SDG 17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

THE IMPACT RANKINGS EVIDENCE REPORT

Indicator 17.2.1

Relationships with Regional NGOs and Government for SDG Policy

University of Bahrain
2024-2025

Executive summary

This report documents the institutional initiatives, formal partnerships, and evidence-based research undertaken by the University of Bahrain (UoB) during the 2024–2025 academic year. It demonstrates the University's direct involvement in, and input into, national government and regional non-governmental organization (NGO) policy development in alignment with Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings Indicator 17.2.1.

The evidence presented addresses the core requirements of Indicator 17.2.1 across five functional dimensions:

- **Identifying Problems and Challenges:** UoB collaborates with national and international bodies to identify critical policy and development challenges. Key initiatives include multi-stakeholder roundtables on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health, research forums on forensic evidence with the Public Prosecution, and academic-industry conferences evaluating legal, ethical, and governance challenges of emerging technologies and artificial intelligence.
- **Developing Policies and Strategies:** UoB maintains formal frameworks for direct policy input, highlighted by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Shura Council to support legislative research and public policy development, faculty advisory appointments at the Supreme Judicial Council, and active contributions to WHO regional health-workforce strategies. Additionally, UoB research yields actionable policy recommendations for regional bodies, including the Central Bank of Bahrain on Islamic banking governance and AAOIFI on sustainable finance standards.
- **Modelling Likely Futures with and Without Interventions:** UoB applies high-performance computing and advanced data analytics to model national trajectories. In partnership with the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA), the University utilizes multi-year national electricity consumption datasets to model sector-level carbon footprints and forecast emissions in support of Bahrain’s Net-Zero 2060 goals. Further research models climate risk scenarios for financial sector policies and evaluates net-zero energy transition pathways.
- **Monitoring and Reporting on Interventions:** The University conducts data-driven spatial and environmental monitoring using official government data. Notable examples include spatio-temporal GIS analysis of fatal traffic accidents utilizing official Ministry of Interior data to guide traffic safety interventions, as well as digital mapping and inventory building for historic site preservation in collaboration with the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA).

- **Enabling Adaptive Management:** UoB translates research and cross-sector collaboration into adaptive implementation frameworks. These include the joint deployment of a 46.2 MW on-campus solar project with EWA to track and optimize campus carbon reduction, national design competitions for urban cooling and sustainable housing with government ministries and Eskan Bank, and educational access strategies delivered through the renewed Rayat Scholarship Program in partnership with Al Mabarrah Al Khalifia Foundation.

Impact Highlights:

- **46.2 MW campus solar energy project** launched in coordination with EWA, government authorities, and private sector implementation partners.
- **302 Total / 225 UoB youth scholarships** funded and supported through the long-standing Rayat Scholarship Program partnership with Al Mabarrah Al Khalifia Foundation.
- **Multi-Year National Datasets** leveraged via high-performance computing (BENEFIT Advanced AI & Computing Lab) to model sector-level carbon emissions, support Net-Zero 2060 planning, conduct spatial traffic safety analysis with the Ministry of Interior, and map historic urban assets with the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA).
- **Extensive Institutional Engagement** spanning 15+ major international conferences, high-level government MoUs, advisory appointments, and multi-sector roundtables addressing national sustainability, health, legal, and financial governance priorities.

Together, these documented initiatives provide comprehensive institutional evidence that the University of Bahrain actively drives and supports SDG policy development, fulfilling all requirements for Indicator 17.2.1.

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1. University of Bahrain and King Saud University Strengthen Regional Academic and Scientific Cooperation



In December 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) and King Saud University (KSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the fourth meeting of the Bahraini-Saudi Coordination Council, formalizing regional academic and scientific cooperation between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

The MoU provides a framework for joint scientific research, scholarly publications, academic programs, faculty and student exchange, joint planning, and exchange of expertise. Following its signing, the universities initiated academic cooperation activities, including faculty workshops and sessions, alongside other academic collaborations, supporting knowledge exchange, professional development, and regional research cooperation.

UOB's research activities under this collaborative framework are governed by its Scientific Research Policy and Regulations, which establish institutional requirements for research governance, quality, accountability, and oversight.

The partnership advances SDG 4 (Quality Education) through academic cooperation, exchange, and knowledge sharing; SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through joint research, scholarly publications, research capacity development, and innovation; and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through formalized and ongoing international academic and scientific cooperation.

Together, the MoU and its implementation activities demonstrate UOB's commitment to regional collaboration in education, research, and innovation, creating opportunities for joint knowledge generation, academic mobility, and future research outputs aligned with sustainable development.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-and-king-saud-university-sign-mou-to-enhance-academic-and-scientific-cooperation/

2. Government-University Partnership for Renewable Energy and Carbon Neutrality



In November 2025, the University of Bahrain and the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) launched a major renewable energy partnership through the development of a 46.2 MW solar power project on the University campus. The initiative brings together EWA, the Ministry of Education, the University of Bahrain, and Almoayyed International Group in coordinated action to support Bahrain's priorities for renewable energy deployment, energy diversification, environmental sustainability, and carbon emissions reduction.

The project demonstrates government stakeholder engagement, strategy implementation, cross-sector collaboration, and coordinated action on climate and energy priorities. By combining government leadership, university infrastructure and expertise, and private-sector implementation capacity, the partnership translates sustainability objectives into a measurable renewable-energy intervention.

The project comprises 64,606 solar panels with a total capacity of 46.2 MW, including 24.7 MW installed on parking structures and 21.5 MW through ground-mounted systems. It is expected to generate approximately 70 GWh of renewable electricity annually and reduce carbon emissions by approximately 35,000 metric tons of CO_2 per year. Upon full operation, the system is expected to meet the University's daytime electricity requirements through solar generation while exporting surplus renewable electricity to the national grid.

The initiative provides a measurable framework for climate-action implementation and monitoring, with defined indicators including installed renewable-energy capacity, projected annual electricity generation, and projected annual carbon-emissions reduction. This directly strengthens the project's contribution to SDG 13 (Climate Action) by supporting greenhouse-gas emissions reduction and the transition toward lower-carbon energy systems. It also contributes to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) through large-scale renewable-energy deployment.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.1 (Relationships with Regional NGOs and Government for SDG Policy) through a formal partnership with government institutions that demonstrates government engagement, implementation of sustainability strategies, coordinated intervention, measurable climate outcomes, monitoring of environmental impact, and evidence-informed action toward national renewable-energy and carbon-reduction objectives.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/ewa-and-uob-announce-launch-of-46-2-mw-solar-energy-project-on-university-campus/

3. Regional Health Policy and Strategy Development through Collaboration with WHO

The University of Bahrain, through its Nursing Department's role as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Development and its membership in the global network of WHO Collaborating Centers for Nursing and Midwifery, maintains an ongoing relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO) that enables the University to contribute expertise to health policy and workforce development. The University's role includes contributing to global health policy, implementing WHO initiatives, and providing technical expertise in nursing workforce development.

In September 2025, UOB contributed directly to regional health policy development, strategy development, and the identification of national priorities through three WHO consultation processes. In July, University experts participated in discussions on strategies for the ethical recruitment of health workers. In August, UOB contributed to the WHO Regional Director's initiative by helping to identify national priorities for developing a resilient health workforce. In September, the University participated in a consultative process on the design of advanced health-profession education policies, demonstrating sustained engagement in regional policy and strategy development.

This engagement forms part of a wider evidence-informed relationship between UOB and WHO. The University's participation in regional health-workforce initiatives enables academic and professional expertise to contribute to stakeholder consultation, policy formulation, priority setting, and evidence-informed decision-making. The University's health policy engagement is also reflected in its participation with WHO, regional health organizations, ministries, and policymakers in addressing workforce capacity and health-system priorities.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.1 (Relationships with Regional NGOs and Government for SDG Policy) through sustained engagement with an international health organization and regional stakeholders in policy development, identifying national priorities, strategy development, stakeholder consultation, and evidence-informed decision-making. The collaboration demonstrates how University expertise contributes to regional health-workforce policy and strategies that support SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and broader sustainable development objectives.

Evidence Source:

https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-enhances-its-partnership-with-who-by-contributing-to-regional-health-policies/

4. Government Partnership with Royal Medical Services to Strengthen Medical Education, Healthcare Capacity, and National Competencies

On November 17, 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) and Royal Medical Services (RMS) signed a formal cooperation agreement to strengthen medical education and training, scientific research, clinical training, professional expertise, and national healthcare capacity in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The agreement establishes structured cooperation between higher education and a government healthcare institution, supporting coordinated action on national education and healthcare development priorities.



The agreement was signed by Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education and Chairman of UOB's Board of Trustees, and Brigadier General Dr. Shaikh Fahad bin Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Commander of RMS. It establishes joint educational and training programs in medical fields, collaborative scientific research, conferences, courses and workshops, exchange of academic and medical expertise, and enhanced clinical training. These areas provide a structured framework for government stakeholder engagement, strategy implementation, research collaboration, knowledge exchange, and professional capacity development.

