# SDG 17

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

### THE IMPACT RANKINGS EVIDENCE REPORT

# Indicator 17.2.2

## Cross-sectoral dialogue about the SDGs

**University of Bahrain**
**2024-2025**

# Executive summary

This report documents the institutional initiatives, formal partnerships, and collaborative events undertaken by the University of Bahrain (UoB) during the 2024–2025 academic year, demonstrating extensive cross-sectoral dialogue about the Sustainable Development Goals in alignment with Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings Indicator 17.2.2.

The University of Bahrain actively advances SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals by fostering strong cross-sectoral dialogue, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and international cooperation with NGOs, professional bodies, UN agencies, and global institutions. Through strategic partnerships, the university promotes knowledge sharing, capacity-building, and sustainable development, ensuring that academic expertise, industry innovation, and community needs are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The evidence presented addresses the core requirements of Indicator 17.2.2 across key multi-stakeholder areas:

- **Cross-Sectoral Innovation & Digital Governance:** UoB bridges higher education, public authorities, and global technology leaders (such as AWS, Huawei, and ISACA) through initiatives like the UOB Cloud Innovation Center (CIC), the BENEFIT Advanced AI & Computing Lab, and international IT conferences (3ICT 2025), addressing digital transformation, cloud challenges, forensic governance, and public-sector needs.

- **Sustainable Cities, Smart Infrastructure & Heritage:** The University convenes global and regional experts through major symposia and conferences, including the 8th and 9th IET Smart Cities Symposia and the International Conferences on Sustaining Heritage (ICSH), fostering dialogue among engineers, policymakers, real-estate developers, and heritage authorities like BACA and ARC-WH.

- **Energy Transition, Decarbonization & Climate Action:** UoB students and researchers actively participate in international and regional platforms—such as ADIPEC 2024, GOTECH 2025, PetroBarza 2, and the Sustainability and Resilience Conferences (SRC)—engaging energy stakeholders, industry leaders (like Bapco Energies and Alba), and international economists from the IMF in dialogue on clean fuels, carbon capture, and economic resilience.

- **Health, Public Health & Well-Being:** Collaborating with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Ministry of Health, Government Hospitals, and Arabian Gulf University (AGU), UoB drives multi-stakeholder forums on combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR), managing noncommunicable diseases, advancing health-workforce leadership, and promoting physical literacy and disability inclusion.

- **Education Quality, Leadership & Inclusive Skills:** UoB partners with professional bodies like Advance HE, Tamkeen, and regional universities to foster multi-institutional dialogue on pedagogical innovations, academic leadership, financial-services skill development, and women's participation in technology.

## Impact Highlights:

- **752 registered users** (including 437 undergraduates and 284 postgraduates) supported by the BENEFIT Advanced AI & Computing Lab, with over 500 individuals directly trained in AI and high-performance computing.

- **153 accepted papers** (featuring 31 UoB research contributions) and extensive international keynotes convened at the 9th IET Smart Cities Symposium.

- **780 University of Bahrain students** engaged alongside national sports federations and international experts at Bahrain's first International Physical Literacy Conference.

- **Extensive multi-stakeholder participation** across dozens of international conferences, high-level forums, student chapters (SPE, AIChE), and public-private partnerships tackling health, climate, and economic development priorities.

Together, these documented initiatives provide comprehensive institutional evidence that the University of Bahrain actively fosters vibrant cross-sectoral dialogue on the SDGs, fulfilling all requirements for Indicator 17.2.2.

Contents

Executive summary ..... 2

**1. Cross-Sectoral Collaboration through the UOB Cloud Innovation Center** ..... 7

**2. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Education and Practice** 8

**3. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Smart and Sustainable Cities through the 9th IET Smart Cities Symposium** ..... 9

**4. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue and Partnership for Sustainable Water Resource Management** 10

**5. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Finance, Digital Innovation, and Inclusive Economic Development** ..... 11

**6. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Islamic Finance, Digital Innovation, and Sustainability Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Heritage, Digital Innovation, and Cultural Preservation** ..... 13

**7. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Cultural Innovation and Creative Entrepreneurship** ..... 14

**8. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Water Management and Desalination Innovation** ..... 15

**9. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, and Data-Driven Decision Making through DATA'25** ..... 16

**10. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Islamic Finance and the Sustainable Development Goals through SIBF 2024** ..... 17

**11. University of Bahrain Participates in GCC Dialogue on Higher Education, Research, and Sustainable Development** ..... 18

**12. Academic and Professional Knowledge Exchange on Artificial Intelligence and Translation** ..... 20

**13. Strengthening Academic and Research Partnerships Through Renewed Collaboration with RCSI Medical University of Bahrain – September 2025** ..... 20

**14. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Innovation, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of Higher Education** ..... 22

**15. PetroBarza 2: University of Bahrain Students Promote Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Energy and Innovation** ..... 23

**16. GOTECH 2025: University of Bahrain Students Engage in Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Energy Solutions** ..... 24

**17. AIChE UOB Facilitates Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Clean Fuels and Decarbonization** 25

**18. UOB and IMF Facilitate Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Regional Economic Development** ..... 27

**19. International Academic Cooperation and Cultural Exchange – Russian Federation** 28

**20. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Technology-Driven Solutions for Sustainable Heritage**29

**21. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainability and Resilience** 30

**22. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Youth Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Sustainable Economic Development** ..... 31

**23. Climate Justice and International Cooperation: A Lecture on Global Climate Change** 33

**24. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Digital Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development through 3ICT 2025** ..... 34

**25. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Smart, Sustainable, and Resilient Cities through the 8th IET Smart Cities Symposium** ..... 35

**26. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue with WHO, Government, and Academia to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance**..... 36

**27. Cross-Sectoral Public Health Dialogue with Government, WHO, and Regional Health Experts** ..... 37

**28. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on AI-Enabled Health Education and Healthcare Practice** 38

**29. Regional Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Leadership and Governance in Health-Professions Education**..... 39

**30. Collaboration on Obesity Prevention and Preventive Health Education with Arabian Gulf University** ..... 41

**31. Government-University Collaboration on Multiple Sclerosis Awareness and Health Education** ..... 42

**32. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Disability Inclusion, Inclusive Sport, and Equal Participation** ..... 43

**33. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance and Legal Innovation** 44

**34. University of Bahrain Participates in ADIPEC 2024 Hosted by ADNOC to Promote Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Development** ..... 46

**35. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Physical Literacy, Lifelong Participation, and Community Well-Being** ..... 48

**36. University of Bahrain and Arabian Gulf University Collaboration on Obesity Prevention and Healthy Lifestyles**..... 49

**37. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Responsible AI Strategies for Quality Higher Education** 50

**38. Multi-Institutional Dialogue on Leadership, Change, and Quality in Higher Education** ..... 51

**39. Academia–Industry Dialogue on Financial Services Skills and Future Workforce Development** ..... 52

**40. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Women's Participation and Leadership in Technology** 53

**41. Regional Dialogue on IT Audit, Cybersecurity, and Technology Governance** ..... 54

**42. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on AI, Analytics, and Technology-Enabled Governance** .. 55

**43. Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue and Collaboration through the BENEFIT Advanced AI & Computing Lab** ..... 56

**44. Regional Dialogue on Research, Quality Assurance, and Higher Education Development** ..... 57

**45. Academia-Industry Engagement through the Huawei ICT Competition 2024–2025** 58

**46. Academia-Industry Dialogue on ICT Skills, Employability, and Bahrain's Digital Talent Pipeline** ..... 60

**47. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development through the Al-Bilad CSR Award** ..... 61

**48. Cross-Sectoral Collaboration and Dialogue through the NASA Space Apps Challenge 2025** 62

**49. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development** ..... 63

**50. Cross-Sectoral Collaboration on Digital Innovation and Public-Sector Challenges** 64

**51. Cross-Sectoral Engagement on Sustainable Urban Development** ..... 65

**52. UOB–Advance HE Dialogue on Leadership and Institutional Transformation in Higher Education** ..... 65

**53. Cross-Sector Engagement on Digital Transformation and Innovation at GITEX Global 2024** ..... 66

**54. UOB Participates in GCC Dialogue on Responsible AI and the Future of Digital Higher Education** ..... 67

## 1. Cross-Sectoral Collaboration through the UOB Cloud Innovation Center




During the 2024–2025 academic year, the University of Bahrain (UOB), through its Cloud Innovation Center (UOB-CIC/AWS Lab), implemented four challenge-based projects linking university students and academic expertise with AWS and Bahraini public-sector organizations. The Center provides a structured platform for public-sector organizations to bring pressing institutional challenges, exchange knowledge and requirements with university and technology experts, test new ideas through Amazon's innovation process, and collaboratively develop prototype solutions provided to participating public-sector entities at no cost.

The projects engaged the Ministry of Education, Information & eGovernment Authority, Bahrain Customs, Education & Training Quality Authority (BQA), AWS, Tamkeen, and Bahrain Polytechnic in different collaborative configurations. Public-sector stakeholders contributed organizational requirements and domain expertise, while students worked with academic and technical expertise to translate these needs into AI- and cloud-based solutions through requirements discussions, technical development, demonstrations, stakeholder feedback, testing, and iterative refinement.

Four academic prototypes were completed: QuestAI, an AI-assisted examination system; VIBE, an interactive digital reading platform; SenseAI, a customs-focused prototype supporting transaction and risk analysis, audit functions, and document processing; and TaqyeemPro, an AI-assisted assessment system supporting question generation and examination development.

This initiative provides strong evidence for SDG 17.2.2 by demonstrating a sustained mechanism for cross-sectoral dialogue, stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, and collaborative problem-solving between higher education, government/public-sector organizations, technology expertise, and learners. By enabling public-sector partners to define real institutional challenges and participate directly in the development and refinement of solutions, the UOB-CIC supports practical collaboration contributing particularly to SDG 4, SDG 9, and SDG 17.

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

## 2. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Education and Practice



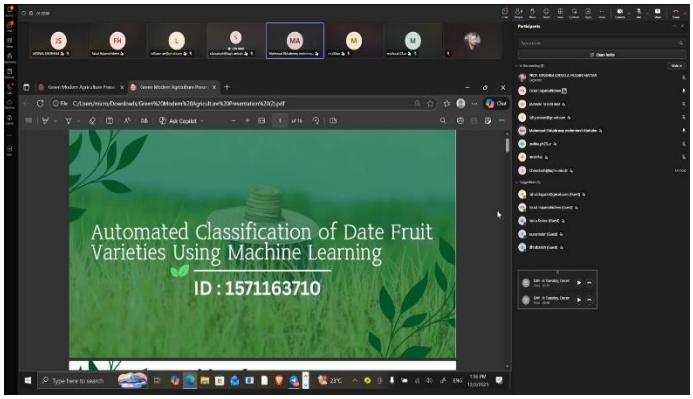
In December 2025, the University of Bahrain (UoB), through its College of Health and Sport Sciences, organized the "Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Education and Practice" forum. The forum brought together local and international experts in artificial intelligence and clinical simulation, including representatives of the Artificial Intelligence Group and the HH Shk Nasser AI Research & Development Centre, Gaumard Scientific, the University of Greenwich (UK), the Association for Simulated Practice in Healthcare (ASPiH), the Arabian Gulf University, and UoB's College of Information Technology.

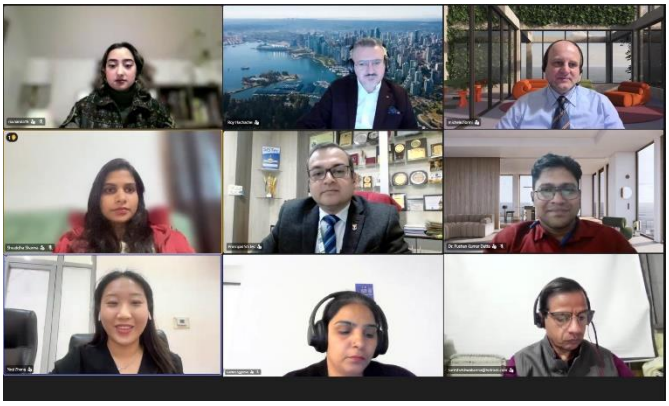
A scientific discussion session explored the opportunities and challenges of AI in health training and clinical simulation. At the conclusion of the forum, participants recommended developing students' competencies in AI, strengthening its integration into health education, and expanding cooperation between the health, technology, and industry sectors.

