration-with-advance-he/

42. Strengthening Institutional Governance through Risk-Based Audit Practices



In May, 2025, the University of Bahrain's Unit for Teaching Excellence and Leadership organized the two-day professional-development workshop "Audit Smarter: Mastering Risk-Based Approaches." The workshop focused on strengthening institutional capability in risk-based auditing, contemporary risk management practices, governance, and internal audit.

Led by an external professional with executive-level expertise in governance, risk, compliance, and internal audit, the program introduced participants to modern risk-based approaches for identifying and assessing institutional risks and strengthening internal audit practices.

The initiative supported professional capacity development in governance, risk management, accountability, internal controls, and institutional assurance, enabling participants to apply contemporary audit approaches within their professional responsibilities.

This activity provides supporting evidence for SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) through external professional knowledge exchange, dissemination of professional practices, institutional capacity building, and application of risk-based approaches. It also supports SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by strengthening institutional governance, accountability, risk management, and internal controls.

Evidence URL: https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-holds-workshop-on-audit-smarter-mastering-risk-based-approaches/

43. Regional Collaboration to Align Public-Sector IT Audit Practices with International Standards





The University of Bahrain contributed academic expertise to regional professional collaboration through Dr. Mazen Ali, Dean of the College of Information Technology and Chairman of ISACA Bahrain Chapter, who participated in the chapter's official visit to the Arab Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ARABOSAI).

The engagement formed part of the implementation of an MoU between ISACA Bahrain Chapter and ARABOSAI, establishing cooperation in professional training, research development, expertise exchange, and alignment with international standards. Discussions addressed information-systems auditing, cybersecurity, technology governance, and capacity building for auditors across Arab public-sector audit institutions.

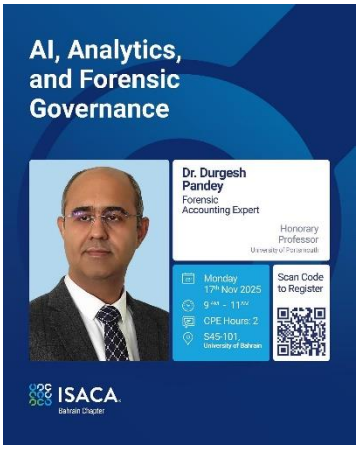
A particularly strong outcome was the technical review of ARABOSAI's IT audit guide by ISACA Bahrain Chapter to assess its alignment with global best practices. This demonstrates a practical best-practice process involving the review of regional professional guidance against internationally recognized approaches, rather than knowledge exchange alone.

The collaboration also explored opportunities for developing research and strengthening professional capacity across Arab audit institutions. ISACA Bahrain Chapter was subsequently invited to attend ARABOSAI's annual general meeting as an observer, reinforcing the continuing professional relationship.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) through regional collaboration, comparative review, international standards alignment, best-practice benchmarking, professional knowledge exchange, research cooperation, and capacity building. It contributes directly to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by strengthening IT audit, cybersecurity, technology governance, and institutional accountability in the Arab public sector, while supporting SDG 17 through regional professional partnerships.

Evidence Source: University of Bahrain: Dean of the College of Information Technology Takes Part in ISACA Bahrain's Visit to ARABOSAI

44. Best-Practice Exchange in AI, Analytics, and Forensic Governance



In November, 2025, the University of Bahrain's College of Information Technology, through its continued collaboration with ISACA Bahrain Chapter, hosted the session "AI, Analytics, and Forensic Governance" as part of the ISACA Bahrain International Conference 2025. The activity connected faculty, students, technology professionals, and industry practitioners around emerging approaches to artificial intelligence, data analytics, fraud detection, and digital governance.

The session was delivered by Dr. Durgesh Pandey, a forensic accounting and financial-investigation expert, and focused on how artificial intelligence and analytics can strengthen continuous fraud monitoring and enable earlier detection of irregularities. Participants examined practical approaches for integrating analytical technologies into governance and assurance processes.

A practical case study enabled participants to examine structured and unstructured data analysis, while discussions addressed the integrity and admissibility of evidence generated through analytics. The session also explored collaboration between IT and business teams and examined how analytical findings can be connected to regional governance frameworks that strengthen oversight and accountability.

