Community Development Authority research collaboration with Zayed University

Dubai: As part of its efforts to collaborate with local and international educational institutions and build strong relationships with academics, Dr. Maryam Matar, Director General of the Community Development Authority, recently met with Dr. Salim Al Jasim of Zayed University to discuss ways in which the two organizations can work together to exchange social research and training in order to enhance Dubai’s social development.

During the meeting the organizations discussed ways to enhance the workforce in the social service sector through government work or volunteer programs. One of the short-term solutions discussed was the implementation of specialized training programs to better equip the social workforce with the means to handle the UAE’s requirements in the field, while long-term solutions discussed centered on the development of tailored university programs to provide professional degrees in social sciences. It was also agreed that the CDA and Zayed University would share research to increase the CDA’s capacity to pursue a strategic and targeted approach to providing social services for the special needs population by accurately determining the numbers and location of different special needs sectors of society.

“The CDA is looking to grow Dubai’s social infrastructure in a strategic way that is built on knowledge and understanding of the needs of the various categories of society and incorporating best practice from around the world. We believe that this partnership with Zayed University will enable us to provide world class social services for the residents of Dubai,” said Dr. Maryam Matar.

One potential idea was to develop programs to encourage Zayed University students to participate in social initiatives either as trainees or volunteers, part of the CDA’s efforts to develop a culture of volunteering in Dubai.

The CDA aims to obtain the goals of Dubai Strategic Plan 2015, declared by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum in February 2007. It will be a key strategic development towards promoting national identity, empowerment, enhancing social cohesion, social inclusion and social protection.

King Abdulaziz University campus to get nuclear research center

JEIDAIH: Osama Tayeb, president of King Abdulaziz University (KU) in Jeddah, announced at a press conference plans to establish a nuclear research center on the university’s campus.

“The first phase of planning and research is complete; the project is moving along the required channels in order to be implemented,” he said.

Tayeb is chairman of the executive committee organizing the Kingdom’s first international symposium on the peaceful uses of nuclear technology in Gulf countries that begins this week. The symposium is held under the sponsorship of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques king Abdullah.

More than 50 nuclear scientists from various parts of the world are expected to attend the three-day event scheduled to begin tomorrow. “It will identify the requirements for obtaining peaceful nuclear technology,” Tayeb said.

When asked why Iran and Pakistan were not among the participants he said the committee had used certain criteria in choosing participants. He added that 55 studies and working papers from more than 25 countries had been chosen. The scientific committees have carefully revised and approved the papers, Tayeb explained.

The meeting will focus purely on scientific research and will not engineering, said nuclear scientists and experts from the United States, Russia, China, Canada, France, Germany and Japan have confirmed their participation.

The three-day forum will have 15 sessions dealing with five main points: Strategic planning for introducing nuclear technology into the GCC countries; public support for nuclear research reactors, radiotraceipe applications and radiation protection.

Al-Johani said a number of GCC ministers are also expected to participate. A speech by Mohamed El-Baradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), will be read out at the opening ceremony.

Al-Johani said participants would listen to the experiences of countries such as Egypt, the Czech Republic, Chile and others. Local and international companies will exhibit their products and services on the sidelines of the event. The University has set up an official website: www.kaau.edu.sa/eczsymposiumforthesymposium.

Two Awards for Ajman University

Two research projects by the College of Dentistry at Ajman University of Science and Technology (AUT) have won first and third awards at a research conference.

The conference, which is the fourteenth of its kind, was organized by Sharjah University in conjunction with Emirates Medical Association and the Ministry of Health, and took place from October 14-17, 2008. The topic of AUT’s first winning project was “Antimicrobial Bacterial Contamination during Ultrasound Scaling,” and it was the work of student Ms. Huda Al-Mahboub, carried out under the supervision of Dr. Vigie Deizy and Dr. Fahim Rashid Al Bahoom, and was conferred to a project entitled “Thumb Sucking Habit” by Dr. Afraa Salah, College of Dentistry faculty member.

Commenting on these achievements Dr. Salem Abu Fanas, Dean of the College of Dentistry, said: “Our winning these two awards is the fruit of the innovative medical environment in which we work, which enables our students and faculty members to develop their abilities and practice what they are taught in the classroom.”

NEW DTME EDITORIAL MEMBER

Dental Tribune Middle East and Africa is pleased to announce its new editorial board member, Dr. Ali Al-Sultan, Periodontist, Director of Dental services, Ministry of Health, Dubai Zone. Her fine reputation as a prominent figure in the Ministry of Health, and her long experience will undoubtedly benefit all dental trunew readers.

Qatar: Exhibition on hospitals opens

DOHA: H.E. Dr. Sheikha Ghanim bin Hamad Al Thani, Minister of Public Health, opened the Qatar International Medical and Hospital Show (Qmedic) at New Qatar International Exhibition Centre, yesterday.

Qatar’s first medical exhibition has attracted more than 100 health dealers, manufacturers and distributors around the world. The show is organised by Ocus Co.com and under the patronage of the National Health Authority (NHA) and Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC). Ocus has brought all medical products and services under one roof.

After the inauguration the minister toured various pavilions. She was received by Abdul Al Khalfi, Director of Public Relations at the NHA and HMC stalls. She also visited the stand of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Children’s Hospital stand.

The exhibition is focusing on different medical options available in the region and provides the opportunity for experts to be in touch with foreign expertise. It will also allow them to discuss the latest innovations and development with leading healthcare specialists and will provide vital access for companies penetrating the Gulf market.

It is also an opportunity for the medical companies to shed light on their technologies and innovations and to reveal the advances of the medical system, to accompany the rapid growth and expansion that the field is continuously witness.