This initiative advances SDG 17, Target 17.2.2 by fostering cross-sectoral dialogue among academia, healthcare professionals, technology experts, and industry, aligned with the Kingdom of Bahrain's Vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as affirmed by the Dean of the College of Health and Sport Sciences in her opening speech. By hosting this dialogue, UoB strengthens knowledge exchange and collaboration across sectors and supports innovation and digital transformation in health education.

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

## 3. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Smart and Sustainable Cities through the 9th IET Smart Cities Symposium



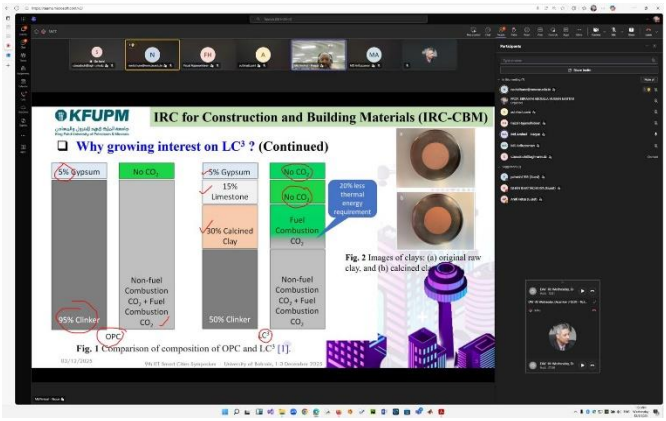
The University of Bahrain, in partnership with the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), hosted the 9th IET Smart Cities Symposium from December 1–3, 2025. The symposium served as a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue, bringing together academics, industry experts, researchers, decision-makers, policymakers, students, and technology specialists to exchange ideas and explore innovative solutions for smart and sustainable cities. The event featured 153 accepted papers, including 31 papers authored by University of Bahrain researchers, and facilitated engagement among stakeholders working across technology, sustainability, energy, transportation, healthcare, cybersecurity, and urban development.




The symposium promoted multi-stakeholder engagement through keynote presentations by international experts from Italy, Canada, India, the United States, and Trinidad and Tobago, covering smart transportation, cybersecurity, sustainable manufacturing, hydrogen energy, waste management, data privacy, and resilient power systems. Parallel sessions addressed the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence in healthcare, renewable energy, smart transportation, blockchain, robotics, smart campuses, and smart city design, encouraging knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary collaboration on sustainable urban development.

As highlighted by symposium organizers, the event was specifically designed to foster collaboration between academia, government, and industry by creating opportunities for researchers, policymakers, healthcare organizations, technology experts, and businesses to discuss the role of emerging technologies in building more sustainable, efficient, and resilient cities.

Through research dissemination, expert dialogue, and stakeholder participation, the symposium promoted collaborative approaches to addressing urban sustainability challenges.




This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) by facilitating cross-sectoral dialogue, stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, and collaborative solutions among academia, government, industry, and technology professionals to support smart and sustainable urban development.

**Evidence source:**

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

## 4. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue and Partnership for Sustainable Water Resource Management



In December 2025, the University of Bahrain organized a workshop on enhancing water flow and improving water-use efficiency in the industrial and agricultural sectors. The workshop is part of a broader initiative to protect Bahrain's water resources by building technical and institutional capacities and promoting efficient, sustainable water-management practices.

The initiative is implemented under a partnership agreement between the University of Bahrain and the Supreme Council for Environment, as part of a nationally executed project funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The project supports climate resilience by introducing water-auditing practices in factories and farms across Bahrain.

The workshop brought together representatives from the Ministry of Works, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA), the Supreme Council for Environment, academic experts, and technical specialists. Participants exchanged expertise,

discussed practical solutions, and explored collaborative approaches to improving water-use efficiency and strengthening environmental governance in response to climate change.

This initiative advances SDG 17, Target 17.2.2 by convening government entities, sustainability agencies, technical experts, and academics for dialogue on SDG-related challenges, and supports SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) through its partnership with national institutions and the Green Climate Fund.

Evidence Link:

## 5. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Finance, Digital Innovation, and Inclusive Economic Development




The University of Bahrain hosted the 5th International Conference on Sustainable Islamic Business and Finance on December 9–10, 2025, under the theme "Islamic Finance and the Digital Economy: Navigating the Intersection of Technology, Ethics, and Sustainability." The conference created a structured platform for cross-sectoral dialogue and multi-stakeholder engagement among universities, financial institutions, industry leaders, professional and standards-setting organizations, policymakers, researchers, and technology specialists.

Organized by the University's Deanship of Graduate Studies and Scientific Research and College of Business Administration, the conference established a multi-sector partnership with Lancaster University and AAOIFI as knowledge partners, Al Salam Bank as Platinum Partner, Bahrain Islamic Bank (BISB) as Gold Partner, and IEEE and IEEE Bahrain Section as technical sponsors. This connected academia, international higher education, banking, professional standards, and technology sectors within a common sustainability-focused platform.

Through keynote addresses, expert panels, an industry workshop, research sessions, and 85 research papers, participants engaged in knowledge exchange and stakeholder dialogue on

sustainable finance, financial inclusion, ESG, green growth, renewable energy, FinTech, blockchain, artificial intelligence, Sharia governance, and sustainable reporting. Research presented at the conference addressed SDG-linked challenges ranging from blue finance and renewable energy to sustainable financial instruments, inclusive digital finance, and responsible technological innovation.




The cross-sectoral dimension was reinforced by evidence-based research examining how governments, financial institutions, professional bodies, academia, private-sector actors, and civil society can work together on sustainable development. Research on blue finance, for example, emphasized cross-sectoral coordination among government, private investors, civil society, academia, and international institutions for sustainable ocean governance.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 by facilitating cross-sectoral dialogue, multi-stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, stakeholder collaboration, and collaborative approaches among academia, financial institutions, professional bodies, technology organizations, policymakers, and industry stakeholders to advance sustainable and inclusive development.

**Evidence Source:**

- **Evidence Link:** 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

## 6. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Islamic Finance, Digital Innovation, and Sustainability Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Heritage, Digital Innovation, and Cultural Preservation



The University of Bahrain organized the 3rd International Conference on Sustaining Heritage (ICSH 2025) on November 26–27, 2025, bringing together 153 researchers, experts, practitioners, and stakeholders from 21 countries across the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. The conference created a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue and multi-stakeholder engagement among higher education institutions, heritage organizations, cultural-sector professionals, sustainability specialists, and technology experts to exchange knowledge and explore collaborative solutions for sustainable heritage conservation and management.

Cross-sectoral knowledge exchange was strengthened through keynote contributions from Prof. Christer Gustafsson (Sweden), Prof. Hossam Elborombaly (Egypt), Sh. Mohamed Khalifa Al-Khalifa of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), and Prof. Noman Ahmed, Pro Vice Chancellor and UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Urban Development (Pakistan). Workshops led by Sara Fareed Hassani and Dr. Ayesha Agha further supported capacity building, knowledge sharing, and stakeholder engagement on practical applications of smart digital tools for heritage documentation, conservation, and management.

The conference featured 34 peer-reviewed scientific papers, including 15 University of Bahrain papers, addressing the intersection of heritage conservation, sustainability, technology, urban development, and community engagement. Research included comparative drone-based documentation of Bahrain Fort and Cyprus's Curium archaeological site; digital tools for preserving and adaptively reusing Manama's modernist heritage; smart early-warning systems for climate-vulnerable coastal heritage sites across Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE; and AI-enabled co-creation approaches for sustainable heritage documentation. The proceedings also included research directly aligned with SDG 11, including sustainable urban communities and the safeguarding of cultural heritage.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) by convening academia, heritage authorities, cultural organizations, sustainability specialists, technology experts, and international researchers for cross-sectoral dialogue, stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, capacity building, and collaborative approaches to shared sustainability challenges. The conference particularly supports SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), including Target 11.4 on safeguarding cultural heritage, while connecting heritage preservation

with climate resilience, sustainable urban development, digital innovation, and community participation.

**Evidence source:**

- Evidence Link: 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

## 7. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Cultural Innovation and Creative Entrepreneurship



In November 2025, the University of Bahrain organized a panel discussion titled “Cultural Innovation and Creative Entrepreneurship.” The session focused on the future of cultural industries in the Kingdom of Bahrain, ways of turning creative ideas into economic projects, and the role of institutional support and modern technologies in empowering Bahraini youth.

The panel brought together speakers from several sectors: the Bahrain Arts Society, the Arabian Gulf University, Tamkeen (Creative Sectors), a semi-autonomous public authority, and the private sector through a creative entrepreneur and company founder.

The session concluded with an open discussion in which speakers presented recommendations on the role of educational institutions and supporting bodies in enhancing youth participation in cultural industries and encouraging the use of modern technologies in creative projects. Participants emphasized that supporting student initiatives and providing stimulating environments help build a generation capable of innovation and execution in Bahrain’s growing cultural market.

This initiative advances SDG 17, Target 17.2.2 by bringing together civil society, academia, a public authority, and the private sector in dialogue on youth participation and creative entrepreneurship, and by producing recommendations for educational institutions and supporting bodies.

Evidence Link: https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-panel-discussion-explores-cultural-innovation-creative-entrepreneurship/

## 8. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Water Management and Desalination Innovation




In October 2025, the University of Bahrain's College of Engineering organized the third Water Desalination Symposium – Recent Trends and Practices on the university campus, inaugurated by the Dean of the College of Engineering. Academics, experts, and engineers from leading national and industrial institutions examined operational efficiency, environmental considerations, and innovative solutions for sustainability in Bahrain's desalination sector.

Presentations came from the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA), Bapco Refining, Hidd Power Company (HPC), Aluminum Bahrain (Alba), and the University of Bahrain, and included:

- "Investigation into Flash Chambers Corrosion Problems and Remnant Life Extension of MSF Desalination Plants: A Case Study of Sitra Desalination Units, Bahrain" (former senior EWA official)
- "Performance Challenges in Thermal Desalination Units" (Bapco Refining)
- "Eco-Friendly Desalination: The Promise of Natural Vacuum Distillation" (University of Bahrain)
- "Desalination Technology and Challenges" (Hidd Power Company)
- "Navigating the Environmental Landscape of Desalination in Bahrain" (EWA)

- "Smart Energy Optimization in Reverse Osmosis Through Stages and Wastewater Blinding" (Alba)

The symposium was attended by undergraduate and postgraduate engineering students, along with practitioners and specialists from government and private entities in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

This initiative advances SDG 17, Target 17.2.2: the University of Bahrain's College of Engineering initiated and hosted a symposium that convened the Electricity and Water Authority, national industry (Bapco Refining, Hidd Power Company, and Aluminum Bahrain), academia, and students for cross-sectoral dialogue about the SDGs, specifically SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

Evidence Link: https://www.uob.edu.bh/uobs-third-water-desalination-symposium-experts-address-sustainability-and-current-trends-in-desalination/

## 9. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, and Data-Driven Decision Making through DATA'25



The University of Bahrain 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 served as a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue, bringing together researchers, data scientists, academics, industry practitioners, business professionals, technology specialists, and graduate students to exchange knowledge and discuss data-driven solutions to sustainability challenges.

The conference featured 115 scientific papers, including 38 papers authored by University of Bahrain researchers, covering emerging topics in artificial intelligence, big data analytics, health informatics, sustainable finance, cybersecurity, agriculture, climate resilience, and business innovation. Through keynote presentations, technical sessions, workshops, and research discussions, participants engaged in multi-stakeholder knowledge exchange on how data analytics and AI can support sustainable development across multiple sectors.

