

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Al Ain University



جامعة العين
AL AIN UNIVERSITY

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17

International Collaboration on Gathering and Measuring SDG Data

[International Benchmarking](#) | [Joint Datasets](#) | [Monitoring](#) | [Research](#)

DIRECT RESPONSE: YES

Al Ain University participates in international collaboration that gathers, measures, validates and compares data relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals. During the 2024 reporting year, AAU contributed institutional evidence to international SDG and sustainability measurement systems and participated in cross-border empirical research using shared environmental, health, education, agriculture, economic and technology datasets.

1. AAU participates in international SDG data gathering and measurement

Al Ain University's participation operates through two connected institutional routes. First, AAU compiles and contributes structured institutional information to international sustainability and SDG measurement systems, where common definitions and scoring frameworks convert the submitted information into comparable results. Second, AAU researchers and students work with overseas universities, research groups and international organizations to gather, process, model and interpret data addressing specific SDGs.

The 2024 evidence shows both routes in operation. AAU's published UI GreenMetric 2024 result contains category-level scores derived from standardized environmental and sustainability indicators. Its THE Impact Rankings 2024 participation measures university contributions across the UN SDGs through internationally comparable metrics and public evidence. AAU-affiliated researchers also co-authored international empirical studies based on global and cross-national datasets in climate, health, education, crop monitoring, financial inclusion and sustainable cities.

International data route	2024 AAU participation	SDG measurement contribution
THE Impact Rankings	AAU submitted institutional SDG metrics and public evidence and was ranked among the world's top 100 institutions	International comparison of university contributions to the SDGs
UI GreenMetric	AAU received an overall score and six published category scores in the 2024 global ranking	Comparable operational and sustainability measurement
QS Sustainability	AAU appeared in the 2024 international ESG-oriented sustainability assessment	External measurement of environmental and social impact
International empirical research	AAU-affiliated authors collaborated with researchers across multiple countries	Shared data, modelling and reported findings for specific SDGs
Joint technical projects	AAU and international university partners designed monitoring and data-exchange projects	Direct collection, transmission and interpretation of measured information

Public evidence: [E01](#) | [E02](#) | [E03](#) | [E04](#) | [E05](#) | [E06](#) | [E07](#) | [E09](#) | [E10](#) | [E38](#) | [E39](#) | [E40](#) | [E41](#) | [E42](#)

Al Ain University Among Top 100 Global Institutions According to THE Impact Rankings 2024



Al Ain University (AAU) has been ranked among the TOP 100 universities worldwide in Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2024, after being ranked among the top 200 globally last year.

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings evaluate universities based on the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include: no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation, and infrastructure, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, life on land, peace, justice and strong institutions, and partnerships for the goals.

Al Ain University also, topped the ranking for three main SDGs by securing; # 11 (SDG 4- Quality Education), # 5 (SDG 5 -Gender Equality), and #37 (SDG 8- Decent Work and Economic Growth) among the 1963 listed universities worldwide by the 'THE Impact Ranking 2024'. These achievements confirm the university's commitment to achieving sustainable development goals and enhancing its positive impact on society and the world.

Prof. Ghaleb Al Refae (AAU President) indicated that the global ranking results confirm the AAU's commitment to achieving the highest quality standards in education in line with the sustainable development goals, in addition to providing a sustainable educational environment for students. He affirmed that the university's progress in the rankings demonstrates its prestigious position as an active contributor to achieving the sustainable development goals through its strategic plans, scientific research, various initiatives, and the continuous diligent work of all university staff to achieve more successes.

Prof. Nazih Khaddaj Mallat (Vice President for Accreditation & QA), stated: "This achievement reflects our commitment to excellence and sustainability and making a positive impact on our global community. This accomplishment is the result of the concerted efforts at the university from all parties. We extend our thanks to the faculty members, staff, students, and partners who contributed to this success. We will continue to strive together to achieve more accomplishments."

Al Ain University aims to enhance its academic standing and reputation both locally and globally in the field of sustainable development by focusing on improving the quality of scientific research, organizing conferences, launching initiatives, and continuing to work towards achieving more goals in the future.

Overall Rankings 2024



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Overall Rankings 2024

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Global estimates on the number of people blind or visually impaired by cataract: a meta-analysis from 2000 to 2020

Abstract

Background

To estimate global and regional trends from 2000 to 2020 of the number of persons visually impaired by cataract and their proportion of the total number of vision-impaired individuals.

Methods

A systematic review and meta-analysis of published population studies and gray literature from 2000 to 2020 was carried out to estimate global and regional trends. We developed prevalence estimates based on modeled distance visual impairment and blindness due to cataract, producing location-, year-, age-, and sex-specific estimates of moderate to severe vision impairment (MSVI presenting visual acuity $<6/18$, $\geq 3/60$) and blindness (presenting visual acuity $<3/60$). Estimates are age-standardized using the GBD standard population.

Financial and digital financial literacy through social media use towards financial inclusion among batik small enterprises in Indonesia

[Samer Ali Al-shami](#)^a  · [Ratna Damayanti](#)^b · [Hayder Adil](#)^c · [Faycal Farhi](#)^d · [Abdullah Al mamun](#)^e

[Affiliations & Notes](#) ▾ [Article Info](#) ▾

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>> Abstract

Show Outline

Batik, an Indonesian textile art form, holds immense economic and cultural importance. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) specialising in batik play a crucial role in Indonesia's economic growth and cultural preservation, contributing significantly to the gross domestic product (GDP) and preserving the nation's heritage. Nevertheless, these enterprises face several challenges, such as slow growth and limited access to credit. The batik industry also lags in financial literacy and the adoption of digital marketing strategies, hindering its development. This quantitative study aims to investigate the relationship between financial literacy, digital financial literacy, and financial inclusion in batik SMEs and also examined the moderating effect of online social networks. A survey was conducted involving 535 managers, owners, and financial officers of small batik enterprises. Subsequently, the SmartPLS statistical analysis method was employed for data analysis. The results demonstrate that financial literacy and digital financial literacy play a significant role in accessing financial inclusion.

2. AAU contributes institutional data to internationally comparable systems

International collaboration on SDG data includes participation in common systems that collect evidence from universities, apply shared definitions and publish comparable results. AAU's 2024 participation in the THE Impact Rankings and UI GreenMetric provides direct evidence of this institutional practice. These systems require universities to assemble information across organizational units, submit structured data and supporting evidence, and permit the international platform to validate, normalize and compare results.

AAU also appeared in the QS Sustainability Rankings 2024, which measured universities against environmental, social and governance indicators. Together, the three systems place AAU's sustainability performance within international datasets and make the University's results available for comparison with institutions in the UAE, the Arab region, Asia and the wider world.

System	Information measured	Published 2024 AAU result
THE Impact Rankings	Research, stewardship, outreach and teaching contributions mapped to the UN SDGs	Top 100 worldwide; published strengths in SDGs 4, 5 and 8
UI GreenMetric	Setting and infrastructure, energy and climate, waste, water, transport, education and research	Overall rank 623 and six category scores
QS Sustainability	Environmental impact, social impact and governance measures	Fifth in the UAE and 228th in Asia in the 2024 edition

Public evidence: [E04](#) | [E05](#) | [E06](#) | [E07](#) | [E08](#) | [E09](#) | [E10](#) | [E11](#) | [E12](#) | [E49](#)

Guideline 2024 — English



AAU ranks 5th in UAE and 228th in Asia by QS Ranking for Sustainability 2024



Al Ain University has achieved a new milestone by securing the 5th position within the United Arab Emirates, 228th in Asia, and 821-840 worldwide, according to the QS World Universities Ranking for Sustainability 2024. This ranking assesses the ability of global universities to achieve sustainable development goals.

The ranking assesses universities' performance against the complete set of 17th United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It includes three main dimensions: firstly, the environmental impact, encompassing five indicators: equality, knowledge exchange, educational impact, employability and opportunities, and quality of life for universities. Secondly, the social impact, includes three indicators: sustainable institutions, sustainable education, and sustainable research. And thirdly, governance.

This ranking reflects Al Ain University's initiatives and efforts to address environmental and social challenges. It underscores its commitment to contributing to achieving sustainable development goals across all areas, demonstrating its dedication to preparing new generations to confront climate challenges and provide advanced ideas and solutions in this field.

Dr. Noor Al-Deen Atatrah, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, stated, "The importance of sustainability-focused rankings lies in the fact that environmental sustainability is a central point of interest at the local, Arab, and global levels. This has been evident in the United Arab Emirates, with its significant focus on climate issues and sustainable development, prominently showcased in recent times through hosting COP28 at Expo Dubai. This achievement is a clear testament to Al Ain University's strategy and commitment to sustainable development, aligning with the wise leadership's directions in the country towards comprehensive development."

Prof. Ghaleb Al-Refae, the AAU president, affirmed that Al Ain University, as a leading academic institution, is committed to playing its role in achieving sustainable development goals and serving the nation, especially in light of the global emphasis on attaining the Sustainable Development Goals endorsed by the United Nations. He emphasized that the university utilizes scientific research to shed light on climate and environmental issues, among others, and puts forth innovative ideas to find effective solutions. In addition, he highlighted the series of events and activities organized by the university, contributing to the achievement of all 17th Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. Nazih Khaddaj Mallat, Vice President for Accreditations and Quality Assurance, stated that Al Ain University, through its objectives, policies, mission, and the members of its academic and administrative bodies, seeks to enhance sustainable responsibility through its core functions in education, scientific research, and the development of academic programs. This includes both curricular and extracurricular activities, as well as community service. He emphasized that the university is constantly striving to excel and progress on all fronts, achieved through the concerted efforts of all involved.

Cooperation Agreement Between Al Ain University and MSU in Malaysia



A Delegation from Al Ain University Visits Universities in Southeast Asia to Strengthen Academic Collaboration



Al Ain University Delegation Visits Ministry of Economy to Strengthen Collaboration



Pioneering Event and MoU with the Institute of Management Accountants



Al Ain University hosted the flagship event "Connect with the Institute of Management Accountants 2024," organized by the College of Business. The event brought together finance and management accounting professionals, offering opportunities to connect with industry leaders, emerging talents, and engage in thought-provoking discussions.

The event featured a workshop on "Igniting Innovations Through Connections," presenting strategic and valuable insights into the future of the profession, delivered by Mike DePrisco, President and CEO of the Institute of Management Accountants. Attendees had the chance to network with peers, learn from experts, and gain insights into the latest trends and technologies shaping the future of industries.