Vaneer Hamadah, the Executive Director of Conex Company, said the show represents an exceptional opportunity for patients to present their cases to a variety of internationally famous consultants secured by the company.
JEDDAH: The Riyadh Women’s University, which is designed to become the world’s largest institution of higher learning exclusively for women, will have 15 colleges, including those for medicine, dentistry, nursing, naturopathy and pharmacy and a 700-bed hospital. The project will be completed by 2010.

Speaking about the new campus, Al-Jowharah said it would be spread over an area of eight million square meters along Airport Road in northern Riyadh. The new campus will double the university’s capacity. King Abdullah has instructed the university’s officials to do their best to improve the condition of women.

“The new colleges will accommodate 1,500 students this year,” the princess said, adding that existing colleges would be restructured in line with job market needs. The university and its affiliated colleges have given admission to 61 percent of secondary school graduates in the Riyadh province.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah is briefed by Finance Minister Ibrahim Al-Assaf as he views a model of the Princess Norah bint Abdulrahman University project in Riyadh on Wednesday. (SPA)

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah will lay the foundation stone today for the university’s new campus.

“After we received instructions from higher authorities to establish a full-fledged university, we have consulted international engineering houses for the purpose of designing a world-class campus that can accommodate 40,000 students,” said Finance Minister Ibrahim Al-Assaf.

“It will be the largest specialized campus for women in the world,” he added.

“King Abdullah has shown special interest in the project and has been following up every development related to this university,” the minister said. “The buildings of the campus will be completed within the next two years,” he said.

He said the university would play a big role in promoting women’s education in the Kingdom. “The project also aims at improving the condition of Saudi women and enabling them to participate in the country’s development process efficiently.”

Princess Al-Jowharah bint Fahd, president of the university, praised King Abdullah and Crown Prince Sultan for their tremendous support to Riyadh Women’s University, which she said will usher in a new era in higher education for women in Saudi Arabia. “We want to make it a leading international institution,” she said.

She disclosed plans about tie-ups with prominent universities inside and outside the Kingdom to promote research. The Women’s University, along with its affiliated colleges, has so far enrolled 17,000 students, she added.

Al-Jowharah spoke about the university’s plan to focus on educational programs that are essential to meet the Kingdom’s job market requirements. “We have devised its educational programs after consulting different ministries, including the ministries of labor, commerce and industry, and economy and planning,” she said.

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Egyptian Governor Honours Kuwaiti Educational Official

Kuwait’s Undersecretary of MENYA, Egypt’s MENYA Governor Ahmed Diaa El-Din, was honoured by the governor in a ceremony thrown on the sidelines of the first international Kuwait-Egyptian relations as the ceremony, she hailed Civilizations - Channels of Communication among Nations”, as a landmark of education in Upper Egypt, the Kuwaiti educational official said, adding, that economic, educational, and cultural cooperation with this Egyptian university should be further reinforced.

She also wished that the conference would come up with recommendations that could lead to a further promotion and development of dialogue among civilizations.

Only 5,000 dentists are serving about 140 million Nigerians, Chairman, Lagos State Branch of the Nigerian Dental Association (NDA), Dr. Donna Umesi-Koleoso, has lamented.

Meeting this in a chat with Good Health Weekly shortly after the opening ceremony of NDA’s 2008 Annual General meeting & Continuing Education seminar on “Current Trends in Aesthetic Dentistry” Umesi-Koleoso called on government to establish more dental clinics in all the 779 local governments across the Federation.

She said acute shortage of dental clinics in the country had not only denied young dentists the opportunity to have their housemanship done and get registered as qualified dentist but contributed to the poor dental health in Nigeria.

She further called for the urgent implementation of the national oral policy in order to tackle the problem as well as put in place some aspect of oral health that would cater for the citizens oral health free of charge.

“We need to see the National Oral policy being implements fully in order to address the public health aspect of oral health. We need to take oral health close to the people at the grass roots.”

The Health chairman, who however, admitted that despite numerous challenges, oral health is gradually coming up in Nigeria and emphasized the need for government pay appropriate attention to dental clinics in various part of the country.

In some States only one dentist is serving the whole state. “It is sad that we have more dental patients than the dentists. Dentists are determined to reduce a lot of tooth loss among Nigerians because when you have good oral health, you have good overall and good health in general.”

Umesi-Kolesoso said the seminar was to share the wealth of experience and update the knowledge of members on what dentists outside Nigeria are doing.

She further appealed to Lagos State government to ensure that the dentists in the state are involved in the on going health reforms in the state.

Delivering her lecture Dr. Norvishi Arukutu of the University of Hospital North Staffordshire, thanked the three minutes brushing of teeth, two times daily with tooth paste containing fluoride.

Arkutu who traced most tooth decay to frequency of eating of sweet things advised that people should reduce their intake of sugary things.

She further pointed out that eating decays your teeth faster than the frequency. Stressing the need for people to be conscious of their oral health, Arkutu pointed out that bad oral health also affects the heart.

This is because the bacteria that could cause gum disease can also travel and affect the heart.

The former chairman of the British Dental Association was struck off for fraudulently presenting a sum of £1,000 in expenses from his organisation. Trevor Mann, of Cheam, South London, attempted to evade investigation by offering to repay the money.

The General Dental Council was told that Mr Mann, a nonpractising dentist, wrongly claimed expenses for meetings of the association from October 2005 to July last year. He claimed that he worked at a surgery in Byfleet, Surrey, earning £42,748 a year, but an investigation found no trace of the practice.

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