International expertise was provided through keynote presentations by Prof. Ali Hadi from the American University in Cairo, Dr. Saeed Sharif from the University of East London, and Dr. Risto Miikkulainen from the University of Texas at Austin. Their contributions facilitated international knowledge sharing and interdisciplinary discussions on statistical analysis, healthcare innovation, and artificial intelligence applications.

The conference also promoted dialogue on SDG-related challenges and solutions through research addressing sustainable agriculture, food security, healthcare, climate action, sustainable finance, disaster resilience, and responsible consumption. Examples included Decarbonizing Economic Growth in SAARC Countries: A Panel Data and Text Analytics Approach to Energy Transition and Net-Zero Pathways, IoT Integrated Dual-Side Water Pumping System for Sustainable Agriculture, Precision Agriculture Using ML for Irrigation and Fertilizer Optimization, Open-Source LoRa-Based Remote Transmission Unit for IoT-Enabled Flood Monitoring and Early Warning, Emerging Trends in Sustainable Finance: A Bibliometric Review Using Data Analytics and Topic Modeling, and Optimizing Food Bank Logistics: A Mixed Integer Linear Programming Approach for Efficient Humanitarian Aid Distribution. These contributions demonstrated how data analytics, artificial intelligence, and computational methods can support evidence-based solutions to sustainability challenges.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) by convening academia, professional organizations, technology experts, researchers, industry representatives, and students to facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue, stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, and collaborative approaches to sustainable development. Through interdisciplinary discussions and research dissemination, the conference promoted data-driven solutions that contribute to SDG implementation across environmental, economic, technological, and social sectors.

**Evidence Source:**

- **Evidence Link:** 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

## 10. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Islamic Finance and the Sustainable Development Goals through SIBF 2024

During the academic year 2024–2025, the University of Bahrain hosted the 4th International Conference on Sustainable Islamic Business and Finance (SIBF 2024) under the theme "Building a Prosperous Future: Aligning Islamic Values with Sustainable Development Goals." Organized by the University's Deanship of Graduate Studies and Scientific Research in partnership with AAOIFI, with support from Bahrain Islamic Bank (BisB) and technical partnership from IEEE, the conference created a multi-stakeholder platform for cross-sectoral dialogue among academia, financial



institutions, professional and standards-setting organizations, sustainability practitioners, and industry stakeholders.

The conference engaged 200 participants and featured 61 accepted research papers, including 33 University of Bahrain papers, alongside keynote addresses, technical sessions, and a dedicated panel on integrating Maqasid al-Shariah and sustainability principles into Islamic finance. These activities facilitated stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange on sustainable finance, ESG, financial inclusion, green finance, circular economy, renewable energy, poverty alleviation, governance, regulatory frameworks, responsible investment, and sustainable economic development.

The proceedings demonstrate that these discussions were directly connected to sustainable development challenges. UOB-supported research on Maqasid Al-Shariah and Green Finance connected Islamic finance with SDGs 7, 11, 12, and 13 and examined regulatory support and green financial instruments across multiple international contexts. Research on Green Finance for Sustainable Development Policy examined approaches across the MENA and GCC regions and highlighted standardization, access to green finance, public-private partnerships, ESG reporting, and transparency as important elements of sustainable finance policy. UOB research on ESG and Sharia compliance analyzed 2,086 research abstracts to identify relationships among environmental responsibility, social responsibility, governance, sustainable investment, and Sharia-compliant finance, generating insights relevant to policymakers, investors, and organizations.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) by convening academia, financial institutions, professional and standards-setting organizations, sustainability experts, and industry stakeholders for cross-sectoral dialogue, multi-stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, and collaborative approaches to sustainable and inclusive development, with particular connections to sustainable finance, responsible investment, climate action, financial inclusion, and governance.

**Evidence Source:**

- **Evidence Link:** 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

## 11. University of Bahrain Participates in GCC Dialogue on Higher Education, Research, and Sustainable Development

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



The meeting brought together presidents and senior leaders of universities and higher education institutions from across the GCC, providing a regional platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue, knowledge exchange, and institutional cooperation. Discussions addressed shared priorities and challenges in higher education and scientific research, including digital transformation, cybersecurity, entrepreneurship, institutional efficiency, and the quality of university outcomes.

University of Bahrain's participation contributed to dialogue among regional higher education institutions on strengthening cooperation, coordinating Gulf efforts, and developing collaborative responses to common educational, technological, and research priorities. These discussions support sustainable institutional development and reinforce the role of higher education and scientific research in advancing regional progress.

This participation supports Indicator 17.2.2 by demonstrating the University of Bahrain's active involvement in regional cross-institutional dialogue, stakeholder engagement, and knowledge exchange on higher education, research, innovation, and sustainable development. The meeting strengthened dialogue among GCC higher education leaders and promoted coordinated regional approaches to shared development challenges.

**Evidence source:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-president-participates-in-the-28th-meeting-of-the-committee-of-presidents-and-directors-of-universities-and-higher-education-institutions-in-the-gcc-countries/

## 12. Academic and Professional Knowledge Exchange on Artificial Intelligence and Translation




On 30 September 2025, the College of Arts at the University of Bahrain organized a symposium on "Translation and Artificial Intelligence: Challenges and Potential Applications in Humanities in the 21st Century," bringing together university academics and a professional writer and translator to exchange expertise on emerging developments in translation. The symposium facilitated dialogue between academic specialists and a practitioner, addressing the opportunities and limitations of artificial intelligence, human translation approaches, and the growing role of large language models in the translation field. This engagement demonstrates collaboration between academic and professional perspectives, supporting knowledge exchange and strengthening connections between higher education and professional practice.

**Evidence Link:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-marks-international-translation-day-with-symposium-on-ai-challenges/

## 13. Strengthening Academic and Research Partnerships Through Renewed Collaboration with RCSI Medical University of Bahrain – September 2025



On 22 September 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB) and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) – Medical University of Bahrain reaffirmed their long-standing partnership and explored opportunities to expand joint academic and research initiatives. The high-level meeting focused on renewing their Memorandum of Understanding and identifying areas for future cooperation, including collaborative research, specialized training in General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Good Clinical Practice (GCP), digitalization, positive psychology, and mental health.

Institutions also explored interdisciplinary collaboration connecting information technology, engineering, nursing, and medical sciences. By strengthening cooperation, sharing expertise, and identifying joint initiatives, the partnership aims to support knowledge exchange, develop human capital, and contribute to Bahrain's academic and research priorities in alignment with Bahrain Vision 2030.

**Evidence Link:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/60277/

## 14. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Innovation, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of Higher Education



In September 2025, the University of Bahrain's Unit for Teaching Excellence and Leadership (UTEL) organized the Symposium on Pedagogical Innovations for Sustaining Excellence in Higher Education (PISEH 2025), providing a multi-stakeholder platform for cross-sectoral dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration on innovative, inclusive, and sustainable approaches to higher education.



The symposium brought together representatives from higher education, international professional organizations, educational technology, workforce development, academics, educators, researchers, and students. External and international contributors were associated with Advance HE in the United Kingdom, Dhofar University in Oman, University of Birmingham Dubai, General Assembly Bahrain, and Skills Bahrain, alongside University of Bahrain academics and student representatives.

A key component was the pane l "Navigating Change in Higher Education: A Panel on AI-Driven Innovations and Their Impact on Student Engagement and Learning Outcomes," which enabled experts, educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders to exchange perspectives on artificial intelligence, technology integration, changing student expectations, and policies shaping the future of higher education.

The wider program addressed student engagement, inclusive education, innovative assessment, educational technology, sustainability, social responsibility, and sustainable teaching practices, including approaches integrating environmental, social, and economic sustainability into higher education.

This initiative advances SDG 17, Target 17.2.2: the University of Bahrain initiated and hosted a symposium that convened higher education institutions, an international professional organization (Advance HE), a national initiative of the public authority Tamkeen (Skills Bahrain), educational technology and workforce-development providers, and students for cross-sectoral dialogue about the SDGs, specifically SDG 4 (Quality Education).

**Evidence Source:**

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

## 15. PetroBarza 2: University of Bahrain Students Promote Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Energy and Innovation




In April 2025, students from the University of Bahrain's Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Student Chapter participated in PetroBarza 2, an international exhibition and knowledge-sharing platform hosted in the Sultanate of Oman. The event brought together students, academics, industry professionals, and energy-sector stakeholders from Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, India, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Russia, Argentina, Austria, and other countries to discuss emerging developments in the oil and gas industry.

Representing the University of Bahrain, students Ahmed Aljar and Mohamed Almesaideen participated in technical workshops, scientific discussions, and networking activities that explored new technologies, innovation, and future opportunities within the energy sector. The exhibition also showcased country-specific perspectives on the oil and gas industry, including technological advancements in exploration, drilling, production, and sustainable energy development.




PetroBarza 2 served as a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue and international knowledge exchange, bringing together higher education institutions, industry experts, engineering professionals, and future energy leaders to discuss common challenges and opportunities facing the global energy sector. Through technical sessions, expert-led discussions, and collaborative activities, participants exchanged perspectives on innovation, technology adoption, workforce development, and sustainable approaches to energy production.

The event strengthened regional and international collaboration while fostering engagement between academia and industry. By facilitating interaction among students, researchers, professionals, and energy companies from multiple countries, PetroBarza 2 promoted the exchange of ideas and collaborative approaches that support sustainable development within the energy sector.




This initiative supports Indicator 17.2.2 by enabling cross-sectoral dialogue among universities, industry representatives, technical experts, and international stakeholders. Through workshops, scientific discussions, and knowledge-sharing activities, the event promoted stakeholder engagement, international collaboration, and the exchange of innovative approaches that contribute to sustainable development and the advancement of the energy sector.

**Evidence Source:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-students-represent-spe-uob-at-petrobarza-2-in-oman/

## 16. GOTECH 2025: University of Bahrain Students Engage in Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Energy Solutions



In April 2025, students from the University of Bahrain's Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Student Chapter participated in GOTECH 2025, the 7th Gas & Oil Technology Showcase and Conference, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, under the theme "Towards a Digital and Sustainable Future of Energy."
Representing the University of Bahrain, Mohamed Jamal, Zaid, Zuhra Zakariya, and Esra Reyadh engaged with international energy professionals, researchers, academics, industry leaders, and technology experts through technical sessions, panel discussions, and networking activities focused on innovation, digital transformation, and sustainable energy solutions.

The conference provided a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue and knowledge exchange, bringing together stakeholders from academia, industry, and professional organizations to discuss challenges and opportunities facing the global energy sector. Participants explored innovative approaches to sustainability, workforce development, and emerging technologies that support the transition toward a more sustainable energy future.






This initiative supports Indicator 17.2.2 by facilitating cross-sectoral dialogue among universities, industry leaders, researchers, and energy professionals. Through international discussions and knowledge-sharing activities, the conference promoted stakeholder engagement, collaboration, and the exchange of innovative solutions that contribute to sustainable development and the future of energy.

**Evidence URL:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-students-participate-in-gotech-2025-in-dubai/

## 17. AIChE UOB Facilitates Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Clean Fuels and Decarbonization

In November 2025, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Student Chapter at the University of Bahrain organized a talk entitled "Clean Fuels and Decarbonization: An Overview and Global Scenarios", presented by Dr. Sai P. Katikaneni, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at BITS Pilani Dubai.




The session brought together students, faculty members, and academic experts to discuss global trends in clean fuels, decarbonization strategies, and sustainable energy solutions. Participants explored international approaches to reducing carbon emissions, advancing low-carbon technologies, and accelerating the transition toward a more sustainable energy future.

The event provided a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue and knowledge exchange on sustainability challenges, enabling interaction between higher education and industry-relevant expertise. Through discussions on energy transition, climate action, innovation, and sustainable development, participants exchanged perspectives on emerging technologies and their role in achieving global sustainability objectives.