One of the event's highlights was signing a Memorandum of Understanding between Al Ain University and the Institute of Management Accountants.



INTERNATIONALLY COMPARABLE DATA

AAU's results are not isolated institutional statements: they are outputs of common international measurement frameworks that collect and compare university data across countries.

3. UI GreenMetric records AAU's 2024 environmental and sustainability data

UI GreenMetric is an international university network and ranking system built around a standardized sustainability questionnaire and evidence framework. Its 2024 guideline organizes institutional measurement into six categories. AAU's appearance in the published 2024 dataset demonstrates participation in that common international data cycle and provides transparent category-level results.

UI GreenMetric 2024 category	AAU score	SDG-related data domain
Setting and Infrastructure	1,100	Land use, campus setting, facilities and sustainability infrastructure
Energy and Climate Change	1,275	Energy management, emissions and climate-related action
Waste	750	Waste reduction, treatment and institutional management
Water	800	Water conservation, use and management
Transportation	1,200	Mobility systems and lower-impact transport
Education and Research	1,150	Sustainability teaching, research, publication and engagement
Total	6,275	Combined internationally comparable sustainability score

AAU was listed at overall rank 623 in the 2024 global table. The six published scores demonstrate that AAU's international participation covered operational, environmental, educational and research information rather than a single indicator. The results create a measurable baseline for institutional comparison and year-to-year monitoring.

Public evidence: [E06](#) | [E07](#) | [E08](#) | [E12](#) | [E14](#) | [E50](#)



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Goals

17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

4. THE Impact Rankings measure AAU's contribution across the SDGs

The THE Impact Rankings are an international system created specifically to measure university contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. AAU's 2024 participation required institution-wide coordination of quantitative metrics, documentary evidence and public sources. The international platform then evaluated the submission through common definitions and published comparative results.

AAU was placed among the top 100 universities worldwide in the 2024 Impact Rankings, which included 1,963 institutions. The University's published results included 11th place for SDG 4 (Quality Education), fifth for SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and 37th for SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). These results are direct outputs of international SDG data measurement and demonstrate that AAU's internal evidence is converted into comparable global performance information.

Measurement stage	AAU institutional activity	International output
Map	Identify relevant teaching, research, stewardship and outreach evidence for each SDG	Common SDG classification
Gather	Obtain quantitative and documentary information from responsible units	Structured institutional dataset
Validate	Check definitions, dates, ownership and public accessibility	Submission-ready evidence
Submit	Provide the data and evidence to THE under the international methodology	Participation in the global dataset
Compare	Review published positions and SDG-level performance	International benchmarking and monitoring

Public evidence: [E01](#) | [E02](#) | [E03](#) | [E04](#) | [E05](#) | [E12](#) | [E13](#) | [E14](#) | [E17](#)



5. AAU researchers gathered, analysed and modelled SDG-relevant data internationally in 2024

AAU's international contribution extends from institutional benchmarking to research datasets. In 2024, AAU-affiliated authors worked with researchers in other countries on empirical and modelling studies that gathered, integrated or analysed data relevant to multiple SDGs. The published outputs identify AAU affiliations and provide permanent DOI records, making the collaborations and results publicly verifiable.

2024 international study	Data and measurement function	Primary SDG links
Carbon emissions, soil and climate change	Global Earth modelling, geographically weighted regression and path analysis of environmental relationships	SDGs 2, 13, 15
Global cataract visual-impairment estimates	International meta-analysis estimating global and regional trends from 2000 to 2020	SDG 3
Activity-based learning and ChatGPT	Cross-institutional measurement of student performance and educational outcomes	SDG 4
Crop monitoring with remote sensing	Land-use and land-change data analysed with comparative deep-learning methods	SDGs 2, 9, 13, 15
Digital financial literacy and inclusion	Empirical data on social-media use and inclusion among Indonesian batik small enterprises	SDGs 5, 8, 9, 10
Climate-policy and energy uncertainty	International economic and environmental time-series analysis	SDGs 7, 8, 13
Intelligent transport for sustainable cities	Assessment of transport-system data and smart-city sustainability applications	SDGs 9, 11, 13

Public evidence: [E38](#) | [E39](#) | [E40](#) | [E41](#) | [E42](#) | [E43](#) | [E44](#)

Role of activity-based learning and ChatGPT on students' performance in education

Tamara Al Shloul ^a, Tehseen Mazhar ^b  , Qamar Abbas ^c, Muhammad Iqbal ^d, Yazeed Yasin Ghadi ^e, Tariq Shahzad ^f, Fatma Mallek ^g, Habib Hamam ^{g h i j}

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Abstract

Purpose

This study investigates the impact of activity-based learning and the utilization of ChatGPT on students' academic performance within the educational framework.

Crop monitoring using remote sensing land use and land change data: Comparative analysis of deep learning methods using pre-trained CNN models

Min Peng ^a, Yunxiang Liu ^a, Asad Khan ^b  , Bilal Ahmed ^c, Subrata K. Sarker ^e, Yazeed Yasin Ghadi ^d, Uzair Aslam Bhatti ^f  , Muna Al-Razgan ^g, Yasser A. Ali ^h [Show more](#) 

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Abstract

In the context of the rapidly evolving climate dynamics of the early twenty-first century, the interplay between climate change and biospheric integrity is becoming increasingly critical. The pervasive impact of climate change on ecosystems is manifested not only through alterations in average environmental conditions and their variability but also through ancillary shifts such as escalated oceanic acidification and heightened atmospheric CO₂ levels. These climatic transformations are further compounded by concurrent

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 FEED

Impact of Climate Policy Uncertainty (CPU) and global Energy Uncertainty (EU) news on U.S. sectors: The moderating role of CPU on the EU and U.S. sectoral stock nexus

Umar Kayani ^a , Umaid A. Sheikh ^b , Rabeh Khalfaoui ^c , David Roubaud ^d , Shawkat Hammoudeh ^{e f} 

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Highlights

- The asymmetric responses of U.S. sectoral stocks to news-related global energy uncertainty (EU) and climate policy uncertainty (CPU).

6. International partnerships create practical routes for shared data

AAU maintains cross-border cooperation frameworks that enable information exchange, joint research, field investigation, technical experimentation and dissemination. In 2024, agreements with Management and Science University in Malaysia, Murdoch University in Australia, the Zhejiang Institute of Geology in China, and other international institutions expanded these routes. The earlier agreements with universities in Malaysia, Jordan and Moscow explicitly included information or data exchange and joint research activities.

The partnership with Siemens Energy adds an international industry route for joint research and pilot projects in energy and decarbonization. These projects connect university expertise and student problem-solving to real operational challenges, producing evidence that can inform SDGs 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13.

Partner or framework	Data-enabled collaboration	SDG relevance
MSU Malaysia and ASPU Jordan	Exchange of information and data; development of research projects and joint events	Health, education, partnerships
Moscow university agreements	Exchange of expertise and data; joint research and academic events	Health, education, innovation
Murdoch University	International academic and research cooperation framework	Multi-SDG research
Zhejiang Institute of Geology	Geoscience cooperation and research framework	Water, climate, land and resilience
Southeast Asian universities	Research, mobility and academic collaboration across institutions	Education, innovation, partnerships
Siemens Energy	Collaborative research, pilot projects and solutions to energy-sector challenges	Energy, industry and climate

Public evidence: [E18](#) | [E19](#) | [E20](#) | [E21](#) | [E22](#) | [E23](#) | [E24](#) | [E26](#) | [E27](#)

Cooperation Agreement Between Al Ain University and MSU in Malaysia



In a step to enhance academic and research collaboration, Al Ain University has signed a cooperation agreement with Management Science University (MSU) in Malaysia. This agreement is part of Al Ain University's strategy to strengthen its international partnerships and exchange expertise with prestigious universities around the world.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Noor Aldeen Atatreh, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Al Ain University, and Prof Tan Sri Dato' Wira Dr. Mohd Shukri, President of Management Science University in Malaysia. Prof. Mohammad Ghattas, Dean of the College of Pharmacy, and Dr. Mohammad Bustanuddin, Director of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Program, along with several officials, attended the signing ceremony.

The agreement encompasses cooperation in various fields, including exchanging students and faculty members. It also aims to enhance research activities and organize conferences and workshops to facilitate knowledge exchange and skill development between the two parties.

Dr. Atatreh affirmed that this partnership represents a significant step toward achieving Al Ain University's vision of building bridges of cooperation with global universities to support students and enhance the university's international standing.

For his part, the President of Management Science University praised the importance of this agreement in strengthening academic relations between the two institutions, confirming the Malaysian university's commitment to supporting cooperation initiatives.

This agreement aligns with Al Ain University's direction toward supporting academic and research excellence, providing opportunities for students and faculty members to benefit from diverse educational and research experiences.

AAU signs Two MOUs regarding student exchange with the (ASPU) in Jordan, and (MSU) in Malaysia



The College of Pharmacy at Al Ain University (AAU) has recently signed two significant student exchange programs with the Applied Science Private University (ASPU) in Jordan, and the Management & Science University (MSU) in Malaysia. This partnership provides our students with an exceptional opportunity to engage in immersive educational experiences abroad.

The collaboration with the (ASPU) in Jordan allows Al Ain University students to participate in a student exchange program that promotes academic and cultural exchanges between the two institutions. The students involved in the AAU-ASPU exchange program are BSc. in Pharmacy, BSc. in Nutrition, and MSc. in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Through this program, all pharmacy and nutrition students (at undergraduate and postgraduate levels) have the chance to study for an entire academic semester in Jordan, experiencing the vibrant Jordanian culture and engaging with the university's esteemed faculty and students.

On the other hand, the collaboration with the (MSU) in Malaysia allows our pharmacy students to spend a semester at MSU, immersing themselves in a dynamic learning environment and benefiting from the expertise of MSU's renowned faculty. Engaging with Malaysian students and the local community provides Al Ain University students with a global perspective, enhances their cultural competence, and expands their professional networks.

On another note, the joint collaboration agreement strengthens academic and knowledge exchange, including the exchange of information and data between the two institutions, as well as the development of research projects and the organization of joint events.

Dr. Khairi Mustafa (Dean of the College of Pharmacy), commented: "Al Ain University is proud to offer these opportunities to its students, enabling them to gain valuable experiences, broaden their perspectives, and develop essential skills that will benefit them personally and professionally."