Through this academic-professional collaboration, participants were exposed to evidence-based approaches, practical methodologies, professional knowledge, and transferable governance practices relevant to AI-enabled fraud detection and forensic analysis.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) through best-practice exchange, professional knowledge sharing, practical case-based learning, evidence-based methodologies, transferable approaches, and collaboration between higher education and professional practice. It directly supports SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by strengthening accountability, fraud monitoring, evidence integrity, and technology-enabled governance, while contributing to SDG 4 (Quality Education) through professional and applied learning.

Evidence URL: https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-hosts-isaca-bahrain-international-conference-2025-session-on-ai-analytics-and-forensic-governance/

45. International Research Collaboration and Best-Practice Exchange through the BENEFIT Advanced AI & Computing Lab

The BENEFIT Advanced AI & Computing Lab at the University of Bahrain supports sustained international research collaboration and knowledge exchange with universities and research organizations across Europe, North Africa, Asia, and the GCC. During 2024–2025, collaborations included CERN in Switzerland, University of Málaga in Spain, research institutions in Tunisia, and international materials-science collaborators, enabling shared research, access to advanced computing infrastructure, and joint peer-reviewed research outputs.

One documented collaboration linked UOB with ITIS – University of Málaga on large-scale machine-learning and remote-sensing research. This collaboration produced a 2025 Nature Scientific Reports publication applying a BiLSTM-CNN model to large-scale Normalized Difference Vegetation Index dynamics. Research collaboration with Tunisian institutions further supported GPU-accelerated deep clustering, software-defect

detection, plant-disease detection, and IoT anomaly detection, demonstrating the exchange and application of advanced computational methodologies across institutional and national contexts.

UOB also translated its own institutional experience into a transferable regional model. In 2025, UOB researchers published the peer-reviewed Springer chapter Establishing Academic AI Lab Infrastructures: Challenges and Lessons in Shaping the Future of Development in the GCC: Artificial Intelligence Policies, Challenges and Opportunities. The chapter documents the strategic and technical lessons from establishing the UOB–BENEFIT Lab and positions the experience as a reference case for GCC universities developing public-private AI and high-performance computing infrastructure.



Figure 3 Official delegation visit from Sultan Qaboos University hosted at the BENEFIT Advanced AI & Computing Lab (May 2025 Report).

Regional exchange was further demonstrated through an official visit from Sultan Qaboos University focused on knowledge exchange around academic HPC infrastructure and AI governance. The portfolio identifies this engagement as strengthening GCC academic cooperation and positioning the Lab as a regional reference model.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) through international research collaboration, comparative learning, knowledge exchange, dissemination of lessons learned, transferable methodologies, and sharing of institutional best practice. It supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) through research and skills development, SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and

Infrastructure) through advanced research infrastructure and innovation, and broader SDG-related research in sustainable energy, health, agriculture, smart cities, and environmental monitoring.

Supporting evidence:

- https://ailab.uob.edu.bh/
- https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-and-benefit-advance-ai-research-government-collaboration-and-national-capacity-building/

46. Regional Collaboration and Best-Practice Exchange in Quality Assurance, Accreditation, and Research



In April, 2025, the University of Bahrain hosted a delegation from Sultan Qaboos University as part of the implementation of an existing Memorandum of Understanding between the two universities. The partnership provides a formal framework for regional academic collaboration, research expertise exchange, scientific publishing, quality assurance, and academic accreditation.

The visit brought together senior academic and quality-assurance representatives from both universities to exchange institutional experience and discuss opportunities for research collaboration, scholarly publication, postgraduate education, quality assurance, and accreditation. UOB representatives included academic leadership, the College of Law, the Quality Assurance Center, department heads, faculty members, and quality-office representatives.



The collaboration moved beyond institutional discussions into practical best-practice exchange and capacity building. During the visit, Sultan Qaboos University delivered an academic accreditation workshop for UOB College of Law faculty members, enabling participants to exchange expertise and strengthen understanding of quality-assurance and accreditation practices.