This initiative supports Indicator 17.2.2 by promoting cross-sectoral dialogue between academia and international experts on sustainable development challenges. Through knowledge-sharing and discussion of clean energy and decarbonization pathways, the event facilitated stakeholder engagement, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas that contribute to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Evidence Source:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/aiche-uob-hosts-expert-talk-on-clean-fuels-and-global-decarbonization/

## 18. UOB and IMF Facilitate Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Regional Economic Development




In November 2025, the University of Bahrain organized an exclusive session on the Middle East and Central Asia Regional Economic Outlook in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The session brought together IMF economists, University faculty members, and students to discuss regional economic trends, sustainable growth prospects, development challenges, and policy priorities shaping the future of the region.




The event featured senior experts from the IMF's Middle East and Central Asia Department, including John Bluedorn, Deputy Division Chief and Mission Chief for the Kingdom of Bahrain, Yipei Zhang, Economist in the Regional Analytics and Strategy Division, and senior economists Fabio Comelli and Jeong Dae Lee. The speakers shared international perspectives on economic resilience, inflation, fiscal sustainability, financial stability, digital transformation, development policy, SDG investment needs, and climate-related economic challenges.




The session provided a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue and knowledge exchange between higher education and a leading international financial institution. Through expert presentations and moderated discussions, participants explored regional growth forecasts, economic recovery strategies, geopolitical risks, oil price volatility, fiscal buffers, and institutional resilience. The event enabled students and academics to engage directly with policymakers and international economists working on development issues across the Middle East, Central Asia, Africa, and the wider global economy.

The discussion was moderated by Dr. Hana Bawazir, Assistant Professor of Banking and Finance at the University of Bahrain, and encouraged engagement between academia and international experts on issues related to sustainable economic development, public policy, and long-term regional prosperity.

This initiative supports Indicator 17.2.2 by facilitating cross-sectoral dialogue between higher education and the International Monetary Fund. Through the participation of international economists, policy specialists, researchers, faculty members, and students, the session promoted stakeholder engagement, knowledge sharing, and discussion of sustainable development

challenges, economic resilience, fiscal policy, SDG investment priorities, and inclusive growth strategies.

**Evidence Source:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-hosts-exclusive-imf-session-on-regional-economic-outlook/

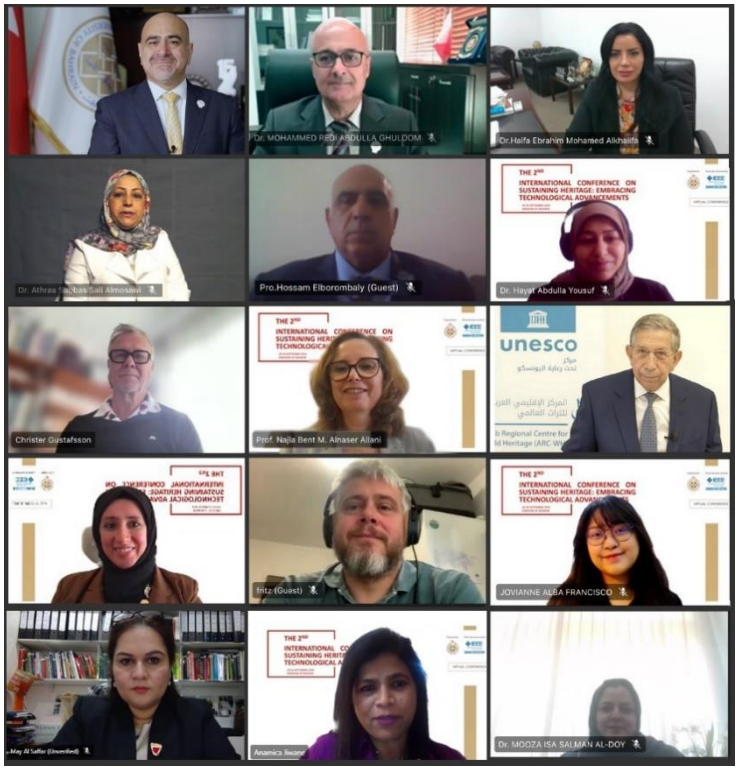
## 19. International Academic Cooperation and Cultural Exchange – Russian Federation



During the academic year 2024-2025, the University of Bahrain participated in an official delegation visit to the Russian Federation aimed at strengthening academic and cultural relations between higher education institutions and exchanging good practices in student affairs and extracurricular activities. The program was organized based on recommendations from the Committee of Deans of Student Affairs at GCC universities and provided opportunities for international engagement, institutional relationship-building, and the exchange of experiences in student development. This initiative reflects UOB's commitment to fostering international academic cooperation and building relationships that can support continued knowledge exchange and collaboration across higher education communities.

Evidence Link: https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-delegation-participates-in-cultural-and-social-programs-in-the-russian-federation/

## 20. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Technology-Driven Solutions for Sustainable Heritage




During the academic year 2024 -2025, the University of Bahrain, in collaboration with the College of Engineering and with support from IEEE Bahrain, organized the 2nd International Conference on Sustaining Heritage online under the theme "Embracing Technological Advancements." The conference brought together international academics, researchers, heritage specialists, technology experts, and professional organizations to discuss innovative digital solutions for preserving both tangible and intangible cultural heritage and advancing sustainable development.

The conference discussed 23 scientific papers across four tracks: reimagining urban heritage through digital interventions, advancements in digital archaeology and heritage conservation, digital transformation to represent intangible heritage, and sustainable solutions for cultural heritage management. Speakers came from Uppsala University (Sweden), Ain Shams University (Egypt), and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), and presented:

- "The Multidimensional Implications of Cultural Heritage through Regional Development and Circular Economy"
- "Smart Predictive Maintenance of Heritage Construction and Methodologies"
- Heritage conservation concepts, their history, types, and development

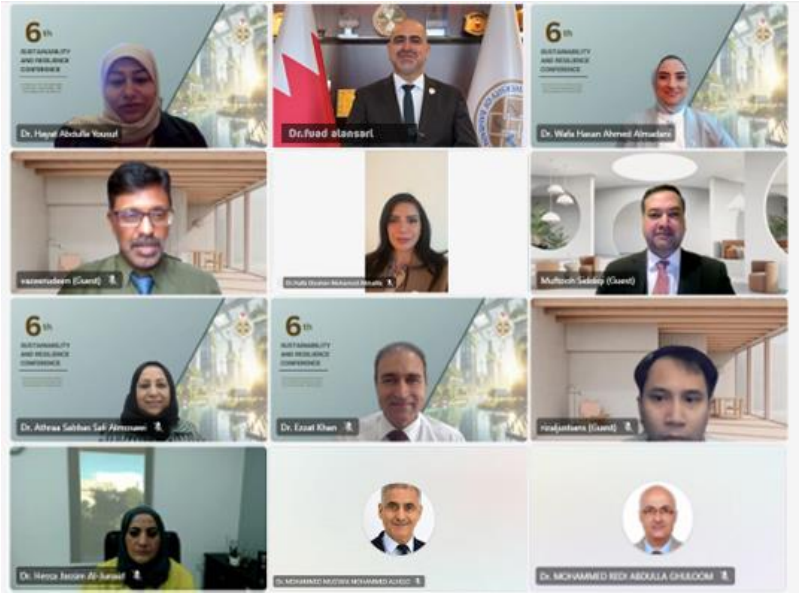
The participation of ARC-WH strengthened international knowledge exchange on heritage sustainability, and the conference reinforced partnerships among academia, professional organizations, researchers, and practitioners in developing technology-driven solutions for heritage preservation.

This initiative advances SDG 17, Target 17.2.2: the University of Bahrain initiated and hosted an international conference that convened universities from three countries, a regional heritage center (ARC-WH), and a professional body (IEEE Bahrain) for cross-sectoral dialogue about the SDGs, specifically SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), including Target 11.4 on safeguarding cultural heritage.

**Evidence Sources:**

- **Evidence Link:** 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**

## 21. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainability and Resilience



The University of Bahrain hosted the 6th Sustainability and Resilience Conference (SRC'24) in December 2024 under the theme *"Integration of Nature-Based Solutions in Industrial and Developmental Transitions."* The conference created a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue and multi-stakeholder engagement among universities, industry, research centers, professional organizations, sustainability specialists, and international researchers. The conference engaged 127 attendees and featured 25 accepted research papers, including 11 papers from the University of Bahrain, demonstrating the scale of stakeholder participation and research-based knowledge exchange on sustainability and resilience.

The program connected stakeholders from Bapco Energies, Aluminium Bahrain (ALBA), IEEE Bahrain, Darasat, Aston University, the University of Oklahoma, King Abdulaziz University, and the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, among other academic and professional participants. Seven conference tracks addressed ecosystem and biodiversity-based solutions, renewable energy, industrial symbiosis and circular economy, water management, climate adaptation and mitigation, green policy and financing, and innovative technologies for nature-based solutions.

The conference published 25 research papers with authors from 13 countries, strengthening international knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary dialogue on practical sustainability challenges. Research addressed comparative green-roof applications in Bahrain and Singapore; renewable-energy solutions for clean-water production; circular approaches to industrial and agricultural waste; environmental monitoring; sustainable urban regeneration; and clean technologies. The program also demonstrated direct industry-academia collaboration, including research co-authored by ALBA and University of Bahrain researchers on microfluidic carbon-

capture technology, reporting $CO_2$ removal efficiency exceeding 99.99% under the study's optimal conditions.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) by facilitating cross-sectoral dialogue, stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, industry-academia collaboration, and multi-stakeholder approaches to sustainability and resilience, with direct relevance to SDGs 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, and 15.

**Evidence Sources:**

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

## 22. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Youth Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Sustainable Economic Development



In October 2024, the University of Bahrain hosted the sixth Youth Entrepreneurship Forum, “Micro Shabab,” from 1 to 3 October at the Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Hall on its Sakhir campus. Organized by the Future Society for Youth in coordination with the Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Initiatives Office, the forum brought together representatives of government, civil society, academia, entrepreneurship, and investment to exchange knowledge and explore approaches to youth empowerment, innovation, and sustainable economic development.




Held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the forum featured the participation of the University’s President, Dr. Fuad Mohammed Al Ansari, and the President of the Future Society for Youth, Mr. Sabah Abdulrahman Al-Zayani. Discussions and sessions addressed entrepreneurial leadership, business planning, financial management for small enterprises, business identity development, access to financing, entrepreneurial success stories, and the use of artificial intelligence in entrepreneurship and social media.

The program provided a platform for young entrepreneurs and graduates to engage with experts and investors, exchange practical experiences, and explore opportunities for business creation and enterprise development. By hosting this multi-stakeholder forum, the University supported dialogue and knowledge exchange among participants from different societal sectors on issues connected to sustainable economic development, youth opportunities, and innovation.



The initiative is relevant to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, through cross-sectoral engagement, and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, through its focus on entrepreneurship, small-enterprise development, and economic opportunities for young people.

**Evidence Link:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/46900/

## 23. Climate Justice and International Cooperation: A Lecture on Global Climate Change



In December 2024, the University of Bahrain's College of Law hosted a lecture by Mr. Yves Gounin, legal adviser to the French Conseil d'État, on the challenges of global climate change and climate justice. The lecture examined the growing impact of climate change on developing countries and highlighted the importance of international cooperation in addressing its consequences.

The discussion emphasized the need for coordinated action between developed and developing countries to reduce carbon emissions, a major driver of climate change, and to strengthen international responses to climate-related challenges. By bringing an international legal perspective to climate justice, the lecture provided an academic platform for examining global environmental challenges and the role of international cooperation in addressing them.

The initiative is relevant to SDG 13: Climate Action and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, particularly in relation to international cooperation on climate-related challenges. It support THE Impact Rankings Indicator 17.2.2 where supporting evidence confirms cross-sectoral dialogue about the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Evidence Link:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/yves-gounin-discusses-climate-change-with-uob-law-faculty/

# 24. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Digital Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Development through 3ICT 2025






The University of Bahrain hosted the 8th International Conference on Innovation and Intelligence for Informatics, Computing, and Technologies (3ICT 2025) from November 17–19, 2025. Organized by the College of Information Technology, the conference created an international platform connecting researchers, academics, industry practitioners, technology leaders, and professional experts for cross-sectoral dialogue, stakeholder engagement, and knowledge exchange on computing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, FinTech, smart cities, Internet of Things, big data, e-government, healthcare, education, and sustainable technologies.