The partnership supports the development of national competencies and aims to improve both the quality of medical education and healthcare services. UOB identified the exchange of scientific and training expertise as a mechanism for developing national talent and advancing medical education and research, while RMS linked the agreement to its strategy for supporting research, academic training, and knowledge exchange.

The collaboration makes a direct contribution to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) through healthcare capacity development, clinical training, medical research, and improved healthcare services, and to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by strengthening medical and health-sciences education through joint programs, professional training, and academic-clinical knowledge exchange. The University of Bahrain itself categorizes the agreement under SDGs 3, 4, and 17.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.1 through a formal relationship with a government healthcare institution that facilitates government engagement, strategy implementation, institutional collaboration, evidence generation through joint research, knowledge exchange, capacity building, and coordinated action on national healthcare and education priorities.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/rms-uob-sign-cooperation-agreement-to-enhance-medical-education-in-bahrain/

5. WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Development: Sustained Partnership for Regional and Global Health Policy





During the academic year 2024–2025, the University of Bahrain strengthened its ongoing relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO) through the Nursing Department at the College of Health and Sport Sciences, which serves as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Development. Since 2020, the University has also participated in the WHO Global Network of Collaborating Centers for Nursing and Midwifery, providing an established institutional platform for collaboration on nursing and health-workforce development.

Through this relationship, the University contributes expertise to global health policy, supports the implementation of WHO initiatives, and provides technical expertise for nursing workforce development. The collaboration enables UOB to contribute academic and professional knowledge to international health priorities while supporting the translation of WHO frameworks into health and nursing development activities.

The partnership demonstrates sustained international organization engagement, policy contribution, technical expertise, strategy support, and evidence-informed health-workforce development, strengthening cooperation between higher education and the international health sector. Through its continuing role within the WHO network, UOB contributes to international and regional efforts to strengthen nursing capacity and health systems in alignment with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.1 (Relationships with Regional NGOs and Government for SDG Policy) by maintaining an ongoing institutional relationship with WHO that enables the University to contribute to health policy development, strategy implementation, technical capacity building, and evidence-informed decision-making. The partnership demonstrates how University expertise contributes to international and regional health frameworks while strengthening collaborative approaches to health-workforce development and sustainable health systems.

Evidence and links

https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-joins-global-who-committee-for-nursing-and-midwifery/

6. Partnership with Al Mabarrah Al Khalifia Foundation to Reduce Barriers to Higher Education

In November 2025, the University of Bahrain renewed its partnership with Al Mabarrah Al Khalifia Foundation (MKF), a Bahraini non-profit organization, to continue the Rayat Scholarship Program, strengthening a long-term institutional relationship focused on expanding access to higher education and supporting the educational and professional development of Bahraini youth.

The partnership addresses educational access and inequality through a structured scholarship strategy that covers university tuition fees while combining financial support with skills development, professional training, volunteering, and capacity-building opportunities. Scholarship recipients gain access to workshops and developmental courses, training opportunities in government and private-sector organizations, financial incentives, volunteering activities, and educational programs that support academic progression, practical experience, and employability.

The collaboration demonstrates sustained regional non-governmental organization engagement, identification of educational needs, strategy implementation, and stakeholder collaboration to address barriers that can limit access to and completion of higher education. Since the Rayat Scholarship Program was launched in 2011, the Foundation has provided 302 scholarships, including 225 scholarships to University of Bahrain students, demonstrating the measurable scale and continuity of the partnership.

By combining tuition assistance with professional development and community engagement, UOB and MKF implement an educational support strategy that expands opportunities for students to complete university education and build the skills required for future employment. The partnership therefore contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by supporting access to higher education and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by helping reduce financial barriers to educational opportunity.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.1 through an established relationship with a regional non-governmental organization that demonstrates stakeholder collaboration, identification of educational and developmental needs, strategy implementation, capacity building, and sustained institutional partnership to expand educational opportunity and reduce barriers to higher education.

Evidence url: https://www.uob.edu.bh/al-mabarrah-al-khalifia-foundation-renews-agreement-with-university-of-bahrain-for-rayat-scholarship-program/

7. Government-University Partnership for Advancing Criminal Justice, Forensic Science and Professional Capacity Development





On December 14, 2025, the University of Bahrain's College of Law partnered with the Physical Evidence Directorate of the Public Prosecution to organize the scientific forum “Towards Enhancing Criminal Justice.” The initiative brought together academics, judicial experts, and specialists from both institutions to strengthen integration between academic research and the justice system through scientific knowledge, forensic expertise, and emerging technologies.

The forum provided a structured platform for government stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, identification of emerging challenges, and collaborative research development in physical evidence and criminal justice. Discussions addressed contemporary developments and challenges in forensic medicine, crime-scene investigation, toxicology and drug testing, and the scientific and technical standards required to improve the accuracy and reliability of physical-evidence examination.

A second scientific session focused on the legal and technical dimensions of physical and biological sample examination, examining how scientific findings can support criminal investigations and the administration of justice. The partnership also emphasized developing qualified national professionals and opening new areas for collaborative scientific research, particularly in biological and chemical evidence analysis.

Through this government-university collaboration, UOB contributes academic expertise, research capacity, and professional development to nationally relevant challenges in forensic science and criminal justice. The initiative supports evidence-informed decision-making, strengthens the interface between law and science, and promotes the development of national competencies capable of responding to evolving forensic and judicial challenges.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.1 (Relationships with Regional NGOs and Government for SDG Policy) through direct engagement with a government judicial institution, demonstrating government stakeholder engagement, identification of challenges, knowledge exchange, collaborative research, professional capacity development, and evidence-informed approaches relevant to strengthening the justice system. It contributes directly to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by strengthening scientific approaches to criminal justice and institutional capacity, while supporting SDG 4 (Quality Education) through research, skills development, and academic-professional knowledge exchange.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-and-public-prosecution-host-forum-on-forensic-evidence/

8. Industry-University Partnership to Establish Startup Labs for Research, Innovation, and Skills Development



The University of Bahrain signed a Memorandum of Understanding with K&Y and ET to establish and operate startup laboratories dedicated to research, practical training, innovation, and entrepreneurship in solar energy, information technology, and emerging technologies. The partnership creates a structured mechanism for collaboration between higher education and the technology and industrial sectors, connecting academic knowledge with applied research, technical training, and technological innovation.

The planned laboratories cover a broad range of emerging fields, including artificial intelligence, health technology, green technology, mobility technology, financial technology, agricultural technology, real estate technology, food technology, logistics technology, cybersecurity, virtual reality, augmented reality, and space technology. Through these areas, the partnership expands opportunities for applied research and practical learning while enabling students, researchers, and industry specialists to engage with technologies relevant to sustainable development.

The collaboration contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by creating opportunities for practical training, skills development, research-based learning, and entrepreneurship. It directly supports SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through industry-university collaboration, applied research, startup development, innovation, and knowledge transfer. Its focus on solar energy and green technology also provides a clear contribution to SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) by supporting research, training, and innovation in renewable-energy technologies.

The initiative demonstrates SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through a formal industry-university partnership that combines academic research capacity with private-sector expertise to develop specialized research and training infrastructure and strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-signs-an-mou-with-ky-and-et-to-establish-startup-labs/

9. University of Bahrain Collaborates with Government Partners to Advance Sustainable Climate Solutions in Bahrain



In May 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) strengthened its collaboration with government stakeholders through its partnership with the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture in the national competition, “Enhancing Outdoor Spaces Cooling in Bahrain.” Organized jointly by the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, the University of Bahrain, and Bahrain Polytechnic, the initiative aimed to address climate-related challenges through innovative and sustainable solutions that support Bahrain’s environmental sustainability objectives.

The competition formed part of a broader effort to identify practical approaches to enhancing climate resilience and improving the sustainability of public spaces. Through this collaborative initiative, University faculty members, researchers, and students engaged with government partners to develop innovative solutions focused on environmental sustainability, climate adaptation, and improved thermal comfort in outdoor urban environments. The competition attracted significant academic participation, with 21 teams from the University of Bahrain and Bahrain Polytechnic submitting proposals for reducing temperatures in public and open spaces

The outcomes of the competition were formally recognized during a meeting attended by Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy; Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture; and Dr. Rawya Al Mannai, Head of the Judging Committee. During the meeting, government officials highlighted the importance of innovative and sustainable technologies in addressing environmental challenges and acknowledged the role of higher education institutions in supporting sustainable development through research, innovation, and technical expertise.

The University of Bahrain contributed academic knowledge, research expertise, and student innovation to the initiative. Three University teams received the top awards in the competition. First place was awarded for a solar-powered cooling project for Isa Town Market; second place recognized a proposal for cooling the Hamad Town walkway using cooling materials and wind-based solutions; and third place honored a sustainable cooling system designed to remove hot air from market corridors in Isa Town Market. These projects demonstrated the University's engagement in developing practical responses to environmental and climate-related challenges through applied research and innovation.

