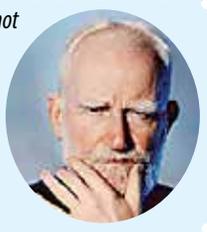


We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future.  
— George Bernard Shaw



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## BIPD Trains Students on Scholarships to be Ambassadors of Bahrain

In concurrence with announcing scholarships abroad, Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD) commences as of Sunday, introducing “Scholarship Recipient Ambassador” in the period from August 21-25, which is aimed to be an annual program. The program targets the students on Ministry of Education scholarships to study abroad.

Dr. Yaser Al-Alawi, Executive Director of BIPD stated: The “Scholarship Recipient Ambassador” program is one of the awareness programs that are closely associated with fulfilling the Institute’s objectives, and further aims to promote its efforts to nurture political upbringing, and to develop the political awareness of citizens. The program, he added, is a manifestation of the Institute’s interactive role and social responsibility toward the homeland, by means of participating in the nurturing and upbringing of future generations on solid foundations that are based on national affiliation, and the proper democratic principles that were instilled by virtue of the reform project of His Majesty the King.

Al-Alawi added: Through this program, the Institute seeks to prepare students who are on scholarships abroad to be the best ambassadors of Bahrain, and to fortify their national identity against all attempts of alienation and distortion. It shall also endeavor to protect their own safety and security by guiding their steps in

urgent situations, particularly in light of what Bahrain has encountered in recent years in terms of systematic media campaigns of mutilation and deliberate dishonesty. The program shall be a platform to prepare and educate students of the political, legal, media, social, and human rights aspects; in a bid to increase their awareness of Bahrain’s history and modern achievements; as well as to realize their rights and duties in light of the comprehensive democratic and developmental prosperity that paved the way for freedoms and human rights.

Al-Alawi also said that the program aims to form a general information and cultural database for students prior to leaving Bahrain, which is expected to contribute to preparing a type of students who are aware of their national affairs; to safeguard and improve their political, legal, media, social and human rights knowledge; and to increase awareness of their rights abroad as well as their national role as a mirror to reflect the social reality and the genuine image of the Bahraini society.

Al-Alawi further said: The program will be presented by an elite group of lecturers and themed experts. It will seek to promote bonds between the students on scholarship and their homeland, by instilling national values, bolstering the spirit of belonging and patriotism; all of which will make them preclude the hazards of alienation and negative impacts of cultural exposure, and



Dr Yaser Al Alawi - BIPD Exe Director

prevent them from being subjected to any problems or risks abroad.

Al-Alawi added: Bahraini students on scholarships abroad enjoy a special feature in terms of having direct contacts with different cultures. This calls for adequate preparation to provide them with intellectual dialogue skills, and ability to impact the public opinion by means of evidence-based convincing and the art of communication, to underline facts, as well as to respond to any fallacies about his/her homeland; and to identify the thriving reality being observed by the Kingdom of Bahrain at all levels: political, economic, social and cultural.

Al-Alawi noted that BIPD is keen to translate the wise vision of His Majesty the King into purposeful programs and activities, through which the institute endeavors to develop political awareness of society,

and prepares them to positively participate in the fulfillment of a promising future in all fields of development; as well as promotes the democratic achievements under his prosperous reign.

The “Scholarship Recipient Ambassador” program entails five essential aspects to prepare students in political, legal, media, social and human rights domains; in order for them to become capable of positively representing the Bahraini society, capable of countering fallacies and malicious rumors being promoted by others about the homeland; and capable of easily adjusting to foreign societies without impacting the originality of social, political and cultural values.

The program first aspect is (constitutional/legal). It aims to introduce the students to the national action charter, constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the laws relevant to political rights and political societies. The second aspect (political) sheds more light on the history of the political system in Bahrain since 1971 to the present, with emphasis on the reform project of His Majesty the King that yielded large strides in establishing the civil state. The third aspect is (media), it focuses on interpersonal skills and other skills to influence the public opinion.