The conference featured 137 research papers, including 29 University of Bahrain papers. Its academia-industry dimension was reinforced by keynote contributions from Abubakar Mohamed, CTO of Beyon Cyber, Dr. Durgesh Pandey, Honorary Professor at the University of Portsmouth and forensic-governance specialist, Prof. Kevin Curran of Ulster University, and Dr. Ramzi A. Haraty of Lebanese American University. The keynote program connected expertise from cybersecurity industry, academia, professional computing bodies, governance, and digital regulation.

The conference program provided particularly strong SDG-related dialogue. A dedicated Smart and Sustainable Systems session addressed sustainable agriculture, resource-efficient technologies, smart-city applications, and public safety, while other sessions examined smart cities, AI-enabled energy management, food-waste forecasting for sustainable resource planning, financial inclusion, healthcare innovation, responsible AI, sustainable transportation, and e-government. One study specifically evaluated IoT-enabled waste-management solutions for advancing SDGs 6 and 11, identifying technological, community, infrastructure, and policy considerations.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) by convening academia, industry, technology professionals, governance specialists, and international researchers for cross-sectoral dialogue, multi-stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, and collaborative approaches to technological solutions for sustainable economic, environmental, and social development.

**Evidence Sources:**

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

## 25. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Smart, Sustainable, and Resilient Cities through the 8th IET Smart Cities Symposium

The University of Bahrain, in collaboration with the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), hosted the 8th IET Smart Cities Symposium During the academic year 2024-2025, as a hybrid international event. The symposium was explicitly designed as a platform for dialogue among academics, decision-makers, researchers, practitioners, real-estate developers, investors, policymakers, industry, and international experts to explore innovative solutions for green and smart cities.



The symposium engaged 310 attendees and featured 155 accepted papers, including 29 University of Bahrain papers. Its multi-stakeholder program connected higher education and professional engineering networks with industry and practitioners through international keynotes, technical sessions, and research exchange on sustainable energy, smart transportation, healthcare, environmental monitoring, water management, urban planning, cybersecurity, and intelligent urban infrastructure.

Keynote topics included printable sensors and energy harvesting for sustainable smart cities, AI and electric mobility, smart-city solutions for Small Island Developing States, intelligent traffic management, AI-enabled healthcare, and secure digital infrastructure. The wider program addressed solar-powered water-quality monitoring, urban water optimization, climate-change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable transportation, renewable energy integration, energy-positive buildings, e-waste management, air-pollution monitoring, urban greening, inclusive public spaces, and sustainable urban design.

The program also demonstrated direct academia-industry-government engagement. UOB researchers collaborated with Bahrain's Electricity and Water Authority on research investigating the impact of electric-vehicle integration on Bahrain's distribution network, while another session included a co-author from the Jeddah Development Authority in comparative smart-city infrastructure research.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) by facilitating cross-sectoral dialogue, multi-stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, international collaboration, and academia-industry-policy engagement around sustainable urban development, with strong relevance to SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 13.

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

## 26. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue with WHO, Government, and Academia to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance



In August 2025, the University of Bahrain participated in a regional roundtable organized by the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and the WHO Country Office in Bahrain to strengthen health-workforce education and training in response to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The roundtable brought together physicians, academics, health practitioners, policymakers, government representatives, and national, regional, and international health institutions, with UOB contributing as a partner in health-professions education.



The roundtable created a structured platform for cross-sectoral dialogue, multi-stakeholder engagement, policy dialogue, and knowledge exchange between academia, government, international health organizations, healthcare institutions, and policymakers. Participants identified key AMR challenges affecting Bahrain and the wider region and reviewed the WHO Competency Framework for Health Workers' Education and Training on AMR and WHO guidance for curriculum evaluation.

The dialogue resulted in three shared 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, connecting stakeholder dialogue with existing national and regional health strategies.

The initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) by convening government, academia, WHO, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and regional stakeholders for cross-sectoral dialogue, stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, collaborative priority

setting, and coordinated approaches to a shared public-health challenge. It directly supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) through collaboration on AMR prevention, health-workforce capacity, professional education, and research.

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

## 27. Cross-Sectoral Public Health Dialogue with Government, WHO, and Regional Health Experts




On November 6–7, 2025, the University of Bahrain participated in the Bahrain International Public Health Conference and Exhibition, organized by Bahrain's Ministry of Health under the theme "Public Health in a Changing World: Resilience, Innovation, and Equity." The conference brought together policymakers, researchers, healthcare practitioners, government health institutions, and regional and international health experts, including WHO leadership, creating a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue and multi-stakeholder engagement on shared public-health challenges.




The conference featured more than 50 lectures and workshops addressing public-health priorities. The University of Bahrain contributed directly through Dr. Leena Khonji, Dean of the College of Health and Sport Sciences and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Development, who co-moderated a major session on noncommunicable diseases, mental health, and oral healthcare. The session brought together expertise from Bahrain and Saudi Arabia to discuss prevention and management approaches related to chronic diseases, obesity, oral health, and mental-health services.

Through its active role, UOB contributed academic and health-professions expertise to knowledge exchange, stakeholder dialogue, and collaborative approaches involving the Ministry of Health, the Supreme Council of Health, WHO representation, researchers, and healthcare practitioners.

The conference connected academic knowledge with national and regional public-health practice, strengthening cooperation around resilient and equitable health systems.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) by convening government, academia, WHO, healthcare institutions, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners for cross-sectoral dialogue, stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, and collaborative approaches to public-health priorities. It directly supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) through dialogue on disease prevention, mental health, oral health, chronic-disease management, health-system resilience, and equitable healthcare.

**Evidence and links**

- https://www.moh.gov.bh/News/Details/5793?lang=en
- https://epinews.emphnet.net/en/news/bahrain-international-public-health-conference-concludes-with-wide-expert-participation
- https://www.emro.who.int/media/news/keynote-speech-by-dr-hanan-balkhy-who-regional-director-for-the-eastern-mediterranean-at-the-bahrain-international-public-health-conference-and-exhibition.html

## 28. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on AI-Enabled Health Education and Healthcare Practice




In December 2025, the University of Bahrain organized the “Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Education and Practice” Forum, bringing together local and international expertise from healthcare, artificial intelligence, clinical simulation, academia, professional organizations, and industry to discuss how emerging technologies can strengthen health education and healthcare practice.

The forum created a structured platform for cross-sectoral dialogue, multi-stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Participants included experts from the HH Shaikh Nasser Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Centre, Gaumard Scientific, University of Greenwich, Association for Simulated Practice in Healthcare (ASPiH), Arabian Gulf University, and UOB’s Colleges of Health and Sport Sciences and Information Technology. A dedicated scientific session examined the opportunities and challenges

of using AI in health training and clinical simulation, connecting health, technology, education, and industry perspectives.

The dialogue generated shared recommendations to develop students' AI competencies, strengthen the integration of AI into health education, and expand cooperation between the health, technology, and industry sectors. Discussions also addressed clinical simulation, AI, virtual reality, and technology-enabled approaches for preparing future healthcare professionals.



This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) through cross-sectoral dialogue, stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, collaborative priority setting, and health-technology-industry cooperation. It supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) through stronger healthcare-workforce preparation, SDG 4 (Quality Education) through innovative and technology-enabled health education, and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through the integration of emerging technologies into healthcare education and practice.

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

## 29. Regional Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Leadership and Governance in Health-Professions Education






In February 2025, the University of Bahrain participated in a regional workshop in Kuwait on leadership and governance in health-professions education, organized by the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean in collaboration with the Kuwait Medical Association and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). The workshop brought together leaders of health-professions education institutions from across the Eastern Mediterranean Region,

creating a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue, regional stakeholder engagement, and knowledge exchange on strengthening health-professions education.

Representing UOB, Dr. Leena Mohammad Khonji, Dean of the College of Health and Sport Sciences and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Development, presented Bahrain's experience in developing its nursing education sector and advancing the nursing profession regionally. UOB's contribution brought Bahrain's academic and professional experience into a wider regional dialogue involving an international health organization, professional organizations, and health-professions education institutions.

The workshop enabled participating institutions and professional stakeholders to exchange experiences on leadership, governance, nursing education, health-workforce development, and educational approaches across different national and institutional contexts. By contributing Bahrain's nursing-education experience, UOB supported regional dialogue, professional knowledge exchange, shared learning, and collaborative approaches to strengthening the quality and governance of health-professions education.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) by bringing together WHO, professional organizations, higher education institutions, and regional health-professions leaders for structured cross-sectoral dialogue, multi-stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, and regional collaboration. It directly supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) through health-workforce and nursing development and SDG 4 (Quality Education) through regional dialogue on the leadership, governance, and quality of health-professions education.

## Evidence Sources:

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

## 30. Collaboration on Obesity Prevention and Preventive Health Education with Arabian Gulf University



In May 2025, the University of Bahrain's College of Health and Sport Sciences collaborated with Arabian Gulf University to deliver a Weight Loss Awareness Campaign for schools and universities, addressing obesity and associated noncommunicable-disease risks through preventive health education, screening, and personalized counseling.

The initiative created a practical platform for inter-university collaboration, knowledge exchange, student engagement, and health-professions cooperation around a shared sustainable-development challenge.

UOB students provided free blood-glucose and blood-pressure screening and used the results as a basis for individualized counseling on weight management, healthy lifestyles, and preventive health practices.

The campaign combined health education with direct screening and counseling, enabling students to translate academic and clinical knowledge into community-facing practice. Its focus on obesity prevention, healthier lifestyles, and early identification of health risks contributed directly to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), particularly the prevention of noncommunicable diseases. The involvement of students also strengthened experiential health education and professional competency development, supporting SDG 4 (Quality Education).

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) through institutional collaboration, knowledge exchange, stakeholder engagement, health-professions cooperation, and collaborative approaches to obesity prevention and community health promotion.

**Evidence Sources**

- **University of Bahrain: Weight Loss Awareness Campaign**
- **Supporting UOB social media evidence**

## 31. Government-University Collaboration on Multiple Sclerosis Awareness and Health Education

In April, 2025, the University of Bahrain collaborated with the Training and Development Department of Government Hospitals to deliver a public awareness initiative on multiple sclerosis (MS) at the University's Sakhir campus. The activity brought together academic expertise, government healthcare professionals, students, and people with lived experience of MS, creating a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue, health knowledge exchange, and stakeholder engagement around a significant neurological health condition.




The program combined scientific and community perspectives through lectures explaining the causes, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of multiple sclerosis, alongside interactive activities, an awareness exhibition, and a documentary. The involvement of healthcare experts supported the dissemination of evidence-based health information, while participation from UOB students living with MS added lived experience to the educational dialogue.

By integrating academic knowledge, healthcare expertise, and patient experience, the collaboration strengthened public understanding of multiple sclerosis beyond clinical settings. The initiative also demonstrated how partnerships between universities and public healthcare institutions can support health literacy, reduce misconceptions, and strengthen awareness of chronic health conditions.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) through government-university collaboration, stakeholder engagement, health-sector knowledge exchange, interdisciplinary dialogue, and collaborative health education. It directly supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by increasing awareness of multiple sclerosis, its symptoms and treatment, and strengthening health literacy and understanding of neurological conditions.

**Evidence Sources**

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

## 32. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Disability Inclusion, Inclusive Sport, and Equal Participation



During the 2024–2025 academic year, the University of Bahrain strengthened its collaboration with Special Olympics Bahrain through the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools initiative, creating a structured platform that brought together university students, athletes with intellectual disabilities, community participants, academic staff, and inclusive-sport partners to promote dialogue on disability inclusion, equal participation, health, and the right to participate in sport. The collaboration was implemented through a dedicated UOB committee and an approved annual program of inclusive activities.