Prof. Mohammad Ghattas (Deputy Dean of the College of Pharmacy), said: "This exchange program not only broadens the student's academic horizons but also deepens their understanding of the Middle East region and fosters cross-cultural dialogue and appreciation". He added, "The student exchange program emphasizes the importance of international education, promoting global understanding, and cultivating well-rounded individuals equipped to thrive in an interconnected world".

AAU signs two MOUs with "Moscow University" and "Moscow Medical University"



Al Ain University has signed two cooperation agreements with Moscow University and Moscow Medical University to enhance collaboration in the fields of scientific research and student exchange. These agreements were signed during the Third Conference of University Presidents in the Arab-Russian Universities Association, organized by the University of Sharjah under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and President of the University of Sharjah.

The agreements were signed by Prof. Ghaleb Al Refae, President of Al Ain University, in the presence of Prof. Amer Qasem, Vice President of Al Ain University (Abu Dhabi campus), and Prof. Ibtehal Abu Rezeq, Vice President for Development and Follow-up.

Prof. Al Refae emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral relations with the two Universities, as it would enhance the exchange of expertise and data, develop academic programs, and organize joint conferences and events. This collaboration serves the interests of both parties and positively contributes to the advancement of education, benefiting the students.

Al Ain University signs an MOU with Murdoch University



In a significant development for global academic collaboration, Al Ain University (AAU) and Murdoch University (MU) have officially signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), charting

a new course for international educational partnership. The MoU was signed in the presence of Prof. Ghaleb El Refae, President of Al Ain University, and Dr. Mustafa Khairi, the former Dean of the College of Pharmacy at AAU, representing the commitment of AAU to this groundbreaking initiative. From Murdoch University, the signatories included Prof. Simon McKirdy, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Global Engagement in MU, underscoring MU's dedication to enhancing its global engagement and research impact.

The agreement marks a significant step forward in international educational cooperation, with both institutions committing to a wide range of collaborative activities. These initiatives are designed to enhance the educational landscape, foster cultural exchange, and promote global understanding.

The signing of this MoU between Al Ain University and Murdoch University is not just a testament to their commitment to academic excellence and international cooperation but also a beacon of hope for future generations. It promises to open new doors for students and faculty alike, offering them unprecedented opportunities for learning, research, and personal growth. The collaboration is expected to yield significant benefits for both academic communities, fostering a spirit of innovation and mutual respect that transcends geographical boundaries.

An MOU with Zhejiang Institute of Geology in China



The College of Engineering at Al Ain University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Zhejiang Institute of Geology in the People's Republic of China, a first-tier public institution under the Zhejiang Provincial Government. The institute specializes in theoretical and applied geological studies, integrating advanced scientific research with practical applications across multiple geological fields. It is committed to developing innovative geology and natural resources solutions and is distinguished by its international collaborations with various academic and research institutions.

The signing ceremony occurred at the Abu Dhabi campus, attended by a high-level Zhejiang Institute of Geology delegation, including senior officials who traveled specifically from China to the UAE to finalize the agreement.

The MoU was signed on behalf of Al Ain University by Prof. Abdullah Ahmed Al-Shara, Director of the Civil Engineering Program, and on behalf of the Zhejiang Institute of Geology by Dr. Gu Hongwei, Director of Green Development in Mining Research. The event was witnessed by Prof. Amer Qasem, Vice President of the University, along with department heads, directors, and faculty members from both sides.

This partnership aims to establish a strategic collaboration between the two institutions by exchanging academic and research expertise in various fields, particularly civil engineering and geology. The MoU outlines cooperative initiatives in diverse areas, including: Geological surveys, Mineral resource research, Exploration, development, and utilization of mineral resources, Research on sustainable building materials, Geological engineering, Geotechnical engineering, Urban geological safety, Prevention and control of geological hazards, Ecological restoration of land and regions, Resource and environmental assessments

This agreement marks a pivotal step in building academic bridges between the two parties, offering students and faculty opportunities to engage in educational and research exchange programs. These initiatives will contribute to developing scientific and research skills for both sides.

During the visit, the Chinese delegation toured the civil engineering laboratories at Al Ain University, exploring the university's advanced facilities in this field, which reflect the high quality and scientific development achieved by the university in its academic programs and research labs.

Prof. Amer Qasem, Vice President of Al Ain University - Abu Dhabi, expressed his delight at the signing of the MoU, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in advancing education and scientific research. He emphasized that this agreement would be a starting point for new and fruitful partnerships with global academic institutions.

A Delegation from Al Ain University Visits Universities in Southeast Asia to Strengthen Academic Collaboration



A delegation from Al Ain University, led by Dr. Noor Al Deen Atatreh, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Al Ain University, along with Prof. Mohammad Ghattas, Dean of the College of Pharmacy, and Dr. Mohammad Bustanuddin, Director of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Program, visited several prestigious universities in Malaysia and Indonesia.

The visit aimed to strengthen research and knowledge collaboration, promote student and faculty exchange programs, and support joint academic and cultural initiatives among the participating universities. This initiative aligns with Al Ain University's strategy to enhance its international relations and expand its educational partnerships, improving education and scientific research quality.

As part of the visit, the Al Ain University delegation signed several agreements, most notably a cooperation agreement with the University of Administrative Sciences in Malaysia. This agreement focuses on developing joint academic and research programs and creating exchange opportunities for students and faculty between the two institutions.

During the visit, the delegation toured various university facilities, exploring state-of-the-art research centers and scientific laboratories. The host universities presented their academic programs and outstanding research initiatives. The delegation also engaged in discussions with educational leaders to exchange ideas, share experiences, and identify future areas of collaboration.

Dr. Atatreh stated, "Our visit to these prestigious universities reflects Al Ain University's vision to enhance international partnerships and support academic excellence. We always strive to expand collaboration horizons to provide an innovative educational and research environment for our students and faculty, aligning with our aspirations to be at the forefront of academic institutions in the region."

Prof. Ghattas added, "The opportunities offered by such partnerships extend beyond academic and research exchange to include developing joint educational programs and initiatives that enhance student skills and empower them to compete internationally. We are eager to implement the agreements reached during this visit."

The visit concluded successfully, with both parties expressing their aspirations to promptly activate the signed agreements and implement collaborative programs. Such visits and agreements highlight Al Ain University's commitment to bridging academic communication between diverse cultures and enhancing its position regionally and globally.

Al Ain University and Siemens Energy collaborate to Foster Research and Innovation in the Energy Sector



Al Ain University (AAU) and Siemens Energy LLC have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a collaborative partnership to advance innovation, knowledge exchange, and joint research in the energy sector. The MoU was signed by Prof. Ghaleb El Refae

(President- Al Ain University), and Dr. Fahad Al Yafei (Chief Technology Officer, Technology and Innovation Center Abu Dhabi, Siemens Energy.). The signing ceremony was attended by Dr. Noor Al Deen Atatreh (Board of Trustees Deputy Chairman- Al Ain University), Mr. Khalid Bin Hadi (UAE Managing Director- Siemens Energy), and staff members from both organizations.

The partnership between Al Ain University and Siemens Energy focuses on collaborative research and pilot projects, with AAU students addressing real-world challenges and providing consulting solutions. At the same time, Siemens Energy experts contribute their knowledge to enhance the academic environment. This collaboration also aims to create new job opportunities for AAU graduates and develop a skilled talent pipeline for Siemens Energy. It involves sharing resources, pursuing joint funding for energy transition research, and working on projects in de-carbonization, energy storage, and blockchain applications.

“This collaboration marks a major advance in aligning academia with industry needs. By partnering with Siemens Energy, we offer our students exceptional opportunities to tackle real-world challenges, drive innovation, and prepare for leadership roles in the energy sector. Together, we are advancing research and developing sustainable solutions for a better future.” said Prof. Ghaleb El Refae, President of Al Ain University.

“Partnership is key to accelerating de-carbonization. Enabling knowledge transfer and fostering innovation in the energy sector is crucial to empowering future generations in the fight against climate change. We’re proud to launch this collaboration with Al Ain University and work with academia to develop and commercialize new technologies that will make a meaningful contribution to reaching net zero,” said Dr. Fahad Al Yafei, Chief Technology Officer, Technology and Innovation Center Abu Dhabi, Siemens Energy.

German Jordanian University Signs MOU with Al Ain University in the UAE to Strengthen Academic Cooperation



The German Jordanian University (GJU) and Al Ain University in the United Arab Emirates have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen academic and scientific cooperation between the two institutions.

The agreement was signed by the President of GJU, Prof. Ala’aldeen Al-Halhouli, and the President of Al Ain University, Prof. Ghaleb El-Refae, in the presence of representatives from both sides.

The MoU aims to enhance academic exchange for faculty members and students, implement joint research projects, organize training courses, workshops, and academic seminars, and develop innovative programs focused on technical education and e-learning. Additionally, the agreement emphasizes innovation and entrepreneurship to achieve mutual benefit.

Prof. Al-Halhouli highlighted that the signing of this agreement reflects GJU's commitment to strengthening its partnerships with regional and international universities, aligning with its vision to provide practical and distinguished education.

Prof. El-Refae stated that this cooperation represents a positive step toward achieving academic excellence and enhancing the quality of education in the region.

The agreement stipulates that joint activities and projects will be implemented under detailed agreements to be negotiated later, in compliance with the laws and regulations of both Jordan and the UAE.

AAU signs an MOU with Jordan University of Science and Technology



Al Ain University and Jordan University of Science and Technology signed an MOU to enhance future cooperation between the two parties in areas of common interest. And enhancing effective relations in order to achieve the common vision and goals between the two institutions, concerting efforts, and exchanging training experiences.

Prof. Saeb Khresat, President of Jordan University of Science and Technology received Prof. Ghaleb El Refae, AAU President, and Prof. Haytham Bani Salama, Dean of Scientific Research and Graduate Studies, where both parties signed the MOU which aims to encourage the faculty members in the two universities to attract international scientific projects. Also, to conduct joint research projects with researchers and faculty members in various fields, in order to contribute the exchange of ideas and experiences which intend raise the level of scientific research, which is a key element in achieving development of the societies.

Prof. El Refae indicated that scientific research is a priority at Al Ain University, which shows through joint cooperation agreements with various institutions. Stressing the university's keenness to consolidate scientific cooperation links with various prestigious international universities, as such

agreements help the university in achieving its mission of spreading science and knowledge worldwide, which enhances the university's position in international rankings.

7. The global water and flood alarm project demonstrates joint data gathering

AAU's College of Engineering and the University of Mount Union in the United States implemented a Global Engineering Project focused on a water and flood alarm system. Students from the two universities formed joint teams before the event, shared design and execution work, and built and tested a system that used load sensors, solar power and wireless communication between a sensor station and a monitoring station.