This activity demonstrates collaboration between the University of Bahrain, government entities, and another higher education institution to address an environmental challenge through sustainable design and applied innovation. It supports SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through institutional cooperation and knowledge exchange, and SDG 13: Climate Action through its focus on reducing the effects of high temperatures in public spaces. For THE Impact Rankings Indicator 17.2.1, additional evidence would be required to demonstrate the University's direct contribution to government SDG policy development.



Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/finance-minister-meets-winning-teams-of-enhancing-outdoor-spaces-cooling-in-bahrain-competition/

10. University of Bahrain and Shura Council Strengthen Collaboration to Support National Policy Development

In October 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) and the Shura Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration in education, research, knowledge exchange, and national policymaking. The agreement establishes a formal framework through which University faculty members provide academic expertise and evidence-based contributions to conferences, workshops, policy discussions, studies, and research initiatives organized by the Shura Council.

Through this strategic partnership, UOB contributes directly to the legislative and policy-development activities of the Shura Council by providing specialized research, academic studies, expert consultation, and digital knowledge resources that support informed decision-making and public policy development. The collaboration enables academic specialists to engage with policymakers, facilitating the integration of research evidence into legislative processes and national governance frameworks.

The partnership also promotes stakeholder engagement and capacity building by providing students with opportunities to observe Council sessions, attend seminars, and participate in practical training programs that enhance their understanding of governance, public policy, and civic participation. In addition, the University supports national development by sharing relevant academic outputs and strengthening connections between higher education and public institutions.

This initiative demonstrates the University of Bahrain's direct involvement in supporting government policy development through sustained collaboration with a national legislative institution. The partnership advances evidence-based policymaking, knowledge transfer, and multi-stakeholder cooperation while reinforcing the University's role as a trusted academic partner in addressing national priorities and contributing to sustainable development in the Kingdom of Bahrain. By fostering collaboration between academia and government, the initiative supports the implementation of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through policy dialogue, institutional partnership, research-informed decision-making, and the development of effective public policies that contribute to national sustainable development objectives.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-and-shura-council-sign-cooperation-agreement/

11. Higher Education Partnership for Academic and Research Collaboration between the University of Bahrain and Universiti Sains Malaysia



In May 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), establishing a formal framework for international academic and scientific cooperation between Bahrain and Malaysia.

The agreement provides for joint postgraduate programs, collaborative research projects, academic publishing, faculty exchange, student mobility, and joint academic activities. These areas of cooperation promote quality higher education, academic mobility, knowledge exchange, collaborative learning, and institutional research capacity.

The partnership advances SDG 4 (Quality Education) through postgraduate education, faculty and student development, academic exchange, and collaborative academic programs. It supports SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through joint scientific research, scholarly publications, research capacity development, innovation, and knowledge generation.

Research undertaken by UOB through this partnership is governed by the University's Scientific Research Policy and Regulations, ensuring alignment with institutional requirements for research governance, quality, accountability, and oversight.

The five-year agreement advances SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by establishing a long-term international higher education partnership focused on academic cooperation, collaborative research, faculty and student exchange, capacity building, and knowledge sharing. It provides a structured mechanism for international collaboration that connects quality education with research and innovation.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/during-hrh-the-crown-prince-and-prime-ministers-official-visit-to-malaysia-uob-signs-mou-with-usm/

12. Government and WHO Collaboration on AMR Policy Priorities, Health-Workforce Strategy, and Research



In August 2025, the University of Bahrain participated alongside the World Health Organization (WHO), Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain's Ministry of Health, health professionals, academics, policymakers, and regional stakeholders in a roundtable focused on strengthening health-workforce education and training to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The engagement directly addressed problem identification, policy priorities, strategy development, and evidence-informed decision-making. Public-health, clinical, academic, and policy experts identified key AMR challenges affecting Bahrain and the region and reviewed the WHO Competency Framework for Health Workers' Education and Training on AMR together with WHO's curriculum evaluation guidance.



Participants agreed on three strategic priorities: integrating AMR concepts into health-professions curricula, strengthening health-workforce capacity, and developing national research agendas. These priorities were aligned with Bahrain's One Health National Action Plan and the WHO Strategic Operational Plan for the Eastern Mediterranean Region 2025–2028, demonstrating how government, international health organizations, universities, and healthcare experts contributed to coordinated national and regional responses to AMR.

UOB's participation as a partner in health-professions education provided academic expertise within this broader government and WHO engagement, supporting the development of

educational and research priorities relevant to strengthening Bahrain's health workforce and AMR response.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.1 (Relationships with Regional NGOs and Government for SDG Policy) through direct engagement with government and an international health organization in identifying problems and challenges, developing strategic priorities, aligning interventions with national and regional action plans, strengthening research priorities, and supporting evidence-informed decision-making. The collaboration directly contributes to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) through coordinated action on antimicrobial resistance and health-workforce development.

Evidence Source: https://www.agu.edu.bh/en/agu-hosts-roundtable-discuss-training-health-workforce-combating-antimicrobial-resistance/

13. University-Government Collaboration on Artificial Intelligence Governance and Policy Development



In April 2025, the University of Bahrain organized the third International Conference on “Legal Challenges of Artificial Intelligence Technology”, creating a platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange between academia, government institutions, judicial bodies, legal experts, and artificial intelligence specialists to address policy and regulatory challenges associated with emerging technologies.

The conference brought together representatives from judicial and public prosecution bodies, legal scholars, academics, technology specialists, and artificial intelligence experts to examine the legal, ethical, and governance implications of artificial intelligence across public and private sectors. Through this engagement, the University facilitated dialogue on the development of legal and regulatory frameworks capable of addressing technological innovation while safeguarding public interests and legal protections.

A keynote address delivered by representatives of the artificial intelligence sector explored emerging policy challenges associated with AI governance, including ethical considerations, regulatory approaches, and the responsibilities of institutions in managing technological transformation. Discussions focused on evaluating the adequacy of existing legislative frameworks and identifying policy mechanisms that can support responsible innovation and sustainable technological development.

The conference also promoted collaboration between universities, artificial intelligence research centers, legal institutions, and public-sector stakeholders through expert discussions and specialized workshops. Participants examined opportunities for strengthening research partnerships, supporting evidence-based policymaking, and developing legal approaches that address national and regional priorities in the technology sector.

By engaging government-related institutions, members of the judicial sector, higher education institutions, and artificial intelligence experts, the University of Bahrain contributed to policy dialogue and stakeholder collaboration on the governance of emerging technologies. The conference strengthened relationships between academia and public institutions and supported the development of informed legal and regulatory approaches relevant to sustainable development and responsible technology adoption.

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

14. Government-University Engagement on Multiple Sclerosis Awareness and Evidence-Informed Health Practice



In April, 2025, the University of Bahrain collaborated with the Training and Development Department of Government Hospitals to deliver a scientific and public-awareness initiative on multiple sclerosis at the Sakhir campus. The collaboration connected academic expertise with a government healthcare institution to strengthen knowledge exchange and understanding of a chronic neurological condition relevant to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

The initiative addressed health challenges and evidence-informed approaches associated with multiple sclerosis through scientific sessions on its causes, symptoms, treatment, forensic and clinical considerations, and emerging developments in care. Government healthcare expertise and university knowledge were complemented by the lived experiences of UOB students with multiple sclerosis, providing stakeholders with both scientific and patient-centered perspectives.

Through this engagement, UOB and Government Hospitals contributed to identifying health-awareness needs, disseminating evidence-based knowledge, strengthening professional and community awareness, and building institutional capacity around multiple sclerosis. The activity also demonstrates how cooperation between higher education and a government health institution can connect research, professional expertise, patient perspectives, and health education to improve understanding of healthcare challenges.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.1 (Relationships with Regional NGOs and Government for SDG Policy) through direct government-university engagement, problem identification, evidence-informed knowledge exchange, stakeholder consultation, and health-sector capacity development. It contributes directly to SDG 3 by strengthening awareness and understanding of

multiple sclerosis and supporting informed approaches to chronic neurological health conditions.

Evidence Sources

- University of Bahrain: Nursing Department Educates Students on Multiple Sclerosis
- Supporting UOB social media evidence

15. University of Bahrain Faculty Member Appointed as Advisor to the Supreme Judicial Council



In October 2024, the University of Bahrain strengthened its contribution to national governance and public-sector development through the appointment of Dr. Basem Mohammed AlSharji, Assistant Professor of Criminal Law, as Judicial Planning and Development Advisor at the Supreme Judicial Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Through this official advisory role, Dr. AlSharji contributes academic and legal expertise to support judicial planning, institutional development initiatives, and policy implementation within one of Bahrain's highest judicial authorities.

His appointment facilitates the integration of evidence-based academic knowledge into judicial governance processes and supports the development of effective legal and administrative practices within the justice sector.