The delegation was also introduced to UOB's postgraduate programs and research environment, including the BENEFIT Advanced AI & Computing Lab, expanding the exchange to research infrastructure, postgraduate education, and emerging technology.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) through regional collaboration, best-practice exchange, knowledge sharing, institutional benchmarking, professional

capacity building, research collaboration, and transfer of quality-assurance and accreditation expertise between higher education institutions. It contributes directly to SDG 4 (Quality Education) through quality assurance, accreditation, postgraduate education, and academic development, while supporting SDG 9 through scientific research, innovation, and research-capacity development.

Evidence Link: https://www.uob.edu.bh/delegation-from-sultan-qaboos-university-visits-university-of-bahrain/

47. Industry-Academia Knowledge Transfer and ICT Skills Development through the Huawei ICT Academy

Since its establishment in 2024 at the University of Bahrain's College of Information Technology, the Huawei ICT Academy Lab has served as an ongoing industry–academia collaboration platform, supporting practical education and professional development in networking, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and emerging ICT technologies.



The Academy connects academic education with industry expertise and provides students with opportunities to develop hands-on technical competencies, industry-relevant skills, professional certifications, and applied knowledge using Huawei technologies and learning platforms. The partnership strengthens the transfer of professional ICT practices into the university learning environment and supports students in developing competencies relevant to rapidly evolving digital industries.

The partnership also extends learning beyond classroom instruction through the Huawei ICT Competition, technical training, certification pathways, and exposure to professional and career-development opportunities. During the launch of registration for the Huawei ICT Competition 2024–2025 in September 2024, Huawei recognized 80 students who had obtained certifications through previous participation, demonstrating measurable student engagement in industry-supported professional learning.

Through the Huawei ICT Academy, students are exposed to professional approaches in networking, cloud, AI, and related technologies while connecting with Huawei's wider international ICT learning ecosystem. This strengthens knowledge transfer, applied learning, professional standards, industry-aligned training, and technological capacity development.

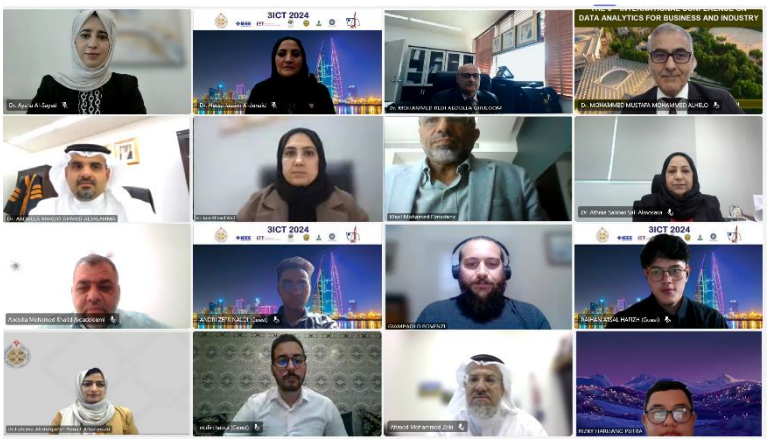
This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) through industry-academia collaboration, professional knowledge transfer, industry-aligned training, practical skills development, certification, and dissemination of applied ICT practices. It directly supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) by strengthening industry-relevant learning and professional competencies and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) by developing advanced ICT skills, digital capacity, and technological expertise.

Evidence Source:

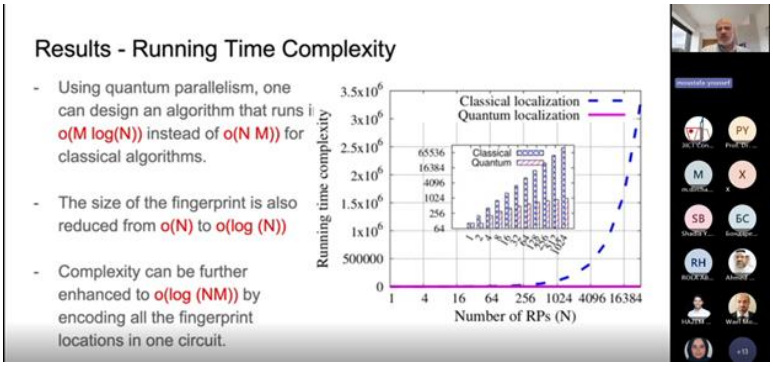
- Registration for Huawei ICT Competition Opens at the University of Bahrain
- https://www.huawei.com/minisite/ict-competition-2024-2025-global/en/