This is a direct example of international collaboration on gathering and measuring SDG data. The system converts observed water or flood conditions into sensor data, transmits that information to a monitoring point and supports an alert response. The project links SDG 6 on water, SDG 9 on innovation, SDG 11 on resilient communities, SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 17 on international partnership.



Exhibit 1. AAU and University of Mount Union participants in the joint water and flood alarm project. The system combined sensors, wireless communication and a monitoring station. Source: AAU [E25].

Public evidence: [E25](#) | [E50](#)

A Global Engineering Project between Al Ain University and Mount Union University Entitled “Water and Flood Alarm System”



The first-ever Global Engineering Project in the Middle East was successfully hosted by the College of Engineering at Al Ain University - Abu Dhabi Campus, in collaboration with the University of Mount Union in the United States. This course is aimed at providing engineering students with both the theoretical and practical knowledge necessary to become competent global engineers and to work effectively with international partners from diverse disciplines.

Months prior to the event, students from both universities were grouped into teams to discuss and share ideas on the project's design and execution. The event spanned two days, with students working together under the guidance of faculty committees from both universities to construct and test the proposed "Water and Flood Warning System." The system, equipped with load sensors, a solar power system, wireless communication, a sensor station, and a monitoring station, was designed to detect water and floods in a timely manner and provide warnings to people in the area.

The project provided students with an opportunity to experience engineering within a different culture and learn to work with different team dynamics.

8. AAU participates in international forums where SDG data and methods are examined

AAU participates in international research and policy forums that interpret measurement results, compare methods and disseminate findings. At the UAEU-THE University Impact Forum on accelerating action on SDG 6, AAU participated as a strategic partner. The programme included international experts and an advanced data masterclass delivered by THE's Chief Data Officer, examining Impact Rankings performance, regional strengths and areas of focus for clean water and sanitation.

The University's 2024 Global Digital Health Conference similarly connected researchers and practitioners around health data analytics, quality-of-life modelling, standards and interoperability. The Annual Student Conference brought more than 54 presenters from eight Arab countries, while the Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium provided another route for presenting and reviewing research findings. AAU's participation in the 2024 World Environmental Education Congress linked the University to a wider international sustainability knowledge network.



Exhibit 2. The THE University Impact Forum on accelerating action on SDG 6, in which AAU participated as a strategic partner and international SDG performance data were examined. Sources: UAEU and WAM [E33-E34].

Public evidence: [E28](#) | [E29](#) | [E30](#) | [E31](#) | [E32](#) | [E33](#) | [E34](#)

AAU participated in the WEEC 2024



Al Ain university (AAU) actively engaged in the 12th World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC 2024), to emphasize its commitment to environmental issues and sustainable development. AAU's professors presented a variety of research presentations discussing environmental issues, and the university also participated in the accompanying exhibition, showcasing its community initiatives in climate, environmental sustainability, and environmental education.

The hosting of this global conference by the United Arab Emirates reflects its commitment to environmental sustainability. Al Ain University, aligned with this vision, is dedicated to applying the highest standards of environmental sustainability through education, scientific research, community activities, and university infrastructure. The university is committed to providing high-quality education, organizing conferences, workshops, and launching initiatives that serve the youth and contribute to enhancing sustainable entrepreneurship for the future.

Al Ain University takes pride in its ranking as the 5th in the United Arab Emirates in the 2024 QS World Sustainability Ranking. Additionally, the university has achieved advanced positions in Sustainable Development Goals, ranking 6th globally in Goal 4 (Quality Education), 33rd globally in Goal 5 (Gender Equality), and 88th globally in Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). The university is also a member of the Universities Climate Network, a network of 33 local universities collaborating in education, research, and community service in environmental protection and climate change mitigation.

Al Ain university offers a diverse range of programs and specializations that align with its educational outcomes and sustainable development goals. Al Ain University actively seeks to strengthen its relationships and establish collaborative agreements with external institutions interested in environmental issues, including the Abu Dhabi Environment Agency and the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority.

Al Ain University made a notable contribution to COP 28, with its professors delivering oral presentations and research papers addressing environmental, climate, sustainability, and artificial intelligence issues. The university's students also participated in the Climate Ambassadors program, innovation competitions, and entrepreneurship challenges.

The university prioritizes the promotion of scientific research and encourages professors to conduct innovative research that serves the environment, addresses climate challenges, and generates creative solutions.

Al Ain University Organizes the Global Digital Health Conference - Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment



Al Ain University organized the "Global Digital Health Conference - Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment" at its Abu Dhabi campus from September 24 to 26, 2024. The event was organized in collaboration with the Global Academy of Digital Health in the UK, with the support of the Dubai Health Authority and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

The opening ceremony of the conference was attended by Professor Amjad Qandil (representing the Commission for Academic Accreditation - Ministry of Education), Dr. Noor Al Deen Atatreh (Vice Chairman of Al Ain University's Board of Trustees), Prof. Ghaleb El Refae (President of Al Ain University), Professor Mohammed Oudah (President of the Global Academy of Digital Health in the UK), and Professor Ismail Matalqa (President of Ras Al Khaimah Medical and Health Sciences University), alongside several prominent figures from various universities, medical centers, and institutions. The conference also saw participation from a large number of academic and economic elites, faculty members, specialists, and a group of enthusiasts and followers in the scientific field.

The conference aimed to meet the strategic needs of digital healthcare and policymakers by providing opportunities to access the latest outputs of research and development in innovative digital healthcare.

The event featured a series of keynote speeches focusing on digital health foresight, specialized workshops, and the presentation of outstanding research papers. Additionally, a dedicated PhD research forum was held in this vital field. The conference also included an exhibition showcasing leading providers of digital healthcare services and products.

In a special statement to Emirates News Agency, Professor Mohammed Oudah (President of the Global Academy of Digital Health in the UK) said: "The Academy is the sponsor and founder of the Global Digital Health Conference worldwide, and this is the first time the conference is being held in the Middle East and North Africa. The field of digital health is very promising, and we expect it to help bridge the gap in providing healthcare to everyone, everywhere around the world."

He added, "The conference includes a group of doctors and scientists affiliated with the Academy who have developed workshops on the use of robotics in orthopedic surgeries and joint replacements of the knee and hip. We will also present our experience in collaboration with Gilmer in France in a workshop on using artificial intelligence to identify fractures."

Professor Oudah continued, "The conference will highlight key digital applications in pathology, mythology, smart hospitals, and pharmaceutical operations management, with the participation of our colleagues from Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. The event will also focus on scientific research and development. We look forward to achieving scientific research outcomes that serve humanity through the formation of research and scientific teams from each workshop. We appreciate Al Ain University's efforts in hosting this conference, which is the first of its kind in the region."

On his part, Prof. Ghaleb El Refae (President of Al Ain University) affirmed, "The convening of the 'Global Digital Health Conference - Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment' at Al Ain University reflects our firm commitment to supporting innovation and contributing to shaping the future of digital healthcare. In collaboration with our partners, we aim to make a tangible impact on research and development in this important field."

He added, "This conference is an exceptional opportunity to exchange ideas and expertise, and explore the latest innovations and technologies that will transform healthcare as we know it today. We are confident that the discussions and workshops during this event will help drive technological advancements in the healthcare sector and enhance the capabilities of both local and international talents to keep pace with global developments."

The 2024 Global Digital Health Knowledge Exchange & Empowerment Conference



The 2024 Global Digital Health Knowledge Exchange & Empowerment Conference

2024 gDigiHealth.KEE
Conference

Jointly Organized by

Global Academy for Digital Health (GA4DH) and **Al Ain University**

GA4DH Conference Series

Abu Dhabi, UAE
24-26 September, 2024

More than 54 university students from 8 Arab countries presented their research at Al Ain University



Under the patronage of Her Highness Dr. Shamma bint Mohammed bin Khalid Al Nahyan, the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalid Al Nahyan Cultural and Educational Institutions, Al Ain University represented by the Deanship of Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Tolerance club, organized the Annual Student Conference of the Association of Deanships of Student Affairs 2024

from February 19 to 21, 2024, under the theme: "Sustainability of University Life in Light of COP 28."

The conference attracted over 54 student researchers from eight Arab countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq. The conference covered various topics, including basic medical sciences, sustainable development and the role of university students in promoting it, artificial intelligence and its role in creating new job opportunities, and digital media and its role in supporting innovation and entrepreneurship among university students.

The opening ceremony was attended by Her Highness Dr. Shamma bint Mohammed bin Khalid Al Nahyan, who expressed her delight at being present at Al Ain University, emphasizing the humanitarian, academic, and cultural significance of the institution. She stated, "The theme of this year's conference, 'Sustainability of University Life,' presents significant challenges as it reflects the importance of the role universities play in achieving sustainable development and ensuring the quality of students' future and well-being." She highlighted the importance of scientific research, encouraging students to participate in initiatives and adopt a lifestyle that supports sustainability through their consumption choices and involvement in research focused on sustainability. She added, "Sustainability is not just a goal we seek to achieve but an ongoing journey of learning and development."

The opening ceremony was also attended by His Excellency Prof. Amro Ezzat Salama, the Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, Dr. Noor El-Deen Atatreh, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof. Ghaleb Al Refae, President of Al Ain University, university presidents from Arab countries, Al Ain University professors, and participating students.

Dr. Noor El-Deen Atatreh, emphasized Al Ain University's commitment to preparing a new generation of high-level researchers, enhancing their research capabilities and scientific writing skills in line with the vision of the UAE, which supports scientific research and encourages youth innovation and creativity. He commended the university's efforts in organizing scientific conferences, cultural workshops, and creating an integrated educational and cultural environment.

Prof. Ghaleb Al Refae, highlighted the distinctive feature of this conference, which lies in the participation of students. He emphasized the general importance of scientific research and its specific significance for university students in terms of enhancing their knowledge, skills, and gaining new experiences in various fields. He expressed gratitude to all those involved in organizing the conference and the participating students, stating that their involvement in such conferences is a valuable asset. He affirmed Al Ain University's commitment to organizing more conferences focusing on scientific research and promoting student participation at the local, Arab, and global levels.