The appointment reflects the University of Bahrain's commitment to supporting national institutions through the provision of specialist expertise and research-informed perspectives. It also strengthens collaboration between higher education and government entities, promoting knowledge exchange and capacity building while contributing to the continuous development of Bahrain's judicial system.

By participating directly in strategic planning and policy implementation within a national judicial institution, the University demonstrates its role as a trusted academic partner contributing to public-sector development, institutional effectiveness, and informed decision-making. This collaboration supports Sustainable Development Goal 17 through strengthened partnerships between academia and government and the application of academic expertise to national development priorities.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-faculty-appointed-as-judicial-planning-and-development-advisor/

16. Strengthening Educational Cooperation Through Institutional Partnerships



Figure 1 Signing of the MoC among UOB, CIUOB and ARKS Diyar (15 October 2025)

The University of Bahrain signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Confucius Institute and Diyar School to strengthen cooperation in Chinese-language education, cultural exchange, and academic collaboration.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Fuad Mohammed Al-Ansari, President of the University of Bahrain; Dr. Zhou Jian, Director of the Confucius Institute; and Dr. Julie Sprakel, Chief Executive Officer of Diyar School Kanoo. The agreement establishes a framework for providing Chinese-language instruction to Diyar School students, assessing Chinese-language teaching and learning, and developing further academic exchange and cooperation programs.

The agreement reflects the University of Bahrain's commitment to building collaborative relationships with educational institutions and supporting knowledge exchange through shared academic initiatives. The planned activities provide a basis for cooperation in expanding language-learning opportunities and strengthening educational and cultural engagement.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-signs-a-mou-with-confucius-institute-to-enhance-academic-cooperation/

17. University Expertise Supporting National Digital Transformation and Human Development Policy



During the 2024–2025 academic year, the University of Bahrain contributed academic expertise to the development of Bahrain's National Human Development Report on Digital Transformation, undertaken through collaboration between Derasat and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

UOB's contribution was provided through Dr. Mazen Mohammed Ali, Dean of the College of Information Technology, who participated in the review process and provided university-sector feedback on the maturity and current use of artificial intelligence in universities. His expert observations provided higher-education perspectives relevant to AI adoption, skills, governance, data, cybersecurity, responsible technology use, human-capital development, and innovation.

This ongoing engagement demonstrates UOB's contribution to SDG-related national analysis and policy dialogue by providing specialist academic knowledge to a national human-development report-development process involving Derasat, a Bahrain-based strategic research institution that seeks to inform policymakers and stakeholders, and UNDP. Through this contribution, UOB helped strengthen the evidence base available for understanding Bahrain's digital transformation and its implications for higher education and human development.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-contributes-expertise-to-bahrains-national-human-development-report-on-digital-transformation/

18. Judicial and Government Stakeholder Input into AI Policy and Legislative Development



The College of Law at the University of Bahrain hosted the Third International Conference on "Legal Challenges of Artificial Intelligence Technology" on April 23–24, 2025, engaging academics, legal experts, representatives of judicial and public prosecution bodies, regulatory and professional institutions, and AI specialists in policy dialogue on the legal and ethical challenges arising from artificial intelligence.



Through expert discussions, specialized workshops, and 22 research papers, including three from the University of Bahrain, participants identified legal and regulatory challenges associated with AI use across the public and private sectors. The conference evaluated the adequacy of existing legislative frameworks and developed policy and strategy recommendations intended to balance innovation with legal protections, human rights, ethical safeguards, and human security.

The resulting recommendations provided direct input relevant to national legal and policy development. Participants called on Bahraini legislators to clarify legal responsibility for accidents involving self-driving vehicles and recommended a clear regulatory framework for AI use in public administration. They also proposed revising criminal legislation to regulate AI-assisted investigations and evidence gathering, particularly for complex crimes, while addressing associated technical and ethical risks.

Further recommendations included integrating AI into Civil and Commercial Case Management Office procedures and the Ministry of Justice's electronic systems, strengthening international cooperation on blockchain-based contracts, and considering the adaptation of Shanghai's AI-supported judicial model to Bahrain's legal context. Participants also proposed an international agreement under the World Intellectual Property Organization to regulate the legal protection of AI-generated works.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.1 by involving judicial, regulatory, professional, and academic stakeholders in identifying policy challenges and developing legislative, governance, and institutional strategies for responsible AI adoption. It demonstrates the University's contribution to stakeholder consultation and evidence-informed policy development supporting accountable and sustainable technological governance.

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

19. University of Bahrain and Shanghai University: Strategic Partnership Advancing Education, Research, and Innovation



Figure 2 Chinese language teachers of CIUOB

The University of Bahrain (UoB) and Shanghai University (SHU) maintain a long-term strategic partnership that advances international cooperation in higher education, research, innovation, and cultural exchange. The partnership provides an institutional framework for sustained academic collaboration, international mobility, and knowledge exchange between Bahrain and China.

Through the Confucius Institute at the University of Bahrain (CIUOB), jointly established by UoB and SHU, the partnership connects university-level education with international schools, government institutions, and the wider community. Its activities contribute to SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals, while supporting SDG 4 – Quality Education and SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure through educational access, research exchange, capacity building, and innovation-oriented cooperation.

Key Achievements Since September 2024

Promoting SDG 4: Quality Education and Lifelong Learning

Impact Highlights

- **Expanded access to international education:** During the reporting period, CIUOB recorded 1,889 enrolments in UoB undergraduate Chinese-language credit courses and delivered Chinese-language education through a network of five international schools, recording 1,304 enrolments across the spring and fall semesters of 2025.

- **International student mobility and scholarships:** Ten scholarships were awarded during the reporting period Sept 2024- Dec 2025, including six four-week scholarships at SHU in summer 2025 and the first Shanghai Government Scholarship awarded to a Bahraini student for a master's program at SHU's School of Economics for 2025–2027.
- **Cross-border educational exchange:** In January 2025, a delegation of 14 Bahraini educators from universities and schools visited China. A further delegation of nine students visited Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Suzhou in April 2025 for language classes, university visits, and cultural experiences.
- **International language assessment and skills development:** CIUOB organized 15 HSK, HSKK, and YCT examination sessions involving 145 candidates between September 2024 and December 2025. The first Youth Chinese Test (YCT) examination in Bahrain was held in November 2024, extending language assessment opportunities to younger learners.



Figure 3The first YCT examination in Bahrain, held at UOB (23 November 2024)

- **Regional academic cooperation:** UoB and SHU supported international academic exchange through the First Arab Region International Chinese Language Education Symposium in December 2024 and the second symposium in October 2025, which addressed Chinese-language teaching for Arab learners and AI-enabled education.

These initiatives strengthen access to international learning opportunities, develop intercultural competencies, and establish pathways for continuing education and academic mobility between Bahrain and China.

Educational Initiatives, Capacity Building, and International Collaboration:

The Confucius Institute at the University of Bahrain (CIUOB) organized three Chinese-language competitions: the inaugural HIKVISION Cup, Jin Jiang Cup, and BRET Cup. On 15 June 2025, CIUOB held the first joint award ceremony for the three competition divisions at the University of Bahrain. In September 2025, university champion Dalal Eid Hamida Alammash received an Excellence Award at the global finals in China.

These activities demonstrate CIUOB's role in promoting Chinese-language education, supporting student development, and facilitating participation in international academic and cultural initiatives.



Figure 4 Award ceremony of the 2025 Chinese Bridge Competitions, Bahrain Division (15 June 2025)



Figure 4 Bahrain finals of the 18th Chinese Bridge Competition for Secondary School Students (3 May 2025)



Figure 5 Bahrain finals of the 5th Chinese Bridge Chinese Show for Primary School Students (10 May 2025)



Figure 6 Bahrain finals of the 24th Chinese Bridge Competition for College Students (11 May 2025)

Institutionalization of Educational Cooperation



Figure 5 CIUOB teachers with CHL101 and CHL102 students (8 October 2025)

The partnership is embedded in UoB's academic and institutional activities through the Confucius Institute, which operates under a joint governance framework and aligns its academic and administrative work with UoB's institutional regulations and internationalization strategy. Chinese-language courses CHL101 (Introduction to Chinese Language) and CHL102 (Basic Chinese Language) are integrated into the undergraduate curriculum and are open to students across UoB's colleges.

Cooperation also extends to teaching development and institutional exchange. Four virtual teaching and research seminars were held with SHU's College of International Education between September and December 2024. In December 2024, a delegation led by SHU's Party Secretary visited UoB, followed by further institutional engagement and an SHU administrative delegation visit in October 2025.

Together, these mechanisms demonstrate the continuity of the partnership and its contribution to internationalized curricula, faculty engagement, student mobility, and sustained educational cooperation.

Strengthening SDG 9: Innovation, Research, and Industry Collaboration

Innovation and Research Achievements

- **Collaborative scientific exchange:** The chemistry departments of UoB and SHU conducted three online seminars between February and April 2025, supporting academic dialogue and knowledge exchange between the two institutions.