48. International Knowledge Exchange and Best Practices in Digital Technologies for Sustainable Development through 3ICT 2024

During the 2024–2025 academic year, the University of Bahrain hosted the 7th International Conference on Innovation and Intelligence for Informatics, Computing, and Technologies (3ICT 2024), creating an international platform for academics, researchers, practitioners, and technology specialists to exchange expertise, review comparative approaches, and disseminate evidence-based practices, innovative methodologies, and transferable technological solutions. The conference brought together 486 authors and researchers from 36 countries, while 131 of 381 submitted research papers were accepted following scientific review and evaluation.



The technical program provided concrete opportunities for comparative learning and best-practice exchange on sustainable development challenges. Research on Green AI examined the energy consumption and carbon emissions associated with different deep-learning models, demonstrating approaches to reducing the environmental footprint of artificial intelligence. Research combining the Internet of Things and machine learning with recycled-water irrigation examined data-driven approaches to improving water efficiency in agriculture. Other sessions presented solutions involving solar photovoltaic systems, electric-vehicle charging, smart grids, sustainable infrastructure, healthcare technologies, disaster response, and smart-city development.



International knowledge exchange was strengthened through contributions from the University of Dubai, American University in Cairo, and University of Napoli Federico II, alongside researchers and practitioners from the wider international community. Technical sessions enabled participants to compare methodologies, evaluate alternative technological approaches, share evidence-based solutions, and identify practices that can be transferred across institutional, sectoral, and national contexts.

The impact of this knowledge exchange extended beyond the conference through publication and research dissemination. Accepted research was disseminated through IEEE Xplore, the *International Journal of Computing and Digital Systems*, and the *Arab Journal of Basic and Applied Sciences*, extending access to research findings, methodologies, and technological practices across the wider academic and professional community.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) by promoting international knowledge exchange, comparative learning, best-practice sharing, evidence-based approaches, innovative methodologies, research dissemination, and transferable solutions for sustainable development. The research presented also supports multiple SDGs, particularly SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action) through practical applications of digital technologies to environmental, infrastructure, and societal challenges.

Evidence source:

- **Evidence Source:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/organized-by-the-university-of-bahrain-with-the-participation-of-it-experts-intelligence-in-informatics-conference-explores-innovative-technologies-and-future-ideas/
- **Conference website:** https://iiict.uob.edu.bh/3ict24
- **Conference Booklet:** http://iiict.uob.edu.bh/3ict24/Program-3ICT2024.pdf

49. Comparative Evaluation and Exchange of Best Practices in Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development



On September 21, 2025, the University of Bahrain participated in the fourth edition of the Al-Bilad Shield for Corporate Social Responsibility Award, a national initiative designed to recognize and promote exemplary corporate social responsibility and sustainable-development practices among organizations operating in Bahrain. Sixty companies participated in the 2025 cycle, providing a broad platform for the comparative evaluation of institutional approaches to sustainability and societal impact.

Representing UOB, Dr. Shaikha Fay bint Abdullah Al Khalifa, Director of the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Center, served as a member of both the organizing committee and judging panel and participated in the accompanying panel discussion on the role of institutions in advancing sustainability and embedding social responsibility into organizational practice. UOB therefore

contributed academic and quality-assurance expertise not only to dialogue around sustainability, but also to the structured evaluation and recognition of responsible institutional practices.



Figure 4 the judging panel - albilad news press

The Award framework is explicitly designed to recognize organizations applying best practices in corporate social responsibility and encourage greater contribution to sustainable development. Its evaluation framework covers four principal dimensions: economic excellence, environmental excellence, social excellence, and women's advancement, alongside an overall Grand Award for integrated institutional performance.