Prof. Ibtehal Abu Rezeq, Vice-President of the University for Development and Follow-up Affairs, Dean of Student Affairs, and the Secretary-General of the Association of Student Affairs Deans, noted that organizing this conference is part of Al Ain University's commitment as the headquarters of the Association of Student Affairs Deans in Arab universities affiliated with the Association of Arab Universities. The aim is to support researchers and scientific research while encouraging students to engage in research and innovation. She added that the conference aims to encourage students to participate in scientific research, developing their skills, refining their capabilities, providing opportunities for exchanging experiences among Arab university students, creating an environment for collaborative student work in scientific research, and exploring the potential and talents of young students in various fields and domains.

AAU organizes the 2nd AAU Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium



The College of Pharmacy at Al Ain University organized the second AAU Health and Biomedical postgraduate Symposium at Abu Dhabi Campus. More than 100 postgraduate students from 10 Arab and foreign countries participated, presenting over 120 research papers.

The symposium included diverse lectures, group discussions, scientific and social activities, and cultural games. It provides an opportunity for postgraduate students to enhance their scientific knowledge, develop skills, explore various career opportunities, interact with experts, and expand their professional network through the postgraduate student research competition. The competition covers several fields, including health and medical sciences, pharmacy and drug discovery, artificial intelligence in health sciences, medical engineering, nutrition and food sciences, pharmacy practice, and clinical sciences. The student research competition consists of three categories: oral presentations, poster presentations, and a three-minute thesis competition.

Al Ain University students won 8 awards in various research fields. Additionally, Dubai Medical College for Girls received 6 awards, the United Arab Emirates University received 5 awards, and 4 awards each went to the Jordan University of Science and Technology and Abu Dhabi University. The University of Sharjah secured 3 awards, while the Gulf Medical University and Qatar University each received 2 awards. The Arab University of Beirut, Hashemite University in Jordan, Ajman University, Khalifa University, Egypt International University, and Al-Zarqa University in Jordan each received one award.

Prof. Ghaleb Al Refae, the AAU President, emphasized that the university places great importance on scientific research and encourages students, especially postgraduate students, to produce scientific research and work on publishing it in reputable scientific journals. He highlighted that scientific research enhances students' skills for their future careers. He also affirmed that Al Ain University has been keen on establishing several research centers and scientific laboratories to support research activities.

In turn, Prof. Mohammed Ghattas, Dean of the College of Pharmacy at Al Ain University, highlighted the role played by the university's administration in supporting students through organizing conferences and workshops. These initiatives contribute to enhancing students' skills and provide them with opportunities to build relationships with individuals who share common interests in their fields of work.

The Times Higher Education Forum "Accelerating Action on SDG 6" has commenced at the United Arab Emirates University



With wide participation from experts and several international institutions in the field of clean water and sanitation, the Times Higher Education Forum on "Accelerating Action on Sustainable Development Goal 6" began on the morning of September 11, 2023, at the United Arab Emirates University. This forum is related to ensuring access to clean water and sanitation services for all within the framework of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

The event was attended by His Excellency Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, the Cultural Advisor to His Highness the President of the UAE and the Chancellor of the United Arab Emirates University, His Excellency Dr. Arif Sultan Al Hammadi, the Executive Vice President of Khalifa University of Science and Technology, and Mr. Duncan Ross, the Chief Data Officer at "Times Higher Education," along with a broad range of experts and international consultants, university and research leaders, and specialists in the fields of clean water and sanitation, international institutions, and Ms. Sarah Ahmed, Founder and director of "UNESCO" supported Global Network of Virtual Water Museums, in strategic partnership with Khalifa

University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi University, and Al Ain University, Trends Research & Advisory, and the Emirates News Agency (WAM), in the city of Al Ain.

In his speech, His Excellency Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, the Cultural Advisor to His Highness the President of the UAE and the Chancellor of the United Arab Emirates University, welcomed the participants in the forum and said, "The United Nations has defined 17 Sustainable Development Goals in its Sustainable Development Plan for 2030. The United Arab Emirates is committed to achieving each of these goals. The UAE seeks to strike a balance between social and economic development and the imperative of protecting our natural resources for future generations." He added, "The United Arab Emirates recognizes the importance of access to clean water and sanitation as a fundamental human right, and we are working to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 through a range of initiatives. The country has made significant investments in upgrading the available infrastructure to ensure access to clean water and sanitation. It has also introduced policies and regulations that promote water conservation and sustainable consumption, which also enhance the efficiency of treated wastewater use and encourage the use of modern irrigation techniques."

His Excellency also stated, "Through the main presentations and discussions in this important forum, we look forward to examining the practices and standards that ensure access to clean water and sanitation for all individuals. We will also explore the role of academic institutions and scientific research centers in striving to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 and the measures that can be taken locally."

Professor Ahmed Murad, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the forum and the Associate Provost for Research at the United Arab Emirates University, further explained, "This forum aims to highlight the leading role of the United Arab Emirates University in achieving the national agenda related to Sustainable Development Goal 6. This will be achieved through research, innovation, and the development of academic programs that enhance the role of students as active contributors to the development and progress of the country. Additionally, the conference aims to explore the best academic practices that contribute to innovative solutions for the challenges of clean water and sanitation by building strategic partnerships."

In the opening session of the forum, titled "How Can Clean Water and Sanitation become universally accessible," both Professor Peng Wang from Sun Yat-sen University in China and Sanjay Swarup, the Director of the National University of Singapore's Environmental Research Institute (NERI), pointed out that one of the most significant challenges to economic stability is the alarming decrease in per capita and national access to clean water in many regions around the world. This challenge is one of the major obstacles to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6, and they discussed the potential for international cooperation to overcome this challenge.

The second session of the forum focused on the topic "Aiding and addressing: How can universities promote best practices for clean water and sanitation." The session was chaired by Professor Ahmed Murad, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the forum and the Associate Provost for Research at the United Arab Emirates University. The speakers emphasized what universities and higher education institutions in countries should provide in terms of creating influential frameworks for achieving Sustainable Development Goals. They discussed the importance of providing the necessary resources for implementing the established plans, which realistically contribute to achieving their goals. Participants in this session included: His Excellency Arif Al Hammadi, Executive Vice President of Khalifa University Ms. Sarah Ahmed, Founder and director of "UNESCO-supported Global Network of Virtual

Water Museums, Dr. Andrew Hursthouse, Professor of Environmental Geochemical Chemistry at the University of the West of Scotland, Dr. Eesa AlBastaki, President of the University of Dubai.

Additionally, a third dialogue session was held within the framework of the Times Higher Education Forum on Accelerating Action on Sustainable Development Goal 6. This session addressed a scientific question titled "Against the clock: How Can the Global Research Community Best Coordinate to Meet SGD 6 Targets" The session was moderated by Professor Ghassan Aouad, Chancellor of Abu Dhabi University. The dialogue session explored the role of the international research community in better coordinating to achieve these goals, and the best solutions that can be offered and effectively implemented to address the clean water and sanitation crisis amidst dwindling resources and rapid climate change. Participants in this session included: Professor Mohsen Sherif, a Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the United Arab Emirates University, Associate Professor J. Paul Chen from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the National University of Singapore, Professor Elisabeth Holland, Director of the Pacific Center for Environment and Sustainable Development from the University of the South Pacific, and Dr. Nazih Mallat, Vice President of Al Ain University for Accreditation and Quality Assurance.

In the evening session of the forum, a lecture titled "Smart Facility Management Solutions: Best Practices in Sustainability" was delivered by Mr. Ahmed Al Atrash, the General Manager of Khadamat Facility Management Company. In this lecture, he highlighted innovative solutions, technologies, and practices related to improving the quality and conservation of water to promote the transition towards smart cities and sustainability practices.

Forum participants also discussed the role of media and its impact on advancing the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 in a dialogue session moderated by Dr. Ali Al-Ghafli, the Vice Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at the United Arab Emirates University. The session was titled "Clean Coverage: How Can the Media Provide the Most Accurate Reflection of the Challenges Around Sustainable Development Goal 6?" Participants in this session included: Mariët Westermann, Vice Chancellor of New York University Abu Dhabi, Ms. Elyazia Jasim AlHosani, Head of Media Communications Office at Trends Research & Advisory, and Dr. Maha Bashri, from the Department of Media and Creative Industries at the United Arab Emirates University.

During the evening session of the forum, another dialogue session was held under the title "Youth-Driven Innovation: How Young People Are Creating Social For SDG6". The session was moderated by Mr. Sultan Hajji, the Vice-President of Public Affairs and Alumni Relations at the Mohamed bin Zayed University for Artificial Intelligence. Participants discussed the role of higher education and the scientific research sector in empowering youth effectively and assisting them in working towards achieving the long-term goals of Sustainable Development Goal 6. Speakers in this session included: Ms. Maysoon Halal - Executive Director of the Fatima bint Hazza Cultural Foundation, Dr. Hatem AbuShamlah from the Department of Environmental Health and Safety at Abu Dhabi University, Mr. Sultan Khalifa Al-Rubaei Deputy Head of Research and Advisory Sector at Trends Research & Advisory, and Ms. Isabela Battistello Espindola Senior Membership Engagement Manager at the International Water Association in London.

Additionally, an advanced data masterclass was conducted by the Times Higher Education, delivered by Mr. Duncan Ross, the Chief Data Officer. This course analyzed the performance of universities in the 2023 impact rankings, with a particular focus on the activities undertaken by universities to support sustainable practices in the field of clean water and sanitation to achieve Sustainable Development Goal

6. The masterclass aimed to review global university performance, as well as regional strengths and weaknesses.

In the concluding session of the forum, Professor Ahmed Murad and Mr. Duncan Ross presented the key findings and recommendations for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 in clean water and sanitation. They emphasized the importance of international cooperation and partnerships in finding scientific solutions to water-related challenges. It was highlighted that best global practices emphasize the effective role of scientists and researchers in academic institutions and universities in providing inventions that serve humanity and contribute to providing water for all.

INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE AND DATA QUALITY

9. AAU connects international data participation to its governance and research system

AAU's international SDG measurement is supported by institutional governance rather than isolated projects. The Strategic and Operational Plans embed sustainability, research, partnership and performance monitoring within the University's objectives. The Annual Report consolidates institutional results. The Sustainability Research Center and the Deanship of Scientific Research and Graduate Studies support interdisciplinary research, collaboration and publication, while research policies govern integrity, responsibilities and approvals.

Independent review by the UK Quality Assurance Agency in February 2024 confirmed that AAU uses an institutional quality system, maintains policies through a digital platform and applies regular review and monitoring. These controls support the reliability of the information supplied to external systems and the responsible management of internationally collaborative research.