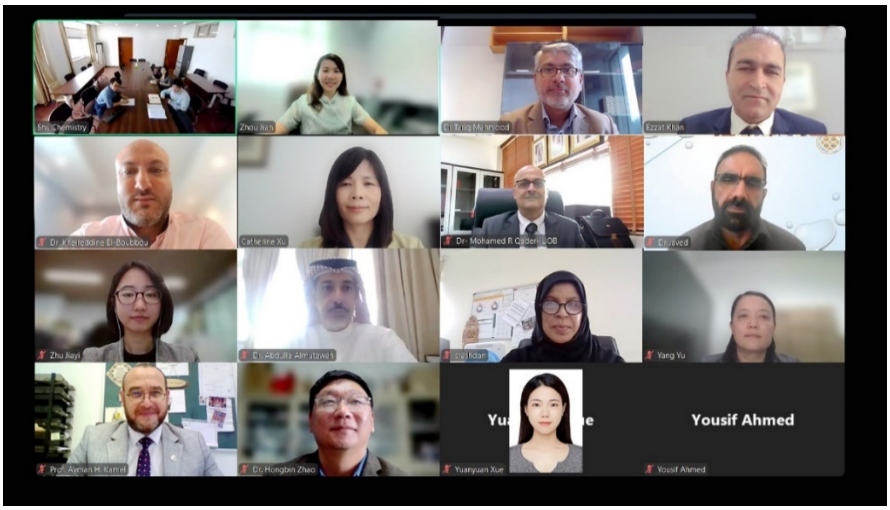


Figure 6 Online seminar between the chemistry departments of SHU and UOB (4 April 2025)

- **Joint academic platforms:** UoB and CIUOB co-hosted the Shanghai–Bahrain International Education Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Conference on 16 October 2025, organized by the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission. The event brought together universities and educational institutions from Shanghai and Bahrain to promote international educational cooperation.
- **Research and academic networking:** Senior-level visits, faculty discussions, and continuing institutional engagement strengthened links between the universities and provided opportunities to identify areas for future academic and research collaboration.



Figure 7 SHU delegation led by the Party Secretary visiting UOB (10 December 2024)

- **Regional and international knowledge exchange:** On 16 October 2025, the Confucius Institute at the University of Bahrain (CIUOB) organized the Second Arab Region International Chinese Education Symposium. The event was hosted by the Chinese Center for Language Education and Cooperation (CLEC) and co-organized by the University of Bahrain and the School of International Education at Shanghai University.



Figure 8 The Second Arab Region International Chinese Language Education Symposium (16 October 2025)

The symposium brought together scholars and educators from across the Arab region and China to discuss emerging trends and innovations in Chinese-language education. The program included an awards ceremony recognizing contributions to Chinese-language education and cultural exchange, presentations by CIUOB teachers and students on teaching achievements and innovations, keynote speeches by four experts from China, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, and a panel discussion addressing challenges, opportunities, and future directions for Chinese-language education and collaboration.

The symposium demonstrates cooperation between the University of Bahrain, an international university partner, and a specialized language-education organization, providing a platform for regional knowledge exchange, educational collaboration, and cultural engagement.

These activities strengthen the foundations for international research cooperation, innovation-oriented academic exchange, and the development of educational partnerships connecting universities and other institutions.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/the-confucius-institute-at-the-university-of-bahrain-ciuob-organized-the-second-arab-region-international-chinese-education-symposium/

Measurable Outcomes and Ongoing Impact

- **1,889 undergraduate course enrolments** in Chinese-language credit courses at UoB.
- **1,304 school-level course enrolments** across five international schools during 2025.
- **10 scholarships awarded** during the reporting period.
- **23 participants** in two China-visit delegations: 14 educators and nine students.
- **15 language examination sessions** involving 145 candidates.
- **40 cultural activities** organized or attended during the reporting period, including 31 events in 2025 that attracted approximately 10,000 participants.
- **Three online seminars** between the UoB and SHU chemistry departments between February and April 2025.
- **Four virtual teaching and research seminars** with SHU's College of International Education between September and December 2024.



Figure 9 Outcomes of the University of Bahrain's Chinese Language and Cultural Exchange Program (September 2024-December 2025)

These outcomes demonstrate the partnership's contribution to educational access, international mobility, research exchange, and intercultural engagement. They also provide a documented basis for assessing the partnership's continuing contribution to SDG 17 and its supporting educational and innovation objectives.

Evidence for THE Impact Rankings

Evidence 1 – Institutional Partnership and Governance

- Strategic Framework Agreement and Tripartite Agreement on the Confucius Institute, October 2023.
- Official documentation of SHU delegations visiting UoB in December 2024 and October 2025.

Evidence 2 – International Education and Student Mobility

- CIUOB Work Report, September 2024–December 2025.
- Records of scholarships, China-visit delegations, undergraduate course enrolments, and international school teaching.

Evidence 3 – Research and Academic Collaboration

- Documentation of the three online seminars between the UoB and SHU chemistry departments, February–April 2025.
- Records of the Arab Region International Chinese Language Education Symposia and the Shanghai–Bahrain International Education Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Conference.

Evidence 4 – Measurable Educational and Community Outcomes

- CIUOB institutional data on course enrolments, examinations, scholarships, and cultural activities.
- Official event photographs and supporting documentation included in the CIUOB Work Report.



Figure 10 Chinese Bridge Bahrain Student Delegation to China (April 2025)



Figure 11 Bahraini Educators' Delegation to China (7 January 2025)



Figure 12 UOB student Abrar Ali, the first Bahraini recipient of the Shanghai Government Scholarship, now studying at SHU (2025)

20. Engagement with Regional Standards-Setting and Government Stakeholders on Sustainable Finance Policy and Governance



During the academic year 2024–2025, the University of Bahrain hosted the 4th International Conference on Sustainable Islamic Business and Finance (SIBF 2024) in partnership with AAOIFI, a regional standards-setting organization for Islamic finance, with support from Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) and IEEE. The conference provided a platform for academics, financial institutions, professional organizations, and policy stakeholders to examine regulatory, governance, financial inclusion, and sustainability challenges in Islamic finance.

Through keynote addresses, expert panels, technical sessions, and research dissemination, participants examined policy and governance considerations related to sustainable finance, ESG integration, regulatory compliance, financial inclusion, and sustainable economic development. The conference engaged 200 participants and featured 61 accepted research papers, including 33 University of Bahrain papers, creating a substantial platform for stakeholder engagement and the exchange of evidence relevant to financial policy and governance.

Research presented at the conference demonstrated concrete engagement with government and regulatory issues in Bahrain. UOB research on the Mazaya Social Housing Program gathered primary evidence from program users and stakeholder interviews, including a Mazaya partner bank and Eskan Bank, described by the study as the operational arm of Bahrain's Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning. The research identified lengthy procedures, complex requirements, information gaps, and fragmented processes and developed a proposed digital solution connecting beneficiaries, banks, and government entities to improve housing-finance service delivery.

Another UOB study directly evaluated the Sharia governance regulatory framework for Islamic banks and Islamic windows in Bahrain, analyzed Central Bank of Bahrain requirements, identified regulatory and implementation gaps, and developed specific recommendations for the Central Bank of Bahrain, including dedicated regulations for Islamic windows, strengthened licensing and external Sharia-audit requirements, enhanced disclosure, and clearer governance provisions. Research on SME creditworthiness further incorporated stakeholder perspectives from the

Bahrain Credit Reference Bureau, Export Bahrain, and SME owners to identify financing barriers and develop an alternative-data credit-scoring approach within Bahrain's regulatory environment.

The policy dimension was reinforced by research on green finance and SDG-aligned Islamic finance, which examined regulatory and institutional barriers, sustainable-finance standards, public-private collaboration, and approaches for integrating green-finance principles with Islamic finance. UOB-supported international research specifically connected Maqasid al-Shariah and green finance with SDGs 7, 11, 12, and 13, reviewed regulatory and market practices across multiple countries, and highlighted regulatory support, standardized frameworks, and sustainable financial instruments as important enablers of implementation.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.1 by combining UOB's engagement with a regional standards-setting organization, government-linked stakeholders, financial institutions, and regulatory contexts with research that identifies policy and regulatory challenges, gathers stakeholder evidence, evaluates existing frameworks, and develops evidence-based policies, strategies, and practical interventions supporting sustainable finance, financial inclusion, responsible governance, and sustainable development.

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

21. Evidence-Based Research Supporting Technology Policy, Government Decision-Making, and Sustainable Digital Governance



The University of Bahrain hosted 3ICT 2025 as a platform for connecting academic research with industry, governance, cybersecurity, public-sector data, and policy-relevant technological challenges. The conference featured 137 research papers, including 29 papers from the University of Bahrain, with dedicated sessions covering cybersecurity, FinTech, smart cities, big data analytics, and e-Government, e-Health, and e-Business.