A key activity was the International Day of Inclusion on December 1, 2025, organized by UOB's Department of Physical Education in cooperation with Special Olympics Bahrain. The program combined awareness, lived experience, inclusive education, volunteering, and adapted sport. During the lecture "Will and Leadership: From Inspiration to Change," athletes with disabilities shared their sporting experiences directly with students enrolled in Physical Education for People with Special Needs, while a UOB student also shared personal experience of living with a hearing impairment and pursuing sporting ambitions.





The dialogue was complemented by practical engagement in the University sports hall, where Physical Education students volunteered at inclusive activity stations and supported community participants in adapted movement activities. This created a direct exchange between academic learning, student volunteering, lived experience, community participation, and inclusive-sport practice.

Importantly, this engagement formed part of a sustained program rather than a single awareness event. Under the approved Unified Champion Schools plan, UOB delivered four inclusive activities between October and December 2025, engaging 317 participants across Community Inclusion Day, Unified 3×3 Basketball, the "Will and Leadership" event, and the Unified Basketball League. These activities connected UOB students with athletes with intellectual

disabilities and community partners through recurring dialogue, volunteering, and inclusive participation.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) by enabling multi-stakeholder dialogue, stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, lived-experience sharing, community participation, and collaborative approaches to disability inclusion. It directly supports SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by promoting equal participation and reducing barriers for people with disabilities, while contributing to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) through inclusive physical activity and SDG 4 (Quality Education) through experiential learning and disability-inclusive education.

**Supporting evidence**

- UOB Hosts Sports Festival for People of Determination
- Special Olympics Bahrain

## 33. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance and Legal Innovation

The University of Bahrain hosted its Third International Conference on "Legal Challenges of Artificial Intelligence Technology" on April 23–24, 2025, bringing together academics, legal experts, representatives of judicial and public prosecution bodies, AI research organizations, students, and specialists in law and emerging technologies. The conference created a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue on the legal, ethical, regulatory, and societal implications of artificial intelligence and its role in sustainable technological development.



The conference featured a keynote presentation by Dr. Jassim Haji Jassim, Executive Advisor for the His Highness Shaikh Nasser Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Centre and Chairman of the Global Group for Artificial Intelligence. Through expert discussions, specialized workshops, and the presentation of 22 research papers, including three papers from the University of Bahrain, participants exchanged knowledge and perspectives on AI



governance, legal accountability, human rights protections, blockchain regulation, judicial innovation, and emerging regulatory challenges.

The event facilitated multi-stakeholder engagement among higher education institutions, judicial authorities, public-sector entities, legal professionals, AI experts, and research organizations. Discussions examined the adequacy of existing legislative frameworks, explored regulatory and judicial approaches to responsible AI adoption, and reviewed international experiences relevant to the governance of advanced technologies. Participants also addressed challenges related to AI-generated content, self-driving vehicles, blockchain-based contracts, criminal investigations, and the use of AI in public administration and judicial systems.

The conference concluded with recommendations supporting comprehensive legal and ethical frameworks for artificial intelligence, greater international cooperation on technology governance, strengthened regulatory approaches for high-risk AI systems, and enhanced collaboration between academic institutions, legal bodies, and technology organizations.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) by convening academia, judicial institutions, public-sector representatives, AI research organizations, legal experts, and technology stakeholders to facilitate stakeholder dialogue, knowledge exchange, policy discussions, and collaborative approaches to responsible AI governance and sustainable technological development.

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

## 34. University of Bahrain Participates in ADIPEC 2024 Hosted by ADNOC to Promote Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Development







During the academic year 2024–2025, the University of Bahrain, through its Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Student Chapter, participated in ADIPEC 2024, hosted by ADNOC in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates.




Representing the University of Bahrain SPE Student Chapter and the SPE Bahrain Section, students Salman AlMahmood, Raghad Nasser, and Maya Owais participated in the prestigious international event, engaging with global energy leaders, government representatives, industry experts, researchers, professional associations, and academic institutions from around the world.

ADIPEC provided a significant platform for cross-sectoral dialogue and multi-stakeholder engagement on sustainable development priorities within the global energy sector. Through technical sessions, panel discussions, industry forums, and networking activities, participants exchanged perspectives on energy transition, innovation, sustainability, workforce development, and responsible resource management.

These discussions promoted collaboration between academia, industry, and public-sector stakeholders to address challenges linked to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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









## 35. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Physical Literacy, Lifelong Participation, and Community Well-Being

During the 2024-2025 academic year, the University of Bahrain collaborated with the Bahrain Olympic Committee and Bahrain Olympic Academy, alongside the international Sport for Life Society, to host Bahrain's first International Physical Literacy Conference. The conference created a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue, multi-stakeholder engagement, international knowledge exchange, and community participation around physical literacy, lifelong participation in sport, and community well-being.




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

The event brought together physical education teachers and coaches, national sports federations and clubs, Bahrain Olympic Academy participants, international experts from Canada and the United Kingdom, and 780 University of Bahrain students. By connecting higher education with the national sporting community, professional practitioners, international experts, and students, the conference facilitated dialogue on how physical literacy can strengthen participation in physical activity throughout life.

Dialogue was translated into practice through sessions addressing fundamental movement skills, long-term athlete development, meaningful competition, and sustained participation in sport. Practical sessions in UOB's sports hall enabled participants to apply these approaches through agility and movement exercises, team relays, reaction activities, strength challenges, and small-sided games, linking professional dialogue with experiential learning.




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

The conference concluded with further discussion among leaders and specialists from Bahrain and abroad on promoting lifelong physical activity as a means of preventing disease and enhancing community well-being, together with the launch of a book on physical literacy.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) through cross-sectoral dialogue, stakeholder engagement, international knowledge exchange, collaborative learning, and partnership-based approaches to physical activity and health. It directly supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by promoting lifelong physical activity and disease prevention and SDG 4 (Quality Education) through professional development, experiential learning, and physical-literacy education.

**Evidence Sources**

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

## 36. University of Bahrain and Arabian Gulf University Collaboration on Obesity Prevention and Healthy Lifestyles

In April 2025, the University of Bahrain, through its College of Health and Sport Sciences, collaborated with Arabian Gulf University to deliver the "Obesity and Its Risks" awareness campaign. The initiative created a collaborative platform for health dialogue, knowledge exchange, preventive health education, and stakeholder engagement focused on obesity and its impact on cardiovascular health and overall well-being.





Through this joint initiative, the University of Bahrain and Arabian Gulf University brought academic and health expertise together to address obesity as a shared public-health challenge. Participants were able to engage with health information, ask questions, and learn how practical lifestyle changes can help reduce obesity-related risks and prevent noncommunicable diseases.

The collaboration demonstrates how two higher education institutions can combine expertise to




promote health literacy, preventive action, and collaborative approaches to community health challenges. By translating academic health knowledge into accessible awareness activities, the initiative strengthened dialogue around healthier lifestyles and the prevention of obesity-related conditions.

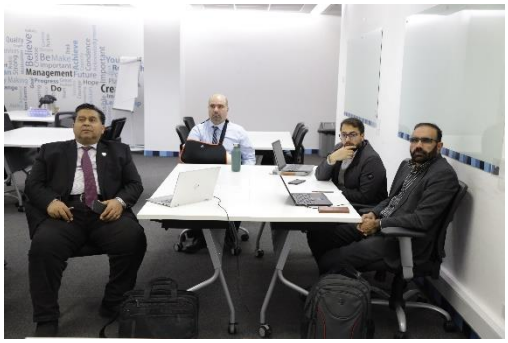
This initiative supports SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) through University of Bahrain–Arabian Gulf University collaboration, institutional knowledge exchange, stakeholder engagement, preventive-health dialogue, and collaborative approaches to an SDG-related health challenge. It directly contributes to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by promoting obesity prevention, cardiovascular-health awareness, healthier lifestyles, and the prevention of noncommunicable diseases.

**Evidence Source:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-launches-weight-loss-awareness-campaign-to-combat-obesity/

## 37. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Responsible AI Strategies for Quality Higher Education




In February 2025, the University of Bahrain's Unit for Teaching Excellence and Leadership (UTEL) organized the workshop "Artificial Intelligence Strategies for Higher Education", bringing together university faculty and staff with external expertise from Bahrain's Education and Training Quality Authority to explore the responsible and effective integration of artificial intelligence into higher education.



The workshop was led by Dr. Thajiba Ibrahim Aljowder, Head of the Information Technology Department at the Education and Training Quality Authority. Participants examined AI capabilities, effective institutional strategies, ethical AI use, operational efficiency, and challenges associated with applying artificial intelligence in higher education.

Importantly, the activity was designed as an interactive exchange rather than solely a technical presentation. Faculty and staff shared ideas and perspectives on how AI tools could respond to higher-education challenges and considered how AI strategies could be adapted and implemented according to institutional goals and professional needs. This strengthened

dialogue between higher education and Bahrain's education-quality sector around responsible digital transformation.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) through cross-sectoral dialogue, government-university engagement, knowledge exchange, stakeholder participation, collaborative learning, and discussion of responsible AI strategies for higher education. It directly supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) by strengthening faculty and institutional capacity to integrate AI into teaching and academic practice and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through responsible adoption of emerging technologies and digital innovation.

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

## 38. Multi-Institutional Dialogue on Leadership, Change, and Quality in Higher Education

The University of Bahrain and Advance HE deliver the Academic Leadership Program as an ongoing platform for leadership development, collaborative learning, and institutional engagement within Bahrain's higher education environment. The program is designed for Heads of Academic Departments, Section Heads, and Professional Service Leaders and focuses on leading change through collaboration, influence, engagement, and adaptive leadership.



The program creates a structured environment for multi-institutional dialogue and knowledge exchange. Graduates include academic and professional leaders from the University of Bahrain, Royal Academy of Police, Royal University for Women, RCSI Bahrain, Applied Science University, and Gulf University, connecting public-sector, academic, health-education, and private higher education perspectives.




Participants discuss the leadership challenges associated with their institutional roles, examine different leadership models, identify learning and teaching problems, and work with colleagues to develop potential solutions. Program outcomes specifically require participants to share leadership experiences, identify current challenges, and collaboratively solve problems, turning professional dialogue into practical institutional learning.

The program also promotes dialogue on inclusive leadership, psychological safety, high-performing teams, systems thinking, stakeholder engagement, and institutional change, providing participants with opportunities to compare experiences and approaches across different organizational contexts. These themes directly support the development of stronger higher education institutions and leadership communities.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) through multi-institutional dialogue, stakeholder engagement, collaborative learning, knowledge exchange, peer interaction, and joint problem-solving around higher education quality and institutional development. It contributes particularly to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by strengthening academic leadership and institutional capacity across Bahrain's higher education sector.

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

## 39. Academia–Industry Dialogue on Financial Services Skills and Future Workforce Development





The University of Bahrain's Career Guidance Office organized the session “Envisioning the Future of the Financial Services Sector in Bahrain and the Skills Required in the Labor Market,” bringing students together with leadership and expertise from Bahrain's economic-development and financial-services sectors.

The session provided a platform for academia–industry dialogue, stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, and labor-market alignment. Participants explored the skills and university disciplines required by the banking and financial-services sector at both local and international levels, helping students better understand how academic preparation connects with changing workforce requirements.

The discussion also addressed the development of Bahrain's financial-services sector, including opportunities arising from the attraction of international companies and banks to the Kingdom. Students gained direct exposure to sector expectations, professional skills, employment pathways, and emerging opportunities across one of Bahrain's important economic sectors.

By connecting students and higher education with external financial-sector and economic-development expertise, the initiative strengthened dialogue around graduate employability, workforce preparedness, skills development, and education-to-employment pathways.

This initiative provides supporting evidence for SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) through academia–industry dialogue, stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, skills alignment, and collaborative discussion of future workforce needs. It directly supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) by helping align student skills and academic preparation with labor-market needs and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through employability, career development, and preparation for opportunities in Bahrain's banking and financial-services sector.