The fourth aspect is (social) that focuses on introducing students to the fundamentals of social crisis management, and the skills of forming

and rejuvenating Bahraini civil society organizations abroad. The last aspect is (human rights), which underlines the rights of foreigners and students on scholarships that are embedded in international human rights agreements and conventions; as well as the internal laws regulating the rights and duties of foreigners and such students; in addition to the role of Bahraini embassies abroad in terms of their relations with students on scholarships.

It is expected that a full day will be allocated to each of the five aspects, whereas 25 students on scholarships will take part in each workshop. Each participant will receive a certificate of attendance from BIPD; as well as the “Students on Scholarship Guide” at the end of the program, which is a scientific and technical material relevant to the issues discussed at the program workshops, so as to be a reference for students.

BIPD is a national institute that aims primarily to disseminate the culture of democracy, supports and instills the concept of proper democratic principles. It was established by virtue of Decree No. (39) of 2005. BIPD endeavors to raise political and developmental awareness; and to further promote the political march in Bahrain. It also works to increase knowledge amongst members of society, and increases their awareness of the political action, duties and rights guaranteed by the constitution, and regulated by the relevant legislations.

## AMA School expansion

The AMA International School will upgrade and expand its facilities by middle of 2017 in time for the start of SY 2017 - 2018. AMAISB is a member of the AMA Education System and is noted for its extensive experience in terms of information technology-based education and tradition of delivering quality education. Since its establishment in 2004, through the leadership and initiative of Ambassador Amable R. Aguiluz V, Chairman, AMA Education System, the project is the result of accommodating the growing population of students and the commitment of the school in the continuous provision of excellent quality education in the Kingdom.

The major, visible elements of the plan include a new building with complete highly technological facilities such as smart boards, OHPs, CCTV Security System to name a few. It will contain 100 classrooms to be added exclusively for Middle and High School students. The main and existing building will house the



Artist impression of the AMAISB expansion

preschool and elementary levels. The project also encompasses a state-of-the art multi-purpose hall that can accommodate 2,000 people. Among other additions will be an extension for dining facilities, provision for track-and-field oval, and building-support space. This will extend also the security buildings, bus and car parking areas.

Including the new buildings and the elevation of the school’s current structure, the project looks to be one of the largest capital expansions on AMAISB campus in recent history and will increase the school’s current square footage by almost 100 percent.

## Bahrain Polytechnic to Host 7th Annual Teaching & Learning Symposium

Bahrain Polytechnic’s Teaching & Learning Unit will host its 7th Annual Teaching and Learning Symposium from 22nd to 25th August 2016 at the Isa Town campus, enabling staff to come together to share best practice in teaching, learning and research.

The event, held under the theme “Supporting Quality in Teaching & Learning”, will bring together all academic and allied staff to partake in 41 core and parallel sessions over four days, including workshops, seminars, presentations and discussion groups.

Emna Janahi, Director of Academic Development, stated that all academic staff will attend the core theme sessions focusing on Employability, Academic Advising, Annual Academic Programme Review and Problem Based Learning.

She added that parallel sessions will provide the opportunity for staff to prepare for international



Emna Janahi

accreditation in research ethics, access training for professional body recognition in Higher Education practice, upskill in observation and staff mentoring as well as share the developments in classroom practice for Problem Based Learning at the Polytechnic.

Dr. Mohamed Al Aseeri, Acting CEO of Bahrain Polytechnic, stated: “The Annual Teaching & Learning Symposium not only serves as a refresher, but as a way for academic staff to stay up to date with the latest trends in education, specifically the renowned problem-based learning approach.

“I’d like to thank the Teaching & Learning Unit for preparing this symposium for yet another year, which will provide a wealth of knowledge to our staff who are teaching our students as part of our strategic plan, which meets Bahrain’s 2030 Vision and the government action plan 2015-2018.” concluded Dr. Al Aseeri.