The conference included expertise directly relevant to Bahrain's regulatory environment. Keynote speaker Abubakar Mohamed, CTO of Beyon Cyber, previously served as an adviser to Bahrain's Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA). According to the conference program, Abubakar Mohamed led cybersecurity policy and strategy for the telecommunications sector and played a leading role in drafting Bahrain's Telecom Data Privacy Regulations and Telecom Cyber Security Regulation.



Policy-focused research further strengthened the evidence base. Understanding Changing Attitudes to Plastics Consumption in the Gulf Using Big Data Analytics analyzed more than one million articles and social media posts across six GCC countries. The study compared policy approaches and public attitudes towards plastics consumption and produced policy recommendations relevant to managing environmental impacts. Research on climate-risk modelling developed a system that enables banks to evaluate policy scenarios and quantify their

impacts. The approach was validated against five major climate policies, including the EU Emissions Trading System and California's Cap-and-Trade Program.

The conference also featured research on distributed government data, which developed a pipeline for data collection, organization, analysis, and visualization to support government performance monitoring, decision-making, transparency, and accountability. In addition, research on sustainable grazing in Nigeria reviewed existing laws and digital governance strategies, identified policy and coordination gaps, and proposed legislative reforms aligned with international best practices.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.1 by facilitating research and expert exchange that identify policy challenges, compare policy approaches, develop regulatory and governance strategies, model interventions and policy scenarios, analyze government data, and support evidence-informed decision-making and monitoring. These contributions address important areas, including cybersecurity, environmental sustainability, climate risk, and digital government.

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/

22. Government and Heritage Stakeholder Engagement for Sustainable Heritage Policy and Strategy Development



The University of Bahrain's 3rd International Conference on Sustaining Heritage (ICSH 2025) provided a platform for research and stakeholder engagement addressing policy, regulatory, governance, and strategic challenges affecting sustainable heritage conservation. The conference connected academic expertise with heritage-sector stakeholders, including the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), represented among the conference keynote contributors, and disseminated research identifying challenges and proposing evidence-based approaches relevant to heritage policy and management.

Research presented at the conference directly identified regulatory challenges and developed strategies relevant to Bahrain's heritage conservation. The study Drone: Sustainable Technologies in Heritage Preservation Projects compared Bahrain Fort with the Curium archaeological site in Cyprus and identified Bahrain's restrictions on civilian drone use as a barrier to advanced heritage documentation. The researchers specifically proposed collaboration between BACA and the Ministry of Interior to facilitate permits for UAV technology in heritage digitization, enabling Bahrain to benefit from advanced documentation and conservation approaches while operating within the regulatory framework.

Policy and governance considerations were further addressed through research on Smart Early Warning Systems for climate-vulnerable Gulf heritage sites, which identified fragmented governance and monitoring gaps and developed a framework integrating heritage authorities, environmental agencies, civil-protection bodies, municipalities, and communities. The framework incorporated risk monitoring, decision support, defined institutional responsibilities, response protocols, and adaptive heritage management, providing an evidence-based approach for strengthening climate-resilient heritage governance.

Additional research on Manama's modernist heritage developed evidence-based conservation and urban revitalization strategies using field surveys, inventories, GIS mapping, and digital documentation, translating research findings into proposals for adaptive reuse, conservation, accessibility, pedestrianization, and public-space revitalization.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.1 by combining government and heritage stakeholder engagement, identification of policy and regulatory challenges, evidence-informed strategy

development, governance frameworks, monitoring approaches, and adaptive management solutions for sustainable 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

23. Government and Professional Stakeholder Engagement in Sustainable Smart-City Planning and Infrastructure



During the academic year 2024-2025, the University of Bahrain's 8th IET Smart Cities Symposium, organized in collaboration with the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), provided a platform for researchers, practitioners, decision-makers, investors, and policymakers to identify urban sustainability challenges and explore strategies and technological interventions for green and smart-city development. The symposium program explicitly positioned smart-city development around challenges in transport, energy, healthcare, air quality, infrastructure, and economic growth.

The program included research directly involving public-sector and government-linked stakeholders. A study on electric-vehicle integration into Bahrain's distribution network was co-authored by a researcher affiliated with the Electricity and Water Authority and UOB researchers, connecting university research with Bahrain's electricity-sector expertise. The conference also included research with the Jeddah Development Authority on smart-city infrastructure and machine-learning applications.

UOB research addressed Bahrain-specific urban challenges through studies evaluating sustainable urban approaches in Bahrain Bay, comparing redevelopment strategies and community engagement in Muharraq City and Diyar Al Muharraq, examining measurable offshore-wind potential in Bahrain, and developing a recommendation system for reducing carbon-dioxide emissions in Bahrain. The program further included a community-centered sustainable design data-collection project in Bahrain and research on preserving the historical and cultural identity of Muharraq through urban redevelopment.

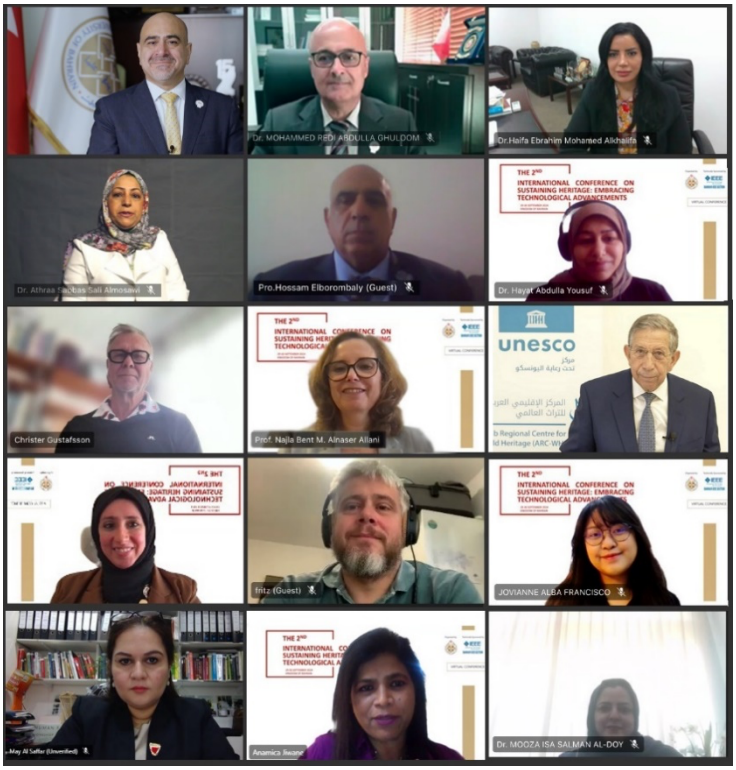
These activities provided evidence relevant to identifying sustainability challenges, comparing interventions, infrastructure planning, community engagement, and developing strategies for energy, transport, urban development, environmental sustainability, and smart-city transformation.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.1 by connecting UOB research with government-linked infrastructure expertise and professional stakeholders and by generating evidence relevant to identifying urban challenges, developing strategies and interventions, sustainable infrastructure planning, stakeholder engagement, and evidence-informed decision-making for smart and sustainable urban development.

Evidence Sources:

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

24. Government Collaboration and Evidence-Informed Strategies for Sustainable Heritage Conservation in Manama



The University of Bahrain's 2nd International Conference on Sustaining Heritage (ICSH 2024) showcased research demonstrating direct collaboration between the University of Bahrain and the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) on sustainable heritage conservation and urban development. The conference engaged 46 attendees and featured 28 accepted research papers, including six University of Bahrain papers, providing a platform for disseminating research relevant to heritage governance, sustainable tourism, conservation, and urban development.

A key example was the research Potentials of Employing Digital Technologies for Advancing Sustainable Tourism and Preservation of Historic Sites: Insights from Manama, Bahrain, which documented the UOB–BACA Creative Manama initiative. BACA experts provided knowledge and technical support on heritage documentation and listing processes, while UOB students conducted site surveys, photography, digital mapping, and documentation of heritage properties. The resulting data were uploaded to a BACA-owned building inventory, providing an evidence base for understanding existing heritage structures and supporting informed decision-making.

The collaborative research identified problems and challenges affecting heritage conservation and sustainable development in Manama, including neglected urban areas, pedestrian circulation, limited greenery, pollution, and the need to better integrate heritage conservation

with sustainable urban development. Building on the mapping and inventory findings, the project developed strategies and conservation proposals for heritage promotion, adaptive urban spaces, cultural tourism, public-space enhancement, and digital documentation. Students also reviewed national and international conservation practices to inform these proposed interventions.

The initiative further demonstrated an evidence-based approach to data gathering, monitoring, and heritage management. Digital mapping documented building characteristics, heights, street-use intensity, open spaces, and heritage assets, while BACA's database provided a structured mechanism for recording heritage information and informing subsequent conservation proposals.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.1 (Relationships with Regional NGOs and Government for SDG Policy) through direct collaboration with a government heritage authority, supporting the identification of heritage and urban-development challenges, evidence-informed decision-making, strategy development, digital data gathering, and sustainable heritage management. The UOB–BACA collaboration demonstrates how university research and academic engagement can contribute practical evidence and proposed strategies relevant to public-sector heritage conservation and sustainable urban development.