The assessment criteria provide a structured basis for comparative learning and best-practice evaluation. They include transparent governance and responsible leadership, innovative community solutions, measurable environmental and socioeconomic impact, ESG compliance, carbon-emissions reduction, energy and water efficiency, waste reduction and recycling, renewable energy and clean technology, effective community partnerships, support for vulnerable groups, measurement of social impact, women's leadership and empowerment, and sustained organizational change.

Through its role in evaluating initiatives submitted by Bahrain-based companies, UOB contributed to the review of comparative institutional approaches, identification and recognition of effective sustainability practices, and exchange of knowledge between academia and the private sector. The accompanying dialogue further supported awareness and dissemination of approaches that organizations can adopt to strengthen their economic, environmental, and social contributions.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice) through comparative evaluation, best-practice review, institutional benchmarking, knowledge exchange, sustainability assessment, and dissemination of responsible organizational practices. The initiative also supports SDG 5 (Gender Equality) through women's advancement and leadership, SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through responsible economic development, SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) through sustainable resource and operational practices, SDG 13 (Climate Action) through emissions reduction and environmental management, and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through collaboration among academia, businesses, and community stakeholders.

Evidence Sources

- Al-Bilad Shield for Corporate Social Responsibility Award, evaluation framework and categories: Al-Bilad CSR Award
- UOB participation in the 2025 Award: retain your University of Bahrain news/public evidence for Dr. Shaikha Fay's organizing, judging, and panel roles.

50. International and Cross-Sector Collaboration through NASA Space Apps Challenge 2025





In October 2025, the University of Bahrain continued its ongoing collaboration and participation in the NASA International Space Apps Challenge, hosting the Sakhir location of the seventh Bahrain edition of the challenge. Organized by the Bahrain Space Agency (BSA) under the supervision of NASA, in cooperation with the Bahrain Society of Engineers and participating academic and professional institutions, the initiative connects the University with government, professional, academic, and international stakeholders through a global innovation platform.

The 2025 edition brought together more than 700 participants from diverse disciplines and backgrounds, who worked collaboratively to develop innovative solutions using NASA's free and open data. Through multidisciplinary teamwork, young people, researchers, innovators, scientists, developers, engineers, designers, and technology specialists applied space data and technological approaches to address practical challenges affecting Earth and space.

Under the theme "Learn, Launch, Lead," the challenge promoted the exchange and application of international knowledge, open-data practices, STEM expertise, and collaborative innovation methods. The University of Bahrain's continued involvement supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) by providing experiential STEM learning, interdisciplinary skills development, and opportunities to apply knowledge to real-world challenges. It also advances SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) by encouraging technological innovation, open-source solutions, data-driven problem-solving, and national capacity development in the space and technology sectors.

Through this ongoing international and cross-sector collaboration, the University of Bahrain contributes to the exchange and application of knowledge and best practices for sustainable development, while connecting students and the wider innovation community with NASA data, space-sector expertise, government bodies, professional organizations, and academic partners.

Evidence source:

- https://services.bahrain.bh/wps/portal/sharekna/en/Home/Hackathons/NASASpaceAppsChallenge2025/!ut/p/z1/lZBBC4JAEIV_iwevzqRm0m3F2tKDlYS2l9DYVkHdsC3_flEdEsJqbjN87z3eAIM

UWJNdS5GpUjZZdd93zNlH63BJgxBHK2JO0Alo7M_GPUqQ_IAsDcEvY3pWYg0MoH9r393-k0_ALBh-wRYP2IRzRGdBfHDOLYRR_YLGKr4LSQAJiqZP_9JmtxyBbCWH3nLW-PS3s-FUqfzVEcdu64zhJSi4sZB1jp-khTyrCDtkxDzBk71dptiuaoTV7lE024p-5cD/dz/d5/L3dHQSEvUUt3TS9nQSEh/

- https://www.bsa.bh/bsa_gallery/nasa-space-apps-hackathon-2025/

51. Long-Term Collaboration for Best Practice in Sustainable Housing and Urban Development





The University of Bahrain maintains a long-term partnership with Eskan Bank, established in 2013, through the annual Eskan Bank Award for Creative Engineering & Interior Design. The collaboration provides a structured mechanism for connecting academic expertise and engineering education with professional housing-sector knowledge, practical development challenges, and sustainable design approaches relevant to Bahrain.