Governance component	Data responsibility	International contribution
Strategic and operational planning	Sets objectives, indicators, ownership and monitoring cycles	Aligns international activity with institutional priorities
Annual reporting	Consolidates achievements and performance evidence	Creates an auditable reporting-year record
Sustainability Research Center	Coordinates interdisciplinary sustainability research	Supports SDG-linked data and joint projects
Research deanship and policies	Govern research, ethics, funding and dissemination	Supports credible cross-border empirical work
Accreditation and quality assurance	Checks policy, evidence and continuous improvement	Strengthens reliability of submitted information

Governance component	Data responsibility	International contribution
International measurement platforms	Apply common definitions and publish comparison	Return results that AAU can monitor over time

Public evidence: [E01](#) | [E06](#) | [E07](#) | [E12](#) | [E13](#) | [E14](#) | [E15](#) | [E16](#) | [E17](#)

Research Policies

Research Policies



- Intellectual Property and Research Commercialization
- Research Support
- Research Ethics Policy
- Student Involvement in Research

10. International collaboration turns AAU information into measurable SDG evidence

Across the University's benchmarking, research and monitoring activities, the same evidence cycle is visible: relevant information is defined, gathered by the responsible participants, checked, analysed with international partners or platforms, reported publicly and then used as a baseline for subsequent activity.

Stage	AAU practice	International collaboration	Output
Define	Use international indicators or an agreed research question	THE, UI GreenMetric, QS or research partner	Comparable scope
Gather	Compile institutional metrics, documentary evidence, observations or research records	Common questionnaire, protocol, dataset or sensor design	Structured data
Validate	Check completeness, dates, definitions, ethics and attribution	Platform rules, peer review or partner verification	Quality-controlled evidence
Analyse	Calculate indicators, scores, models, trends or relationships	International platform or multi-country research team	Results and findings
Report	Publish rankings, papers, conference findings and institutional records	Global ranking tables, journals and forums	Public evidence
Monitor	Compare performance and sustain later projects	Recurring international cycle and continuing partnerships	Longitudinal learning

Public evidence: [E01](#) | [E04](#) | [E05](#) | [E06](#) | [E07](#) | [E12](#) | [E17](#) | [E25](#) | [E38](#) | [E39](#) | [E40](#) | [E41](#) | [E42](#)

A Global Engineering Project between Al Ain University and Mount Union University Entitled “Water and Flood Alarm System”



The first-ever Global Engineering Project in the Middle East was successfully hosted by the College of Engineering at Al Ain University - Abu Dhabi Campus, in collaboration with the University of Mount Union in the United States. This course is aimed at providing engineering students with both the

theoretical and practical knowledge necessary to become competent global engineers and to work effectively with international partners from diverse disciplines.

Months prior to the event, students from both universities were grouped into teams to discuss and share ideas on the project's design and execution. The event spanned two days, with students working together under the guidance of faculty committees from both universities to construct and test the proposed "Water and Flood Warning System." The system, equipped with load sensors, a solar power system, wireless communication, a sensor station, and a monitoring station, was designed to detect water and floods in a timely manner and provide warnings to people in the area.

The project provided students with an opportunity to experience engineering within a different culture and learn to work with different team dynamics.

11. The 2024 data collaborations form part of a continuing international programme

The required reporting-year evidence is centred on 2024. In that year AAU appeared in international sustainability measurement systems; published its THE Impact Rankings result; entered or strengthened international research agreements; participated in international environmental and data-focused forums; hosted international research exchange; and produced cross-border empirical studies with publicly accessible DOI records.

The international programme has continued. In 2025, the College of Business signed an agreement with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute in Pakistan, extending collaboration in sustainable-development research and policy. AAU's engagement with the General Women's Union emphasized the use of data and statistics to understand conditions and evaluate initiatives. In 2026, AAU expanded international research cooperation in Indonesia. These later activities demonstrate continuation of the institutional approach after the 2024 evidence year.

Period	International SDG data activity	Continuity demonstrated
Established base	International university agreements, THE-SDG data forum and sensor-based flood project	Data exchange, interpretation and direct monitoring routes established
2024 core	THE, UI GreenMetric and QS measurement; international empirical publications; research agreements and forums	Multiple active routes in the required year
2025	SDPI Pakistan agreement and data/statistics-focused research coordination	Sustainable-development research and evaluation strengthened
2026	International research engagement in Indonesia	Cross-border research network remains active

Public evidence: [E04](#) | [E06](#) | [E09](#) | [E18](#) | [E21](#) | [E22](#) | [E24](#) | [E28](#) | [E29](#) | [E31](#) | [E32](#) | [E38](#) | [E39](#) | [E40](#) | [E41](#) | [E42](#) | [E45](#) | [E46](#) | [E47](#) | [E48](#) | [E49](#)

Cooperation Agreement Between Al Ain University and MSU in Malaysia



In a step to enhance academic and research collaboration, Al Ain University has signed a cooperation agreement with Management Science University (MSU) in Malaysia. This agreement is part of Al Ain

University's strategy to strengthen its international partnerships and exchange expertise with prestigious universities around the world.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Noor Aldeen Atatreh, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Al Ain University, and Prof Tan Sri Dato' Wira Dr. Mohd Shukri, President of Management Science University in Malaysia. Prof. Mohammad Ghattas, Dean of the College of Pharmacy, and Dr. Mohammad Bustanuddin, Director of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Program, along with several officials, attended the signing ceremony.

The agreement encompasses cooperation in various fields, including exchanging students and faculty members. It also aims to enhance research activities and organize conferences and workshops to facilitate knowledge exchange and skill development between the two parties.

Dr. Atatreh affirmed that this partnership represents a significant step toward achieving Al Ain University's vision of building bridges of cooperation with global universities to support students and enhance the university's international standing.

For his part, the President of Management Science University praised the importance of this agreement in strengthening academic relations between the two institutions, confirming the Malaysian university's commitment to supporting cooperation initiatives.

This agreement aligns with Al Ain University's direction toward supporting academic and research excellence, providing opportunities for students and faculty members to benefit from diverse educational and research experiences.

Al Ain University signs an MOU with Murdoch University



In a significant development for global academic collaboration, Al Ain University (AAU) and Murdoch University (MU) have officially signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), charting a new course for international educational partnership. The MoU was signed in the presence of Prof. Ghaleb El Refae, President of Al Ain University, and Dr. Mustafa Khairi, the former Dean of the College of Pharmacy at AAU, representing the commitment of AAU to this groundbreaking initiative. From Murdoch University, the signatories included Prof. Simon McKirdy, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Global Engagement in MU, underscoring MU's dedication to enhancing its global engagement and research impact.

The agreement marks a significant step forward in international educational cooperation, with both institutions committing to a wide range of collaborative activities. These initiatives are designed to enhance the educational landscape, foster cultural exchange, and promote global understanding.

The signing of this MoU between Al Ain University and Murdoch University is not just a testament to their commitment to academic excellence and international cooperation but also a beacon of hope for future generations. It promises to open new doors for students and faculty alike, offering them unprecedented opportunities for learning, research, and personal growth. The collaboration is expected to yield significant benefits for both academic communities, fostering a spirit of innovation and mutual respect that transcends geographical boundaries.

An MOU with Zhejiang Institute of Geology in China



The College of Engineering at Al Ain University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Zhejiang Institute of Geology in the People's Republic of China, a first-tier public institution under the Zhejiang Provincial Government. The institute specializes in theoretical and applied geological studies, integrating advanced scientific research with practical applications across multiple geological fields. It is committed to developing innovative geology and natural resources solutions and is distinguished by its international collaborations with various academic and research institutions.

The signing ceremony occurred at the Abu Dhabi campus, attended by a high-level Zhejiang Institute of Geology delegation, including senior officials who traveled specifically from China to the UAE to finalize the agreement.

The MoU was signed on behalf of Al Ain University by Prof. Abdullah Ahmed Al-Shara, Director of the Civil Engineering Program, and on behalf of the Zhejiang Institute of Geology by Dr. Gu Hongwei, Director of Green Development in Mining Research. The event was witnessed by Prof. Amer Qasem, Vice President of the University, along with department heads, directors, and faculty members from both sides.

This partnership aims to establish a strategic collaboration between the two institutions by exchanging academic and research expertise in various fields, particularly civil engineering and geology. The MoU outlines cooperative initiatives in diverse areas, including: Geological surveys, Mineral resource research, Exploration, development, and utilization of mineral resources, Research on sustainable building materials, Geological engineering, Geotechnical engineering, Urban geological safety,

Prevention and control of geological hazards, Ecological restoration of land and regions, Resource and environmental assessments

This agreement marks a pivotal step in building academic bridges between the two parties, offering students and faculty opportunities to engage in educational and research exchange programs. These initiatives will contribute to developing scientific and research skills for both sides.

During the visit, the Chinese delegation toured the civil engineering laboratories at Al Ain University, exploring the university's advanced facilities in this field, which reflect the high quality and scientific development achieved by the university in its academic programs and research labs.

Prof. Amer Qasem, Vice President of Al Ain University - Abu Dhabi, expressed his delight at the signing of the MoU, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in advancing education and scientific research. He emphasized that this agreement would be a starting point for new and fruitful partnerships with global academic institutions.

Al Ain University and Siemens Energy collaborate to Foster Research and Innovation in the Energy Sector



Al Ain University (AAU) and Siemens Energy LLC have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a collaborative partnership to advance innovation, knowledge exchange, and joint research in the energy sector. The MoU was signed by Prof. Ghaleb El Refae (President- Al Ain University), and Dr. Fahad Al Yafei (Chief Technology Officer, Technology and Innovation Center Abu Dhabi, Siemens Energy.). The signing ceremony was attended by Dr. Noor Al Deen Atatreh (Board of Trustees Deputy Chairman- Al Ain University), Mr. Khalid Bin Hadi (UAE Managing Director- Siemens Energy), and staff members from both organizations.

The partnership between Al Ain University and Siemens Energy focuses on collaborative research and pilot projects, with AAU students addressing real-world challenges and providing consulting solutions. At the same time, Siemens Energy experts contribute their knowledge to enhance the academic environment. This collaboration also aims to create new job opportunities for AAU graduates and develop a skilled talent pipeline for Siemens Energy. It involves sharing resources, pursuing joint funding for energy transition research, and working on projects in de-carbonization, energy storage, and blockchain applications.

“This collaboration marks a major advance in aligning academia with industry needs. By partnering with Siemens Energy, we offer our students exceptional opportunities to tackle real-world challenges, drive innovation, and prepare for leadership roles in the energy sector. Together, we are advancing research and developing sustainable solutions for a better future.” said Prof. Ghaleb El Refae, President of Al Ain University.