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**

25. Evidence-Based Research Supporting Government Policy and Sustainable Development Strategies 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 featured 115 scientific papers, including 38 papers authored by University of



Bahrain researchers, providing a research platform for identifying societal and environmental challenges and developing evidence-based recommendations relevant to public policy, planning, and sustainable development.

A particularly strong example was the UOB study Spatio-Temporal Analysis of Traffic Accidents in Bahrain using Geographic Information System, which analyzed official fatal-accident data obtained from Bahrain's General Traffic Department, Ministry of Interior, covering 2012–2018. The study identified persistent high-risk locations and changes in accident hotspots over time and stated that its findings are directly relevant to local traffic management and policy-making. It recommended targeted remedial measures at persistent high-risk locations and adaptive traffic-safety planning responsive to changing land-use and traffic-flow patterns.

Policy-oriented research was also demonstrated through Decarbonizing Economic Growth in SAARC Countries A Panel Data and Text Analytics Approach to Energy Transition and Net-Zero Pathways, co-authored by University of Bahrain researchers. Using World Development Indicators, panel-data econometrics, and text analytics of national energy-transition roadmaps and climate strategies, the study examined carbon emissions, economic growth, and renewable-energy consumption and developed explicit evidence-based policy recommendations for Net-Zero transitions. Recommendations included greater renewable-energy investment, green-growth strategies, emissions regulation, stronger energy and environmental institutions, international climate finance, and regional climate-policy coordination.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.1 by demonstrating how University of Bahrain research contributes to identifying policy challenges, evidence-informed decision-making, developing policy and strategy recommendations, monitoring trends, and supporting adaptive management in areas including road safety, climate action, renewable energy, and sustainable development. The use of official Bahrain government data further demonstrates a direct research connection with a national government entity.

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

26. Regional Standards-Setting Engagement and Evidence-Based Research for Sustainable Finance Policy Development



The University of Bahrain hosted the 5th International Conference on Sustainable Islamic Business and Finance on December 9–10, 2025, in partnership with AAOIFI, a regional standards-setting organization in Islamic finance, and Lancaster University, with engagement from financial institutions, professional bodies, researchers, industry stakeholders, and technology organizations. The conference provided a platform for examining policy challenges, regulatory frameworks, governance mechanisms, sustainability strategies, and evidence-informed interventions relevant to sustainable finance.



Through 85 research papers, the conference disseminated research that explicitly identified problems and challenges, evaluated comparative policy approaches, developed strategies, examined monitoring mechanisms, and proposed evidence-based policy interventions. A central example was UOB research on blue-finance policy, which analyzed initiatives across selected MENA and GCC countries and identified regulatory fragmentation, environmental-data gaps, impact-measurement limitations, and institutional-capacity constraints. The research recommended strengthening data systems, standardizing impact measurement, building institutional capacity, utilizing blended public-private financing, and embedding blue finance within national development and climate strategies. It further emphasized monitoring, evaluation, stakeholder governance, cross-sector coordination, and adaptive governance in public policy implementation.

Further UOB research examined Bahrain's readiness for solar-energy adoption against international experiences and developed policy measures and strategies for Bahrain, including clean-energy investment, supportive regulation, solar integration into buildings, rooftop deployment, research and public awareness, and development of a domestic solar industry. The research explicitly positioned these recommendations as measures policymakers could consider in advancing the SDGs.

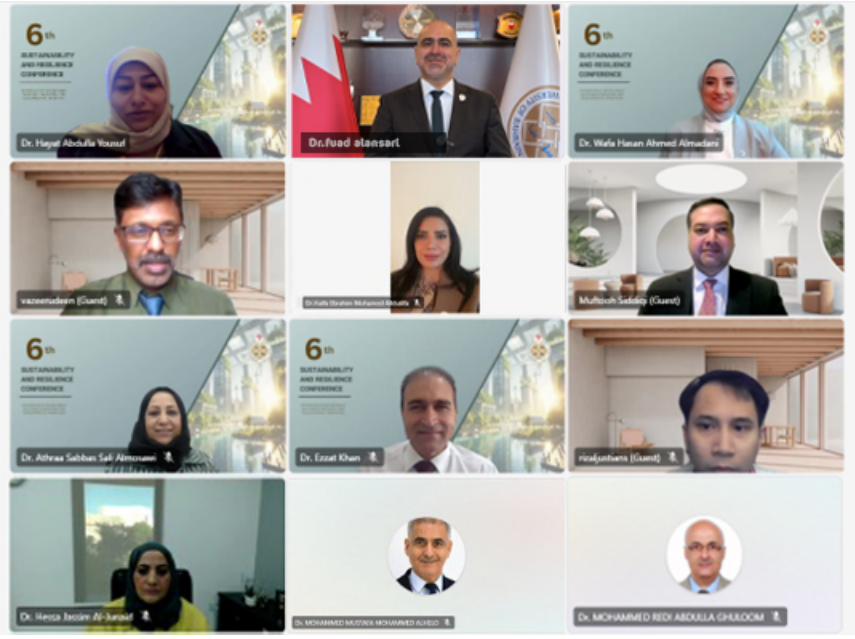
Research on sustainable-finance tools additionally compared policy and market developments across GCC countries using 2019–2024 data and identified opportunities for policymakers to improve awareness, accessibility, incentives, and adoption of green sukuk, green bonds, and sustainability-linked finance.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.1 through engagement with a regional standards-setting organization and UOB research contributing to identifying policy challenges, developing policies and strategies, comparative policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder governance, evidence-informed decision-making, and adaptive management for sustainable finance, renewable energy, and sustainable economic development.

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

27. Evidence-Based Research Supporting Green Policy, Sustainable Development Strategies, and Nature-Based Solutions



The University of Bahrain hosted the 6th Sustainability and Resilience Conference (SRC'24) around seven sustainability tracks, one of which was explicitly dedicated to "Policy Support, Financing, and Incentives for Green Solutions." The conference engaged 127 attendees and featured 25 accepted research papers, including 11 papers from the University of Bahrain.

The conference connected academic researchers with industry, professional organizations, research centers, and sustainability specialists while providing a platform for identifying environmental and developmental challenges and examining policy frameworks, incentives, strategies, and interventions supporting sustainable transitions.

Research presented at the conference generated evidence relevant to policy development and strategy formulation. A University of Bahrain study compared the environmental and economic performance of green roofs in Bahrain and Singapore, identifying opportunities and constraints associated with Bahrain's hot, arid environment. Using comparative SWOT analysis, the research proposed approaches including financial incentives and treated wastewater to reduce implementation and maintenance constraints, translating international experience into potential strategies relevant to Bahrain.

Policy-oriented research extended to environmental monitoring and nature-based innovation. A UOB study on drone technology for environmental monitoring examined ecological risks and benefits and proposed legal frameworks, public-participation strategies, and recommendations for sustainable tourism and urban development. Research on clean-technology startups identified regulatory compliance and finance as barriers and emphasized the importance of

supportive policy frameworks and coordinated stakeholder strategies for strengthening the clean-technology innovation ecosystem.

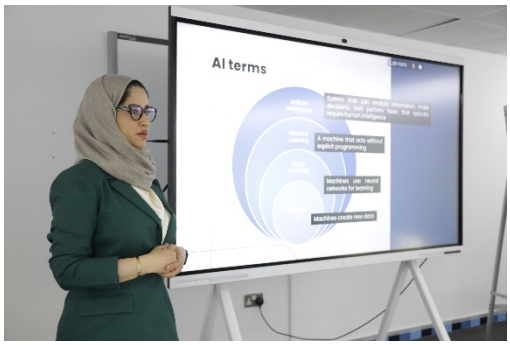
Research on urban regeneration in Nabih Saleh, Bahrain also identified local sustainability challenges and developed regenerative design strategies evaluated through community input and sustainability assessment criteria, demonstrating an evidence-based approach to identifying challenges and developing interventions for sustainable urban development.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.1 through research that identifies sustainability challenges, evaluates comparative approaches, develops policy and strategy recommendations, examines incentives and regulatory frameworks, and supports evidence-informed planning for nature-based solutions, green technology, sustainable urban development, and climate resilience.

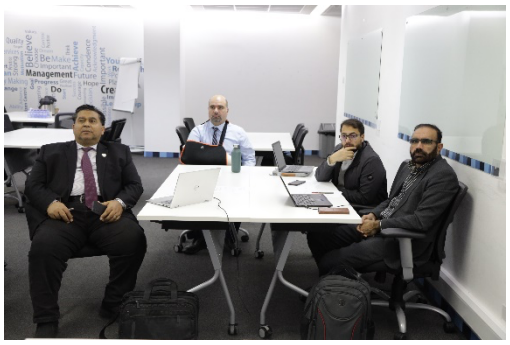
Evidence Sources:

- **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/

28. Government-University Engagement on Responsible AI Policy and Strategy in Higher Education



On 10 March 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB), through its Unit for Teaching Excellence and Leadership, engaged with Bahrain's Education and Training Quality Authority through the workshop entitled "Artificial Intelligence Strategies for Higher Education." The workshop was led by Dr. Thajiba Ibrahim Aljowder, Head of the Information Technology Department at the Authority, providing an opportunity for government-sector expertise to inform university discussions on the responsible use and integration of artificial intelligence in higher education.