In its 11th edition during the 2024–2025 academic year, the award focused on “Towards a Self-Sufficient Neighborhood,” enabling University of Bahrain students to apply academic and professional knowledge to the development of innovative ideas for more sustainable and adaptable residential communities. Student proposals provided an opportunity to explore practical approaches to housing and neighborhood development while incorporating engineering creativity, sustainability, and responsiveness to the evolving needs of Bahraini society.

The annual partnership supports the exchange and application of knowledge and best practices between academia and the housing sector. Competition themes are linked to contemporary housing and development challenges, while students work within professional expectations and benefit from engagement with experienced academics, engineers, and housing-sector expertise. In turn, the initiative contributes new ideas and perspectives that can inform continuing discussion around housing services, sustainable communities, and urban development.

Through this sustained collaboration, the University of Bahrain translates academic knowledge into practical learning and locally relevant solutions, supporting SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and

Communities) through sustainable housing and community development, SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through engineering and design innovation, and SDG 4 (Quality Education) through experiential and industry-connected education.

Evidence source:

- https://www.uob.edu.bh/eskan-bank-honors-winners-of-the-11th-edition-of-the-creativeengineering-award/
- https://www.eskanbank.com/About/Awards/EngineeringAwards/MediaHandler/ImageHandler/documents/Awards/Towards-a-Self-Sufficient-Neighborhood-2024-2025.pdf
- https://www.eskanbank.com/about/our%20media/pressrelease/10aug2025.aspx

52. Best-Practice Collaboration through the UOB Cloud Innovation Center



During the 2024–2025 academic year, the University of Bahrain continued its innovation collaboration through the University of Bahrain Cloud Innovation Center (CIC), powered by Amazon Web Services (AWS) and sponsored by Tamkeen. The CIC provides a structured environment for sharing and applying technology expertise, innovation methodologies, cloud capabilities, sector knowledge, and collaborative problem-solving practices to real-world challenges.

A central feature of the CIC model is collaboration with public-sector organizations on pressing challenges. Participating organizations contribute their domain and operational expertise, while UOB provides academic and innovation capabilities and AWS provides access to technology expertise and Amazon's innovation process. Through structured challenge engagements, participants explore complex problems, test new ideas, and identify technology-enabled approaches. Lessons learned are subsequently shared to support wider public-sector innovation, extending the value of individual challenge engagements.

The collaboration also connects these innovation practices with applied learning at UOB. At the College of Information Technology's graduation projects exhibition on 15 June 2025, approximately 109 student projects were presented across Information Systems, Computer Engineering, and Computer Science. Projects covered cybersecurity, digital forensics, encryption, intrusion detection, biometrics, AI, blockchain, IoT, mobile applications, gaming, and entrepreneurship, including ICT solutions developed through the AWS Lab at UOB.

Through this continuing collaboration, UOB enables the exchange, adaptation, and application of best practices in cloud technologies, digital innovation, and challenge-based problem-solving. The initiative supports SDG 17.2.4 by bringing together university expertise, AWS technology and innovation methodologies, public-sector domain knowledge, and Tamkeen's sponsorship to develop and disseminate approaches that strengthen public-sector innovation and digital transformation, with particular relevance to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure).

Evidence source:

- https://cic.uob.edu.bh/
- https://www.uob.edu.bh/at-the-second-semester-graduation-projects-exhibition/

53. Cross-Sector Collaboration and Best-Practice Exchange in Sustainable Urban Development



On 30 November 2025, Dr. Fay Abdulla Al Khalifa, Director at the University of Bahrain (UOB) and President of the Bahrain Smart City Society, participated as a Special VIP Guest at the Business Fair Bahrain Summit & Awards 2025 in Manama. The summit brought together government leaders, entrepreneurs, diplomats, industry representatives, and other stakeholders, creating opportunities for cross-sector engagement, knowledge exchange, and partnership-building around development and innovation.