**Evidence Source:** https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-students-explore-the-future-of-bahrains-banking-financial-services-sector/

## 40. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Women's Participation and Leadership in Technology

In April, 2025, the University of Bahrain partnered with AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation, ISACA Bahrain Chapter, and the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) to support the *"Women in Tech"* learning event, bringing together higher education, a philanthropic organization, a professional technology body, and a financial training institution to promote women's participation and professional development in the technology sector.




The event provided a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue, multi-stakeholder engagement, professional knowledge exchange, and collaborative learning around women's experiences, opportunities, and leadership in technology. The program combined the session *"The Sky Wasn't the Limit"* with the panel discussion *"Real Stories, Real Impact: Women Who Inspire,"* followed by an interactive Q&A session that enabled participants to engage directly with professional perspectives and experiences from the technology sector.

The collaboration connected academic communities with industry bodies, professional networks, philanthropic expertise, and career-development opportunities. Participants gained access to real-world experiences of innovation, resilience, leadership, and professional advancement in technology, while the event's two Continuing Professional Education (CPE) hours through ISACA strengthened its professional-development dimension.

By bringing together organizations from different sectors around a shared challenge, the initiative promoted dialogue on women's participation, career development, leadership, professional

inclusion, and opportunities in technology. It also strengthened connections between higher education and professional practice.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) through cross-sectoral dialogue, multi-stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, professional collaboration, and partnership-based approaches to increasing women's participation in technology. It directly supports SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by promoting women's participation, visibility, and leadership in the technology sector; SDG 4 (Quality Education) through professional learning and continuing education; and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through career development, professional networking, and skills development.

**Evidence Source:** University of Bahrain Partnership with AlMabarrah AlKhalifia Foundation and ISACA Bahrain Chapter: Tech Talk, Women in Tech

## 41. Regional Dialogue on IT Audit, Cybersecurity, and Technology Governance





The University of Bahrain, through the participation of Dr. Mazen Ali, Dean of the College of Information Technology and Chairman of ISACA Bahrain Chapter, contributed to engagement between higher education, a professional technology and governance organization, and the regional public-sector audit community during ISACA Bahrain Chapter's official visit to ARABOSAI.

The engagement provided a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue and professional knowledge exchange on information-systems auditing, cybersecurity, technology governance, research, professional training, and the capacity development of auditors working across Arab supreme audit institutions.

The discussion connected academic expertise, professional standards, technology governance, and public-sector audit practice, enabling stakeholders to identify opportunities for joint training, research, expertise exchange, and stronger alignment between regional audit practices and international professional standards.

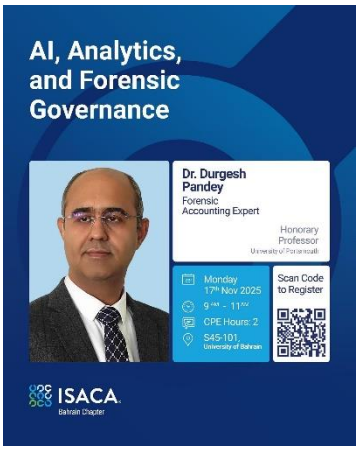
The activity also included a technical review of ARABOSAI's IT audit guide against global best practices, demonstrating how dialogue between professional and public-sector institutions can contribute to stronger institutional governance and accountability.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) through cross-sectoral dialogue, regional stakeholder engagement, professional knowledge exchange, academic-

professional collaboration, and capacity-building discussions involving higher education, professional bodies, and regional public-sector audit institutions. It directly supports SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) through stronger auditing, cybersecurity, technology governance, and institutional accountability.

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

## 42. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on AI, Analytics, and Technology-Enabled Governance




In November, 2025, the University of Bahrain's College of Information Technology collaborated with ISACA Bahrain Chapter to host the "AI, Analytics, and Forensic Governance" session as part of the ISACA Bahrain International Conference 2025. The activity brought together faculty, students, professional practitioners, and industry participants, creating a shared platform for dialogue on digital governance, artificial intelligence, analytics, and institutional accountability.

Participants discussed how AI and data analytics can support continuous fraud monitoring, early identification of irregularities, forensic investigation, and stronger governance and assurance. The session combined academic and professional perspectives with a practical case study involving structured and unstructured data analysis.

Dialogue also addressed the need for collaboration between IT and business teams, the integrity and admissibility of evidence produced through data analytics, and the relationship between analytical findings and regional governance frameworks. These discussions connected technological innovation with institutional oversight, professional ethics, and accountability.

The initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) through academia-professional-industry dialogue, stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, interdisciplinary discussion, and collaborative approaches to technology-enabled governance. It directly supports SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) through stronger governance, fraud prevention, accountability, and evidence integrity and SDG 4 (Quality Education) through the exchange of applied professional knowledge.

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

## 43. Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue and Collaboration through the BENEFIT Advanced AI & Computing Lab




The BENEFIT Advanced AI & Computing Lab at the University of Bahrain represents a sustained public-private-academic partnership connecting higher education, industry, government, research organizations, startups, and national and international academic institutions around artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, research, innovation, and digital transformation.

Since the inauguration of the BENEFIT Advanced AI & Computing Lab on December 23, 2021, the University of Bahrain and The BENEFIT Company have maintained a sustained public-private-academic partnership connecting higher education, industry, government, research organizations, startups, and national and international academic institutions around artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, research, innovation, and digital transformation.

During 2024–2025, the partnership operated through a structured four-tier governance model designed to maintain alignment between academic research, industry requirements, and national digital-transformation priorities.

At the strategic level, a biannual Steering Committee brought together senior UOB researchers, executives from The BENEFIT Company, and executive representation from Bahrain's Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA). The committee reviewed utilization reports, approved strategic plans, and oversaw hackathons and research initiatives, providing an institutional mechanism for multi-stakeholder dialogue, shared planning, knowledge exchange, and collaborative decision-making.

The wider collaboration extends across government, industry, and academia. The Lab engaged organizations including the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education, National Cyber Security Centre, Electricity and Water Authority, Bahrain Space Agency, Public Prosecution, Education and Training Quality Authority, national AI startups, Bahraini universities, and international research institutions. Activities included government AI development, professional capacity building, climate and energy research, cybersecurity training, startup R&D support, academic exchanges, and multi-university innovation activities.

The scale of engagement was measurable. By May 2025, the Lab served 752 registered users, including 437 undergraduate students, 284 postgraduate students, and 29 faculty members. Its national AI hackathons engaged 112+ students across five Bahraini universities, while more than

500 individuals were directly trained through AI, high-performance computing, and ministry-focused capacity-building activities.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) through multi-stakeholder engagement, academia-industry-government dialogue, public-private partnership, knowledge exchange, shared planning, collaborative research, and coordinated approaches to national innovation challenges. The partnership supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) through advanced skills and research training, SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through AI and high-performance computing infrastructure and applied innovation, and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through sustained cooperation across academic, government, industry, and research sectors.

**Supporting evidence:**

- https://www.uob.edu.bh/benefit-ai-lab-steering-committee-reviews-lab-usage-rates/
- https://ailab.uob.edu.bh/
- https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-and-benefit-advance-ai-research-government-collaboration-and-national-capacity-building/

## 44. Regional Dialogue on Research, Quality Assurance, and Higher Education Development



In April, 2025, the University of Bahrain hosted a delegation from Sultan Qaboos University as part of the ongoing implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions. The engagement provided a structured platform for regional dialogue, institutional knowledge exchange, and academic collaboration between higher education institutions in Bahrain and Oman.

The dialogue brought together senior university leadership, academic deans, quality assurance specialists, department heads, faculty members, and postgraduate education representatives. Discussions focused on research collaboration, scientific publishing, postgraduate education, quality assurance, and academic accreditation, enabling participants to exchange institutional experiences and perspectives on shared higher education priorities.

The visit also included a dedicated academic accreditation workshop for UOB College of Law faculty members, providing an opportunity for professional dialogue and knowledge exchange on quality assurance and accreditation practices. The delegation was further introduced to UOB's



postgraduate programs and research environment, including the BENEFIT Advanced AI & Computing Lab, broadening the exchange to research capacity, emerging technologies, and innovation.

The engagement demonstrates sustained regional stakeholder dialogue and collaborative learning rather than a one-time institutional visit. By operationalizing the existing MoU through meetings, consultation, knowledge exchange, and professional development, the two universities strengthened regional cooperation around improving the quality of education and research.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) through regional dialogue, multi-institutional engagement, knowledge exchange, stakeholder consultation, academic collaboration, and shared learning around quality assurance, research, accreditation, and higher education development. It directly contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) through quality assurance, accreditation, academic development, and postgraduate education, while supporting SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through research collaboration, scientific publishing, and engagement with advanced research infrastructure.

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

## 45. Ongoing Academia-Industry Engagement through the Huawei ICT Competition




The University of Bahrain (UOB) maintains an ongoing collaboration with Huawei through the Huawei Regional ICT Competition, which takes place during successive academic years and provides university students in Bahrain with opportunities to participate in regional technology competitions, develop professional ICT skills, and engage with industry expertise. The registration for the 2024–2025 competition opened on 25 September 2024, continuing the University's engagement with Huawei in student learning, professional development, and technological capacity building.

The recurring competition provides a platform for interaction between higher education and the ICT industry, facilitating dialogue on evolving industry skills requirements, digital transformation priorities, emerging technologies, and the competencies needed to prepare

graduates for the digital economy. Through this engagement, Huawei and UOB connect industry perspectives with academic learning and address the importance of aligning higher education with changing professional and technological demands.

The competition also exposes students to emerging ICT technologies, professional expectations, technical learning pathways, and opportunities to develop skills relevant to the digital economy.

This ongoing collaboration is further supported by the Huawei ICT Academy Lab, established at UOB's College of Information Technology in May 2024. The Academy supports practical learning in networking, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and emerging ICT technologies, creating opportunities to connect academic knowledge with professional industry practices.

The continuity and impact of this relationship are also demonstrated by Huawei's recognition of 80 students who obtained certifications through participation in previous years. Huawei has additionally presented internship opportunities, strengthening the connection between technical education, professional experience, and career development.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.2 – Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs through sustained engagement between academia and industry, exchange of perspectives on digital skills requirements, dialogue on technological transformation, and collaboration to address the skills and innovation needs of a changing economy.

It also contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) through applied and industry-relevant learning opportunities, SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through professional development and internship opportunities, and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through ICT skills development, technological innovation, and digital capacity building.

**Evidence Source:**

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

## 46. Academia-Industry Dialogue on ICT Skills, Employability, and Bahrain's Digital Talent Pipeline






The University of Bahrain (UOB) maintains ongoing engagement with the ICT industry through the Huawei Bahrain Job Fair, a recurring initiative designed to connect university students with internship and full-time employment opportunities in the technology sector. The initiative provides a platform for continued interaction between higher education institutions and industry stakeholders, supporting dialogue on digital skills, employability, workforce requirements, and professional development. The 2025 edition was held on 13 November 2025, in partnership with Huawei, with the participation of Almoayyed Commercial Services.

The 2025 Job Fair attracted more than 200 students, who participated in on-site recruitment and career-development activities. Huawei's Bahrain leadership and regional recruitment team presented ICT employment opportunities, career progression pathways, internships, and the skills required to succeed in the evolving technology sector.

The recurring initiative provides a practical platform for cross-sectoral dialogue, stakeholder engagement, and knowledge exchange between university students, academic representatives, and industry professionals. Through direct interaction with employers and recruitment specialists, students gain insights into professional expectations, emerging technology roles, workforce requirements, and the competencies needed in the global ICT sector. These interactions also highlight the importance of aligning higher education with evolving industry needs and preparing graduates for the changing digital economy.

The Job Fair forms part of the wider UOB–Huawei collaboration to strengthen Bahrain's digital talent pipeline. By maintaining engagement between students and technology employers, the initiative supports the transition from academic learning to professional practice while providing opportunities for industry stakeholders to communicate current and anticipated labour-market requirements.