The workshop addressed AI capabilities, effective institutional AI strategies, ethical considerations, and approaches to integrating artificial intelligence into academic and administrative activities. Importantly, the engagement addressed policy considerations relating to the use of AI in higher education, including the need for responsible application, appropriate institutional approaches, and alignment with educational and professional objectives.

The workshop also encouraged UOB faculty and staff to exchange ideas, identify institutional challenges, and explore how AI tools could improve operational efficiency and support academic activities. The participation and contribution of the Authority's representative facilitated knowledge exchange between the government education-quality sector and the University on the governance and strategic application of emerging technologies in higher education.

This engagement provides supporting evidence for SDG 17.2.1 – Relationships with Regional NGOs and Government for SDG Policy, demonstrating government-university engagement on policy-related issues, stakeholder consultation, knowledge exchange, and discussions concerning responsible AI governance and institutional approaches to AI adoption in higher education.

The activity also contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by supporting responsible integration of emerging technologies into higher education, and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through institutional digital transformation and technological innovation.

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

29. Public-Sector and Higher Education Collaboration on Leadership, Institutional Change, and Quality



The Academic Leadership Program, delivered by the University of Bahrain in collaboration with Advance HE, includes participation from leaders across Bahrain's higher education sector and public institutions, including the Royal Academy of Police. The program provides a structured environment for participants to examine institutional challenges, stakeholder relationships, leadership models, and strategies for organizational change.

Participants are required to identify current challenges, work collaboratively to develop solutions, identify stakeholders who can support change, and prepare action plans for implementation. The program's modules specifically address devolved leadership, stakeholder influence and engagement, rationale for change, articulation of a future vision, and converting learning and teaching problems into opportunities for institutional improvement.

The participation of representatives from the Royal Academy of Police, alongside leaders from UOB and other Bahraini universities, strengthens the program's government and public-sector engagement dimension. Through peer learning and collaborative problem-solving, participants can exchange experience on leadership and institutional practices across public-sector and higher education contexts.

This activity provides supporting evidence for SDG 17.2.1 through public-sector engagement, problem identification, stakeholder consultation, strategy development, action planning, institutional capacity building, and implementation planning relevant to improving higher education and institutional leadership.

Evidence source:

- https://www.uob.edu.bh/our-centers/unit-for-teaching-excellence-and-leadership/services/academic-leadership-programme/

30. Government-University Collaboration on Financial Governance and Regulatory Compliance





In October 2025, the University of Bahrain's Unit for Teaching Excellence and Leadership, at the request of the University's Financial Resources Directorate, coordinated with the Systems Development Directorate at Bahrain's Ministry of Finance and National Economy to deliver specialized training on the Central Financial Systems for Government-Funded Organizations (GFO).

The training strengthened government-university engagement, institutional capacity, regulatory compliance, and implementation of approved government financial procedures. Academic and administrative staff were introduced to the GFO system and the regulatory procedures governing procurement within government entities, including the Ministry's supervisory role in ensuring compliance with established financial requirements.

The interactive training provided applied guidance on different types of government procurement requests, preparation of procurement lists, and their entry into the government budget-management system. Participants also learned when and how to coordinate with the Ministry of Finance and National Economy for technical support, helping ensure that University financial activities are implemented accurately and consistently with approved government procedures.

Through this collaboration, UOB strengthened institutional understanding of public-sector financial governance, procurement controls, budget management, accountability, and regulatory implementation. The activity supports the consistent application of government financial processes within the University and strengthens staff capacity to manage public resources responsibly.

This initiative provides supporting evidence for SDG 17.2.1 (Relationships with Regional NGOs and Government for SDG Policy) through direct engagement with a national government ministry, demonstrating government stakeholder engagement, implementation of government procedures, institutional capacity building, regulatory compliance, knowledge exchange, and coordinated implementation of public financial governance requirements. It also contributes to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by strengthening transparent, accountable, and effective institutional financial management.

Evidence Source: https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-staff-train-on-the-gfo/

31. Government-University Data Collaboration for Carbon-Emission Modeling and National Climate Planning

The University of Bahrain, through the BENEFIT Advanced AI & Computing Lab, collaborates with Bahrain's Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) on research using national electricity-consumption data to assess carbon emissions and support evidence-informed climate planning. EWA provided multi-year, multi-sector national electricity-consumption datasets covering residential, commercial, industrial, and other sectors for UOB postgraduate research.

The research addresses the challenge of quantifying the environmental impact of electricity consumption across Bahrain's economic sectors. Using the Lab's high-performance computing infrastructure, the project preprocesses the EWA datasets and develops machine-learning, deep-learning, regression, and time-series forecasting models to analyze sector-level carbon footprints and predict CO_2 emissions.

The collaboration is particularly relevant to 17.2.1 because it moves beyond general government engagement into data-informed modeling of likely future outcomes. The research is designed to quantify emissions across different electricity-consuming sectors and generate predictive evidence that can support national sustainability planners in understanding emissions patterns and future trajectories. The portfolio explicitly links the work to Bahrain's Net-Zero 2060 objectives and identifies its expected outcome as predictive models capable of guiding national climate policy.

The initiative demonstrates government-university collaboration, problem identification, national data sharing, evidence gathering, intervention-relevant modeling, forecasting, monitoring capability, and evidence-informed decision-making. It directly contributes to SDG 13 (Climate Action) through carbon-footprint measurement and emissions forecasting and supports SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) through evidence relevant to sustainable energy planning.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.1 (Relationships with Regional NGOs and Government for SDG Policy) by involving a national government authority in providing operational data for university research that identifies climate challenges, measures sector-level impacts, models future emissions, and generates evidence relevant to national climate strategy and adaptive planning.

Evidence Sources:

- https://www.uob.edu.bh/ewa-and-uob-announce-launch-of-46-2-mw-solar-energy-project-on-university-campus/
- **https://ailab.uob.edu.bh/**

32. Collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Eskan Bank on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development



During the 2024–2025 academic year, the University of Bahrain continued its long-standing collaboration with Eskan Bank and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning through the 11th edition of the Eskan Bank Award for Creative Engineering & Interior Design. Established in 2013, the annual partnership engages UOB students in developing innovative architectural and design ideas addressing national housing, urban development, and sustainable development priorities in Bahrain.

The 2024–2025 edition, “Rethinking the Mixed-Use Buildings,” addressed a current challenge within Bahrain's evolving urban landscape. University of Bahrain students were tasked with developing architectural solutions responding to the increasingly complex relationships between housing, public services, commercial uses, community needs, and sustainability. The initiative therefore provided a structured mechanism for academic expertise and student innovation to engage with practical housing and urban-development challenges.

The collaboration has contributed new ideas and visions to Bahrain's housing sector and fostered cooperation among the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Eskan Bank, and the University of Bahrain in housing, architectural engineering, and sustainable urban development. The official award documentation further confirms that the Ministry and Eskan Bank seek to benefit from creative endeavors to develop housing services and initiatives, improve housing services, and build sustainable housing communities.

Through this sustained government-university collaboration, the University of Bahrain contributes academic knowledge, architectural expertise, innovative ideas, and proposed solutions relevant to national housing and urban-development initiatives, particularly supporting SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), with additional contributions to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 4 (Quality 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

33. UOB Contributes to GCC Strategic Cooperation on AI and Digital Education



The University of Bahrain contributes to regional cooperation on higher education and digital transformation as an active member of the GCC Committee of E-Learning Officials at Universities and Higher Education Institutions, represented by Dr. Wael Attiya, Director of the University's Information Technology and eLearning Directorate.

At the Committee's 24th meeting, held in Riyadh in November 2025, higher-education and e-learning representatives from GCC member states discussed strategic directions for artificial intelligence, AI governance in education, practical applications of AI in learning environments, and regulatory frameworks and policies for the safe and responsible use of emerging technologies.

The Committee concluded with regional recommendations, including adoption of the AI strategic directions developed by Saudi Arabia's National eLearning Center as a reference model aligned with the Committee's strategies and a proposal to develop a Unified Gulf Language Model (Gulf LLM) supporting AI and e-learning systems across GCC universities and higher-education institutions.

Through its continuing membership in this regional committee, UOB participates in a formal Gulf cooperation mechanism contributing to shared strategic directions, responsible AI governance, higher-education digital policy and collaborative regional initiatives. This engagement supports SDG-related institutional development, particularly SDG 4, SDG 9 and SDG 17, by strengthening regional cooperation in inclusive, innovative and responsible digital education.

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