Dr. Fay's participation reflects the wider contribution of UOB expertise to sustainable urban development beyond the University. Through her academic and community engagement and leadership of the Bahrain Smart City Society, she supports connections between academia, public and private institutions, and civil society around smart cities, sustainable urbanism, urban development, and sustainability practices.

This cross-sector engagement provides a mechanism for sharing knowledge, professional experience, and approaches to sustainable and smart urban development across institutional boundaries. It strengthens the connection between university expertise and the wider ecosystem involved in developing more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive cities.

At the summit, Dr. Fay received the Best Bahraini Woman Leader in Sustainability and Urbanism award in recognition of her leadership and contribution to sustainable development and urban planning in Bahrain. The recognition provides external acknowledgment of the contribution of UOB expertise to the wider sustainability and urban-development community.

The initiative supports SDG 17.2.4 through cross-sector collaboration and exchange of knowledge and practices relevant to sustainable urban development, particularly contributing to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). By connecting academic expertise with government, industry, professional, and civil-society networks, UOB contributes to the sharing of approaches and experience that can advance smart, sustainable, and resilient urban development.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/dr-fay-abdulla-al-khalifa-honored-as-best-bahraini-woman-leader-in-sustainability-and-urbanism/

54. Sharing Digital Higher-Education Best Practices at GITEX Global 2024



In 2024, the University of Bahrain participated in GITEX Global 2024 in Dubai through the Bahrain Digital Content Winners Pavilion, providing an international platform for UOB to showcase and exchange experience in digital transformation and technology-enabled higher education. The University's participation followed its recognition through the Bahrain Digital Content Award for its eAdmission service, which it presented as a practical example of using digital technology to enhance university services.

UOB also shared its institutional experience in cloud-based digital transformation, including the migration of its core IT infrastructure and applications to Amazon Web Services (AWS). Together, the eAdmission service and cloud-transformation experience demonstrated practical approaches to digital service delivery and institutional innovation that could be shared with government, industry and technology stakeholders.

The participation also promoted UOB's academic capacity in emerging technologies through programs in machine learning and intelligent computing, artificial intelligence engineering, big data science and analytics, and business analytics, strengthening connections between higher education, technological advancement, and workforce development.

By using an international technology platform to showcase institutional solutions, exchange digital practices, engage external stakeholders, and explore future cooperation, UOB contributed to collaborative knowledge-sharing relevant to SDG 9 and SDG 17, particularly

the dissemination of technological and institutional practices that can support innovation and digitally enabled education.

Evidence source: University of Bahrain Showcases Digital Innovation and Academic Programs at GITEX Global 2024

55. UOB Exchanges Digital Education and Responsible AI Best Practices through GCC Higher-Education Cooperation



As an active member of the GCC Committee of E-Learning Officials at Universities and Higher Education Institutions, the University of Bahrain participates in sustained regional collaboration to strengthen e-learning, digital transformation and responsible adoption of artificial intelligence in higher education.

At the Committee's 24th meeting in Riyadh in November 2025, representatives from GCC universities and higher-education institutions exchanged experiences, leading initiatives and best practices in digital transformation, e-learning and AI-enabled education. Participants examined regional examples alongside approaches to AI governance, regulatory frameworks and the safe and responsible use of emerging technologies in learning environments.

The collaboration moved beyond knowledge exchange toward shared regional action. The meeting recommended adopting the National eLearning Center's AI strategic directions as a reference model and proposed developing a Unified Gulf Language Model (Gulf LLM) to support AI and e-learning systems across universities and higher-education institutions in GCC countries.

Through Dr. Wael Attiya's membership in the committee, UOB contributes to a continuing Gulf network for sharing effective practices, learning from regional experience, strengthening institutional capabilities and developing collaborative approaches to responsible AI and digital education. The partnership directly supports knowledge exchange relevant to SDG 4, SDG 9 and SDG 17.

Evidence Source: https://nelc.gov.sa/en/media-center/news/gcc-elearning-committee-adopts-nelc-ai-strategy-and-proposes-unified-gulf-llm