This initiative supports SDG 17.2.2 – Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs through sustained academia-industry engagement, stakeholder dialogue, knowledge exchange, skills alignment, and

collaborative approaches to workforce development. It also contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) through industry-aligned learning and career readiness, SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through internships, employment pathways, and preparation for ICT careers, and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through the development of digital skills and workforce capabilities that support technological innovation and Bahrain's digital economy.

**Evidence Source:** Huawei and University of Bahrain Host Job Fair to Accelerate Local ICT Talent

## 47. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development through the Al-Bilad CSR Award



On September 21, 2025, the University of Bahrain participated in the fourth edition of the Al-Bilad Shield for Corporate Social Responsibility Award, contributing academic expertise to a national platform focused on sustainability, institutional social responsibility, and responsible organizational practices.

Representing UOB, Dr. Shaikha Fay bint Abdullah Al Khalifa, Director of the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Center, contributed as a member of both the Award's organizing committee and judging panel and participated in a panel discussion examining the role of institutions in promoting sustainability and embedding social-responsibility principles.

The initiative created a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue, multi-stakeholder engagement, institutional knowledge exchange, and private-sector participation around sustainable development. A total of 60 companies operating in Bahrain competed in the 2025 award cycle, demonstrating broad private-sector engagement with corporate social responsibility and societal-impact practices.




*Figure 3 the Award's organizing committee and judging panel*

UOB's contribution extended beyond participation in the event. Through its role in organization, evaluation, and dialogue, the University contributed its expertise to discussions and assessment of institutional approaches to social responsibility, sustainability, societal impact, and responsible organizational practice, strengthening links between academia and the wider private and civil-society landscape.

This initiative advances SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) through cross-sectoral dialogue, multi-stakeholder engagement, academia-private-sector collaboration, knowledge exchange, institutional expertise sharing, and discussion of responsible practices that

contribute to sustainable development. It also supports the wider implementation of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by strengthening cooperation among academic institutions, businesses, and community stakeholders.

**Evidence Link: https://www.uob.edu.bh/university-of-bahrain-takes-part-in-the-fourth-edition-of-the-al-bilad-shield-award-for-social-responsibility/**

## 48. Cross-Sectoral Collaboration and Dialogue through the NASA Space Apps Challenge 2025

In October 2025, the University of Bahrain continued its ongoing collaboration and participation in the NASA International Space Apps Challenge, hosting the Sakhir location of the seventh Bahrain edition. Organized by the Bahrain Space Agency (BSA) under the supervision of NASA, in cooperation with the Bahrain Society of Engineers and local academic and professional institutions, the initiative created a broad cross-sectoral platform connecting higher education, government, professional organizations, researchers, innovators, students, and the technology community.







The 2025 challenge brought together more than 700 participants from diverse disciplines and backgrounds. Working in multidisciplinary teams, participants used NASA's free and open data to explore real-world challenges and collaboratively develop innovative technological and open-source solutions addressing issues relevant to Earth and space.

The collaboration supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) by strengthening experiential STEM learning, interdisciplinary knowledge exchange, and the practical skills of students, young people, researchers, and innovators. It also contributes to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) by creating a collaborative environment for technological innovation, data-driven problem-solving, and the application of space science and digital technologies to real-world challenges.

**Evidence source:**

- https://services.bahrain.bh/wps/portal/sharekna/en/Home/Hackathons/NASASpaceAppsChallenge2025/!ut/p/z1/lZBBC4JAEIV_iwevzqRm0m3F2tKDlYS2l9DYVkHdsC3_flEdEsJqbjN87z3eAIMUWJNdS5GpUjZZdd93zNlH63BJgxBHK2JO0Alo7M_GPlJqQ_IAsDcEvY3pWYg0MoH9r393-k0_ALBh-wRYP2IRzRGdBfHDOLYRR_YLGKr4LSQAJiqZP_9JmtxyBbCWH3nLW-PS3s-FUqfzVEcdu64zhJSi4sZB1jp-khTyrCDtkxDzBk71dptiuaoTV7lE024p-5cD/dz/d5/L3dHQSEvUUt3TS9nQSEh/
- https://www.bsa.bh/bsa_gallery/nasa-space-apps-hackathon-2025/

## 49. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue 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 initiative provides a sustained platform connecting higher education, government, the housing sector, academics, engineers, and students around Bahrain's housing and sustainable urban-development priorities.

Under the 2024–2025 theme, "Towards a Self-Sufficient Neighborhood," University of Bahrain students engaged with practical housing and community-development challenges by developing innovative architectural and engineering ideas relevant to sustainable residential environments. Through the competition, academic knowledge and student creativity were connected with the experience and priorities of organizations directly involved in Bahrain's housing sector.

The partnership facilitates cross-sectoral dialogue and knowledge exchange on housing, architectural engineering, sustainability, and the development of communities that respond to changing social and urban needs. Importantly, the collaboration creates a channel through which student and academic perspectives can contribute new ideas and visions relevant to the development of housing services and initiatives in Bahrain.

Through this ongoing partnership, the University of Bahrain contributes to collaborative engagement particularly relating to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), while also supporting SDG 4 (Quality Education) through applied learning and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through engineering and design innovation.

**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

## 50. Cross-Sectoral Collaboration on Digital Innovation and Public-Sector Challenges



During the 2024–2025 academic year, the University of Bahrain (UOB) continued to facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration through the University of Bahrain Cloud Innovation Center (CIC), powered by Amazon Web Services (AWS) and sponsored by Tamkeen. The CIC provides a structured platform through which UOB can collaborate with public-sector organizations on pressing challenges, combining academic expertise, public-sector knowledge, AWS technology expertise, and Amazon's innovation process.



Through structured challenge engagements, participating organizations bring their operational and sector-specific expertise and work collaboratively to explore complex problems, test new ideas, and identify technology-enabled approaches. The model creates opportunities for stakeholder dialogue, knowledge exchange, collaborative problem-solving, and engagement between higher education, the technology sector, public-sector organizations, and national workforce-development stakeholders. Lessons learned from challenge engagements are shared to contribute to wider public-sector innovation.

This collaborative ecosystem was also visible in UOB's student innovation activities. At the College of Information Technology's graduation projects exhibition on 15 June 2025, approximately 109 projects were presented by students in Information Systems, Computer Engineering, and Computer Science. Projects covered cybersecurity, digital forensics, encryption, intrusion detection, biometrics, artificial intelligence, blockchain, IoT, mobile applications, gaming, and entrepreneurship, including ICT solutions developed through the AWS Lab at UOB. Projects were evaluated by UOB academics and industry experts, connecting academic innovation with external professional perspectives.

The initiative supports SDG 17.2.2 by creating a continuing mechanism for cross-sectoral dialogue and multi-stakeholder engagement around digital transformation and real-world challenges. By connecting UOB, AWS technology expertise, Tamkeen's sponsorship, public-sector organizations, industry specialists, and learners, the CIC enables complementary perspectives to contribute to innovation with particular relevance to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 4 (Quality Education).

**Evidence source:**

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

## 51. Cross-Sectoral Engagement on Sustainable Urban Development




On 30 November 2025, Dr. Fay Abdulla Al Khalifa, a University of Bahrain academic leader and President of the Bahrain Smart City Society, participated as a Special VIP Guest in the Business Fair Bahrain Summit & Awards 2025 in Manama. The event brought together government representatives, entrepreneurs, diplomats, industry stakeholders, and other participants, providing a platform for cross-sector engagement, dialogue, and partnership-building.

Dr. Fay Abdulla Al Khalifa's participation reflects UOB expertise extending beyond the University into wider sustainability and urban-development networks. Her academic work focuses on sustainable urbanism, smart and sustainable cities, urban liveability, and climate-responsive environments, while her wider professional engagement includes leadership in the Bahrain Smart City Society.

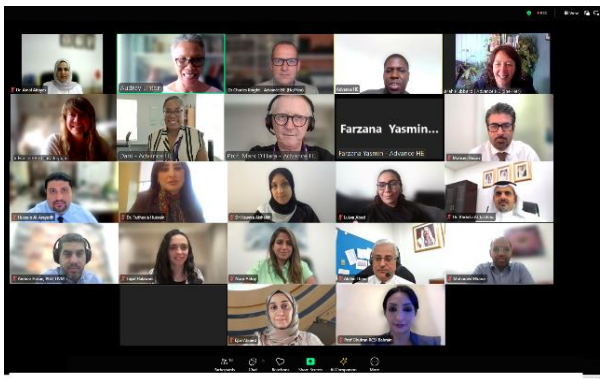
During the event, Dr. Fay Abdulla Al Khalifa received the Best Bahraini Woman Leader in Sustainability and Urbanism award in recognition of the contribution described in your evidence to sustainable development and urban planning in Bahrain.

The engagement supports SDG 17.2.2 by connecting university sustainability expertise with government, business, industry, diplomatic, and civil-society networks concerned with sustainable development and urban transformation. It is particularly relevant to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

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

## 52. UOB–Advance HE Dialogue on Leadership and Institutional Transformation in Higher Education

In June 2025, the University of Bahrain (UOB), through its Unit for Teaching Excellence and Leadership (UTEL), collaborated with Advance HE to organize a four-day Academic Leadership




Program bringing together international higher-education expertise with academic and administrative professionals from UOB and outside the University.

Through four interactive workshops, participants engaged with Advance HE specialists on leadership perspectives, collaboration, engagement and influence, organizational behavior, leading change in high-performing teams, adaptive leadership, innovation, and transformative practices. The program created a structured environment for professional dialogue, knowledge exchange, reflection, and discussion of approaches to institutional change and leadership development.

The initiative supports SDG 17.2.2 by connecting university leadership and professional higher-education expertise through structured dialogue on shared institutional challenges, particularly leadership effectiveness, organizational transformation, collaboration, and innovation. The engagement demonstrates how UOB uses external professional partnerships to strengthen dialogue and exchange knowledge relevant to quality and sustainable higher education.

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

## 53. Cross-Sector Engagement on Digital Transformation and Innovation at GITEX Global 2024



The University of Bahrain's participation in GITEX Global 2024 created opportunities for engagement between higher education and external stakeholders in the government, technology and business sectors. Through the Bahrain Digital Content Winners Pavilion, UOB presented its award-winning eAdmission service, its experience in cloud-based digital transformation through AWS, and academic programs supporting skills development in artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data and business analytics.

The broader Bahrain Digital Content Winners Pavilion was designed to showcase Bahraini digital capabilities internationally and provide channels through which participating organizations could interact, exchange experiences and explore cooperation. Within this environment, UOB contributed a higher-education perspective to discussions and knowledge exchange around digital

service delivery, technological innovation, cloud transformation, and the development of skills required for the digital economy.

The engagement demonstrates UOB's role in connecting academia, government, technology providers and industry around innovation and digital transformation, providing a cross-sector platform relevant particularly to SDG 9 and SDG 17 and supporting wider knowledge exchange between higher education and external stakeholders.

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

## 54. UOB Participates in GCC Dialogue on Responsible AI and the Future of Digital Higher Education



The University of Bahrain actively participates in regional dialogue through the GCC Committee of E-Learning Officials at Universities and Higher Education Institutions, with Dr. Wael Attiya, Director of UOB's Information Technology and eLearning Directorate, serving as a member.

The Committee's 24th meeting brought together the GCC General Secretariat's education leadership, deans, e-learning officials from higher-education institutions across GCC member states, and specialists in artificial intelligence and digital learning. The dialogue addressed AI strategic directions, governance of AI in education, emerging-technology policies, practical applications of AI in learning, digital transformation, and mechanisms for strengthening cooperation among Gulf higher-education systems.

The discussions enabled participants to exchange institutional and national perspectives on the safe and responsible adoption of AI, examine regulatory approaches, and consider how emerging technologies can improve educational quality and innovation.

UOB's continuing participation provides an institutional channel for contributing to multi-stakeholder regional dialogue on the future of higher education, connecting universities, regional governmental structures and technology experts around issues relevant to quality education, responsible technological innovation, and partnerships for sustainable development.

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