“Partnership is key to accelerating de-carbonization. Enabling knowledge transfer and fostering innovation in the energy sector is crucial to empowering future generations in the fight against climate change. We’re proud to launch this collaboration with Al Ain University and work with academia to develop and commercialize new technologies that will make a meaningful contribution to reaching net zero,” said Dr. Fahad Al Yafei, Chief Technology Officer, Technology and Innovation Center Abu Dhabi, Siemens Energy.

AAU participated in the WEEC 2024



Al Ain university (AAU) actively engaged in the 12th World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC 2024), to emphasize its commitment to environmental issues and sustainable development. AAU’s professors presented a variety of research presentations discussing environmental issues, and the university also participated in the accompanying exhibition, showcasing its community initiatives in climate, environmental sustainability, and environmental education.

The hosting of this global conference by the United Arab Emirates reflects its commitment to environmental sustainability. Al Ain University, aligned with this vision, is dedicated to applying the highest standards of environmental sustainability through education, scientific research, community activities, and university infrastructure. The university is committed to providing high-quality education, organizing conferences, workshops, and launching initiatives that serve the youth and contribute to enhancing sustainable entrepreneurship for the future.

Al Ain University takes pride in its ranking as the 5th in the United Arab Emirates in the 2024 QS World Sustainability Ranking. Additionally, the university has achieved advanced positions in Sustainable Development Goals, ranking 6th globally in Goal 4 (Quality Education), 33rd globally in Goal 5 (Gender Equality), and 88th globally in Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). The university is also a member of the Universities Climate Network, a network of 33 local universities collaborating in education, research, and community service in environmental protection and climate change mitigation.

Al Ain university offers a diverse range of programs and specializations that align with its educational outcomes and sustainable development goals. Al Ain University actively seeks to strengthen its relationships and establish collaborative agreements with external institutions interested in environmental issues, including the Abu Dhabi Environment Agency and the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority.

Al Ain University made a notable contribution to COP 28, with its professors delivering oral presentations and research papers addressing environmental, climate, sustainability, and artificial intelligence issues. The university's students also participated in the Climate Ambassadors program, innovation competitions, and entrepreneurship challenges.

The university prioritizes the promotion of scientific research and encourages professors to conduct innovative research that serves the environment, addresses climate challenges, and generates creative solutions.

Al Ain University Organizes the Global Digital Health Conference - Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment



Al Ain University organized the "Global Digital Health Conference - Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment" at its Abu Dhabi campus from September 24 to 26, 2024. The event was organized in collaboration with the Global Academy of Digital Health in the UK, with the support of the Dubai Health Authority and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

The opening ceremony of the conference was attended by Professor Amjad Qandil (representing the Commission for Academic Accreditation - Ministry of Education), Dr. Noor Al Deen Atatreh (Vice Chairman of Al Ain University's Board of Trustees), Prof. Ghaleb El Refae (President of Al Ain University), Professor Mohammed Oudah (President of the Global Academy of Digital Health in the UK), and Professor Ismail Matalqa (President of Ras Al Khaimah Medical and Health Sciences University), alongside several prominent figures from various universities, medical centers, and institutions. The conference also saw participation from a large number of academic and economic elites, faculty members, specialists, and a group of enthusiasts and followers in the scientific field.

The conference aimed to meet the strategic needs of digital healthcare and policymakers by providing opportunities to access the latest outputs of research and development in innovative digital healthcare.

The event featured a series of keynote speeches focusing on digital health foresight, specialized workshops, and the presentation of outstanding research papers. Additionally, a dedicated PhD research

forum was held in this vital field. The conference also included an exhibition showcasing leading providers of digital healthcare services and products.

In a special statement to Emirates News Agency, Professor Mohammed Oudah (President of the Global Academy of Digital Health in the UK) said: "The Academy is the sponsor and founder of the Global Digital Health Conference worldwide, and this is the first time the conference is being held in the Middle East and North Africa. The field of digital health is very promising, and we expect it to help bridge the gap in providing healthcare to everyone, everywhere around the world."

He added, "The conference includes a group of doctors and scientists affiliated with the Academy who have developed workshops on the use of robotics in orthopedic surgeries and joint replacements of the knee and hip. We will also present our experience in collaboration with Gilmer in France in a workshop on using artificial intelligence to identify fractures."

Professor Oudah continued, "The conference will highlight key digital applications in pathology, mythology, smart hospitals, and pharmaceutical operations management, with the participation of our colleagues from Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. The event will also focus on scientific research and development. We look forward to achieving scientific research outcomes that serve humanity through the formation of research and scientific teams from each workshop. We appreciate Al Ain University's efforts in hosting this conference, which is the first of its kind in the region."

On his part, Prof. Ghaleb El Refae (President of Al Ain University) affirmed, "The convening of the 'Global Digital Health Conference - Knowledge Exchange and Empowerment' at Al Ain University reflects our firm commitment to supporting innovation and contributing to shaping the future of digital healthcare. In collaboration with our partners, we aim to make a tangible impact on research and development in this important field."

He added, "This conference is an exceptional opportunity to exchange ideas and expertise, and explore the latest innovations and technologies that will transform healthcare as we know it today. We are confident that the discussions and workshops during this event will help drive technological advancements in the healthcare sector and enhance the capabilities of both local and international talents to keep pace with global developments."

More than 54 university students from 8 Arab countries presented their research at Al Ain University



Under the patronage of Her Highness Dr. Shamma bint Mohammed bin Khalid Al Nahyan, the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalid Al Nahyan Cultural and Educational Institutions, Al Ain University represented by the Deanship of Student Affairs, in collaboration with the Tolerance club, organized the Annual Student Conference of the Association of Deanships of Student Affairs 2024

from February 19 to 21, 2024, under the theme: "Sustainability of University Life in Light of COP 28."

The conference attracted over 54 student researchers from eight Arab countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq. The conference covered various topics, including basic medical sciences, sustainable development and the role of university students in promoting it, artificial intelligence and its role in creating new job opportunities, and digital media and its role in supporting innovation and entrepreneurship among university students.

The opening ceremony was attended by Her Highness Dr. Shamma bint Mohammed bin Khalid Al Nahyan, who expressed her delight at being present at Al Ain University, emphasizing the humanitarian, academic, and cultural significance of the institution. She stated, "The theme of this year's conference, 'Sustainability of University Life,' presents significant challenges as it reflects the importance of the role universities play in achieving sustainable development and ensuring the quality of students' future and well-being." She highlighted the importance of scientific research, encouraging students to participate in initiatives and adopt a lifestyle that supports sustainability through their consumption choices and involvement in research focused on sustainability. She added, "Sustainability is not just a goal we seek to achieve but an ongoing journey of learning and development."

The opening ceremony was also attended by His Excellency Prof. Amro Ezzat Salama, the Secretary-General of the Association of Arab Universities, Dr. Noor El-Deen Atatreh, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof. Ghaleb Al Refae, President of Al Ain University, university presidents from Arab countries, Al Ain University professors, and participating students.

Dr. Noor El-Deen Atatreh, emphasized Al Ain University's commitment to preparing a new generation of high-level researchers, enhancing their research capabilities and scientific writing skills in line with the

vision of the UAE, which supports scientific research and encourages youth innovation and creativity. He commended the university's efforts in organizing scientific conferences, cultural workshops, and creating an integrated educational and cultural environment.

Prof. Ghaleb Al Refae, highlighted the distinctive feature of this conference, which lies in the participation of students. He emphasized the general importance of scientific research and its specific significance for university students in terms of enhancing their knowledge, skills, and gaining new experiences in various fields. He expressed gratitude to all those involved in organizing the conference and the participating students, stating that their involvement in such conferences is a valuable asset. He affirmed Al Ain University's commitment to organizing more conferences focusing on scientific research and promoting student participation at the local, Arab, and global levels.

Prof. Ibtehal Abu Rezeq, Vice-President of the University for Development and Follow-up Affairs, Dean of Student Affairs, and the Secretary-General of the Association of Student Affairs Deans, noted that organizing this conference is part of Al Ain University's commitment as the headquarters of the Association of Student Affairs Deans in Arab universities affiliated with the Association of Arab Universities. The aim is to support researchers and scientific research while encouraging students to engage in research and innovation. She added that the conference aims to encourage students to participate in scientific research, developing their skills, refining their capabilities, providing opportunities for exchanging experiences among Arab university students, creating an environment for collaborative student work in scientific research, and exploring the potential and talents of young students in various fields and domains.

AAU organizes the 2nd AAU Health and Biomedical Postgraduate Symposium



The College of Pharmacy at Al Ain University organized the second AAU Health and Biomedical postgraduate Symposium at Abu Dhabi Campus. More than 100 postgraduate students from 10 Arab and foreign countries participated, presenting over 120 research papers.

The symposium included diverse lectures, group discussions, scientific and social activities, and cultural games. It provides an opportunity for postgraduate students to enhance their scientific knowledge, develop skills, explore various career opportunities, interact with experts, and expand their professional network through the postgraduate student research competition. The competition covers several fields, including health and medical sciences, pharmacy and drug discovery, artificial intelligence in health sciences, medical engineering, nutrition and food sciences, pharmacy practice, and clinical sciences. The

student research competition consists of three categories: oral presentations, poster presentations, and a three-minute thesis competition.

Al Ain University students won 8 awards in various research fields. Additionally, Dubai Medical College for Girls received 6 awards, the United Arab Emirates University received 5 awards, and 4 awards each went to the Jordan University of Science and Technology and Abu Dhabi University. The University of Sharjah secured 3 awards, while the Gulf Medical University and Qatar University each received 2 awards. The Arab University of Beirut, Hashemite University in Jordan, Ajman University, Khalifa University, Egypt International University, and Al-Zarqa University in Jordan each received one award.

Prof. Ghaleb Al Refae, the AAU President, emphasized that the university places great importance on scientific research and encourages students, especially postgraduate students, to produce scientific research and work on publishing it in reputable scientific journals. He highlighted that scientific research enhances students' skills for their future careers. He also affirmed that Al Ain University has been keen on establishing several research centers and scientific laboratories to support research activities.

In turn, Prof. Mohammed Ghattas, Dean of the College of Pharmacy at Al Ain University, highlighted the role played by the university's administration in supporting students through organizing conferences and workshops. These initiatives contribute to enhancing students' skills and provide them with opportunities to build relationships with individuals who share common interests in their fields of work.

MOU Signed Between College of Business at Al Ain University and Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan



The College of Business at Al Ain Campus, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in Pakistan to enhance collaboration in joint research, knowledge exchange, and policy dialogues on key issues such as sustainability, economic development, and climate resilience. The MOU was signed by Prof. Zafar Hussain, Dean of the College of Business at Al Ain University, and Dr. Sajid Amin, Deputy Executive Director of SDPI. The partnership aims to open opportunities for international training and consultancy for both students and faculty members in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By leveraging the expertise of both institutions, the collaboration is committed to advancing impactful research that addresses urgent global challenges.

Coordinative Visit Brings Together Al Ain University and the General Women's Union to Strengthen Research and Community Collaboration



The Deanship of Student Affairs at Abu Dhabi campus organized a productive coordinative meeting with the Research and Development Department at the General Women's Union, aiming to explore opportunities for joint cooperation in research and community-related areas. The meeting also sought to enhance student involvement in producing high-quality scientific research in modern fields such as artificial intelligence, communication, and content creation empowerment.

During the meeting, emphasis was placed on the importance of data and statistics in understanding current realities and evaluating ongoing initiatives and projects. Dr. Noha Hamadeh, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, stressed the need to align university research with the national and international priorities of the UAE, contributing to the realization of the country's future vision.

In turn, Ms. Ahlam Al Lamki, Director of the Research and Development Department at the General Women's Union, proposed organizing training workshops conducted by Al Ain University faculty, focusing on scientific research methodologies. These workshops aim to enhance the research skills of Union employees and develop their knowledge of academic writing in accordance with the latest scholarly standards.

This meeting comes as part of the ongoing efforts of both institutions to foster academic and community collaboration and to contribute to the preparation of distinguished national research talents in support of sustainable development efforts across the United Arab Emirates.

Al Ain University Strengthens Its International Research Presence in Indonesia



As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance international academic and research collaboration, Al Ain University, represented by Prof. Mosab Tabash from the College of Business, participated in an academic research visit to Universitas Airlangga in Surabaya, Indonesia. The visit was hosted by the Center for Environmental, Social, and Governance Studies at Universitas Airlangga, under the leadership of Prof. Iman Harymawan, and served as an important milestone in advancing international collaboration in the fields of sustainability, business innovation, and the circular economy.

The visit included a keynote presentation delivered by Prof. Tabash titled “Transforming Research into Societal Impact”, attended by doctoral students, lecturers, and researchers from the Faculty of Economics and Business at Universitas Airlangga. The presentation highlighted the importance of producing research that not only meets rigorous academic publishing standards, but also contributes to real-world business practices and policy development.

Al Ain University, represented by Prof. Tabash, also participated in the Asia-Pacific Business and Innovation Forum 2026, organized by the Center for Environmental, Social, and Governance Studies at Universitas Airlangga in collaboration with the Research Center for ESG at The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong. The forum brought together a distinguished group of researchers and academics in economics, accounting, and finance, and Prof. Tabash shared valuable insights on building resilient business models amid the accelerating challenges of global climate change. The visit also provided valuable opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange with leading academics and researchers from the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

This participation reflects Al Ain University’s commitment to supporting research with societal impact, expanding its network of international academic partnerships, and strengthening its presence in the fields of sustainability, governance, and business innovation.

12. AAU provides direct, public and multi-route evidence of international SDG data collaboration

Al Ain University answers Yes to Indicator 17.2.3. During the 2024 reporting year, the University participated in international collaboration on gathering and measuring data for the SDGs through internationally standardized institutional benchmarking, cross-border empirical research, joint monitoring and technical projects, formal data-exchange and research partnerships, and international forums devoted to interpreting sustainability evidence.

The most direct institutional evidence is AAU's participation in the THE Impact Rankings and UI GreenMetric. Both systems transform university information into internationally comparable results. UI GreenMetric published AAU's overall and six category scores for 2024, while THE's global SDG assessment placed AAU among the top 100 institutions and published leading results for SDGs 4, 5 and 8. QS Sustainability provided additional international ESG-oriented measurement.

The institutional measurements are reinforced by substantive data work. AAU-affiliated researchers contributed to international studies using global and cross-national datasets in climate, health, education, agriculture, financial inclusion, energy uncertainty and sustainable transport. International agreements support information and data exchange, and the AAU-University of Mount Union water and flood alarm system demonstrates direct sensor-based monitoring within a cross-border project. Together, this evidence establishes sustained international participation in SDG data gathering, measurement, analysis and reporting.

FINAL RESPONSE: YES

AAU participates institutionally in international SDG data collaboration through global measurement platforms, cross-border empirical datasets, joint monitoring projects, data-exchange partnerships and international interpretation of results.

12.1 Submission evidence summary

Evidence component	Public AAU evidence	Institutional result
International SDG benchmarking	THE Impact Rankings 2024	Institutional SDG data measured and compared globally
Environmental measurement	UI GreenMetric 2024 overall and category scores	Operational sustainability data published internationally
Cross-border datasets	Seven AAU-affiliated 2024 international empirical studies	SDG-relevant data gathered, modelled and reported
Direct monitoring	Water and flood alarm project with Mount Union	Sensor data transmitted to a monitoring station

Evidence component	Public AAU evidence	Institutional result
Data-exchange frameworks	International MoUs and research agreements	Standing routes for information, data and joint research
Governance and continuity	Strategy, annual report, research system and later partnerships	Participation is institutional and continuing

13. Public evidence register

The following public sources support AAU's international SDG data measurement, cross-border data gathering, research collaboration, project implementation, governance, 2024 evidence-year status and continuing participation.

13.1 Methodology and direct AAU evidence

ID	Source class	Relevance	Public source
E01	THE methodology	Indicator wording, reporting year and public-evidence framework	Open public evidence
E02	AAU SDG page	Direct institutional evidence for Indicator 17.2.3	Open public evidence
E03	AAU evidence PDF	Downloadable public evidence for international SDG data collaboration	Open public evidence
E50	United Nations	SDG 17 and the global partnership context	Open public evidence

13.2 International sustainability measurement

ID	Source class	Relevance	Public source
E04	AAU news	AAU's published THE Impact Rankings 2024 result	Open public evidence
E05	THE	International university SDG measurement platform	Open public evidence
E06	UI GreenMetric	AAU's 2024 overall and six category scores	Open public evidence
E07	UI GreenMetric	Definitions, indicators, evidence and scoring framework	Open public evidence
E08	UI GreenMetric	Official university guideline resource	Open public evidence
E09	AAU news	AAU's QS Sustainability Rankings 2024 result	Open public evidence
E10	QS	International sustainability ranking and participant context	Open public evidence
E11	QS	Environmental, social and governance measurement methodology	Open public evidence

13.3 Institutional governance and data quality

ID	Source class	Relevance	Public source
E12	AAU report	Institutional evidence and results for 2023-2024	Open public evidence
E13	AAU strategy	Sustainability, research, partnership and monitoring framework	Open public evidence
E14	AAU research center	Interdisciplinary sustainability research structure	Open public evidence
E15	AAU deanship	Institutional responsibility for research and graduate studies	Open public evidence
E16	AAU policies	Public governance of research activity	Open public evidence
E17	Independent QAA review	Independent corroboration of AAU's quality and monitoring systems in 2024	Open public evidence
E49	AAU newsletter	Public institutional record for the end of 2024	Open public evidence

13.4 International agreements and data-enabled projects

ID	Source class	Relevance	Public source
E18	AAU partnership	2024 cooperation agreement with MSU Malaysia	Open public evidence

ID	Source class	Relevance	Public source
E19	AAU partnership	Information and data exchange with partners in Jordan and Malaysia	Open public evidence
E20	AAU partnership	Exchange of expertise and data with Moscow universities	Open public evidence
E21	AAU partnership	2024 research cooperation with Murdoch University	Open public evidence
E22	AAU partnership	2024 geoscience cooperation with Zhejiang Institute of Geology	Open public evidence
E23	AAU engagement	2024 Southeast Asian university collaboration	Open public evidence
E24	AAU-industry partnership	Joint energy research and pilot projects with Siemens Energy	Open public evidence
E25	AAU project	Direct sensor and monitoring project with the University of Mount Union	Open public evidence
E26	Partner university	Joint research and training agreement with German Jordanian University	Open public evidence
E27	AAU partnership	Joint research and international projects with JUST	Open public evidence

13.5 International research exchange and interpretation

ID	Source class	Relevance	Public source
E28	AAU engagement	Participation in the World Environmental Education Congress 2024	Open public evidence
E29	AAU conference	International digital-health knowledge and data exchange	Open public evidence
E30	Conference programme	Data analytics, modelling, standards and interoperability themes	Open public evidence
E31	AAU conference	Research presentations from eight Arab countries in 2024	Open public evidence
E32	AAU symposium	Health and biomedical research exchange in 2024	Open public evidence
E33	UAEU-THE forum	SDG 6 data masterclass and international dialogue	Open public evidence
E34	WAM	External reporting of the international SDG 6 forum	Open public evidence
E35	AAU-government MoU	Environmental research and data infrastructure	Open public evidence
E36	Abu Dhabi Media Office	Research partnership with UAE universities	Open public evidence
E37	WAM	Abu Dhabi Environmental Research Network	Open public evidence

13.6 AAU-affiliated international empirical research in 2024

ID	Source class	Relevance	Public source
E38	Peer-reviewed study	Global climate, soil and emissions modelling	Open public evidence
E39	Peer-reviewed study	Global and regional cataract visual-impairment estimates	Open public evidence
E40	Peer-reviewed study	Student-performance measurement in education	Open public evidence
E41	Peer-reviewed study	Remote-sensing crop and land-change data	Open public evidence
E42	Peer-reviewed study	Financial-literacy and inclusion data in Indonesia	Open public evidence
E43	Peer-reviewed study	Climate-policy and energy-uncertainty data	Open public evidence
E44	Peer-reviewed study	Sustainable smart-city transportation systems	Open public evidence

13.7 Continuing international collaboration

ID	Source class	Relevance	Public source
E45	AAU partnership	2025 sustainable-development research agreement with SDPI Pakistan	Open public evidence
E46	International partner	Independent listing of SDPI partnerships and MoUs	Open public evidence

ID	Source class	Relevance	Public source
E47	AAU research coordination	Use of data and statistics to understand and evaluate initiatives	Open public evidence
E48	AAU engagement	International research cooperation in Indonesia in 2026	Open public evidence