Community Development Authority research collaboration with Zayed University

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

During the meeting the organizations discussed ways to enhance the workforce in the social service sector through government work or volunteer programs. One of the short-term solutions discussed was the implementation of specialized training programs to better equip the social workforce with the means to handle the UAE’s requirements in the field, while long-term solutions discussed centered on the development of tailor-made university programs to provide professional degrees in social services.

It was also agreed that the CDA and Zayed University would share research to increase the CDA’s capacity to pursue a strategic and targeted approach to providing social services for the special needs population by accurately determining the numbers and location of different special needs sectors of society.

“The CDA is looking to grow Dubai’s social infrastructure in a strategic way that is built on knowledge and understanding of the needs of the various categories of society and incorporating best practice from around the world,” Dr. Maryam Matar, said.

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

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

King Abdulaziz University campus to get nuclear research center

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

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

Tayeb is chairman of the executive committee organizing the Kingdom’s first international symposium on the peaceful uses of nuclear technology in Gulf countries that began on Wednesday. The symposium is held under the auspices of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah.

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

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

The scientists have been carefully revised and approved the papers, Tayeb explained.

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

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

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

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

Qatar: Exhibition on hospitals opens

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

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

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

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

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

Muneer Hamadah, the Executive Director of OCnex Company, said the show represents an exceptional opportunity for patients to present their cases to a variety of internationally famous consultants secured by the company.

Two Awards for Ajman University

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

The conference, which is the fourteenth of its kind, was organized by Sharjah University in conjunction with Emirates Medical Association and the Ministry of Health, and took place from October 14-17, 2008. The topic of AUT’s first winning project was “An In vitro Bacterial Contaminantation during Ultrasonic Scaling,” and it was the work of student Ms. Sheielah Hannan, carried out under the supervision of Dr. Vigez Dejiey and Dr. Fahim Rashed. Hannan was conferred to a project entitled “Thumb Sucking Habit” by Dr. Afraa Salah, College of Dentistry faculty member.

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

NEW DTME EDITORIAL MEMBER

Dental Tribune Middle East and Africa is pleased to announce its new editorial board member, Dr. AliKhan Sultan, Periodontist, Director of Dental services, Ministry Of Health, Dubai Zone. Her fine reputation as a prominent figure in the Ministry Of Health, and her long experience will undoubtedly benefit all dental tribes readers.
Saudi Arabia to set up world's largest women-only varsity

JEDDAH: The Riyadh Women's University, which is designed to become the world's largest institution of higher learning exclusively for women, will have 15 colleges, including those for medicine, dentistry, nursing, naturopathy and pharmacology and a 700-bed hospital. The project will be completed by 2010.

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

"The new colleges will accommodate 1,500 students this year," the princess said, adding that existing colleges would be restructured in line with job market requirements. "We have devised its educational programs after consulting different ministries, including the ministries of labor, commerce and industry, and economy and planning," she said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MENYA: Egypt’s Menya Governor Ahmed Diaa Eddin on lauded the Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Higher Education Dr. Basrah Hamoud Al-Sabah for efforts to beef up bilateral ties in various domains, especially education.

The senior Kuwaiti official was honoured by the governor in a ceremony thrown on the sidelines of the first international conference ‘Dialogue among Civilizations - Channels of Communication Between Nations’, hosted by Menya University.

Speaking to KUNA following the ceremony, she hailed Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations as ‘firm and deeply rooted’ in political, economic, cultural, media, and educational domains. She stressed Kuwait’s important involvement in diverse cultural, social, and educational conferences and forums held outside Kuwait, especially Egypt.

The activities of the inter-civilization gathering aim to show the praiseworthy cultural image of Kuwait, she said.

Asked about an exhibition organized on the sidelines of the conference, the governor in Menya Governorate, hailed the Kuwaiti Cabinet Women’s Committee for providing the pavilion with all necessary requirements and materials.

The Kuwaiti pavilion contained handicraft articles and traditional art objects bearing on Kuwait’s ancient tradition, she said, adding that a Kuwait TV Troupe concert was performed during the event.

Hailing Menya University as a landmark of education in Upper Egypt, Kuwaiti educational official stressed the importance of bilateral cooperation and cultural cooperation with this Egyptian university and called for further reinforcement.

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

3,000 Dentists Serve 140 Million Citizens

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Delivering her lecture Dr. Norvishe Arkutu of the University of Hospital North Staffordshire, recommended three minutes brushing of teeth, two times daily with toothpaste containing fluoride.

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

She warned that it is not the quantity that you eat decays your teeth but the frequency. Stressing the need for people to be conscious of their oral health, Arkutu said bad oral health also affects the heart.

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

Medical-products supplier Henry Schein Inc. expects to make an acquisition over the next couple of quarters, as weak economic conditions make potential targets relatively cheaper.

The company plans to spend $200 million on acquisitions annually, and is actively looking at a group of takeover candidates, Chief Financial Officer Steven Paladino said in an interview with Reuters.

“I would be disappointed if we did not announce any kind of acquisition activity over the next couple of quarters,” Paladino said.

Henry Schein, which bought UK-based Minerva Dental Ltd for an undisclosed sum in April, has spent about $25 million on acquisitions in the last nine months, Paladino said.

“We have $280 million of cash on the balance sheet at the end of the third quarter, and we have debt capacity,” he said.

The company had posted a better-than-expected quarterly earnings and said it would cut about 500 jobs to reduce costs.

BLPC-Duke Street completes 217m Euro buyout of Biomnis

Mid-market private equity group BLPC’s Duke Street has completed the acquisition of French medical diagnostics firm Biomnis for 217 million euros ($271.5 million).

The deal is one of the only European leveraged buyouts to be completed since the collapse of Lehman Brothers in mid-September and cut private equity firms off from financing.

The deal is being financed with senior debt provided by Fortis and a mezzanine facility that is being arranged by AXA Mezzanine.

Biomnis, formerly known as Laboratoire Marcel Merieux, specializes in diagnostic services and pathological analysis in the fields of molecular diagnostics, tissue, fertility treatment and specialised biochemistry.

The acquisition adds to Duke Street’s existing healthcare portfolio, which includes dentistry group Oasis Healthcare, regional psychiatric hospitals operator Affinity Healthcare, and Paris-based hospital operator Groupe Proclif.

Biomnis Chief Executive Jean-Louis Oger will take up the role of Non-executive Director. Pierre-Yves Guiart will join from Generale de Sante, a large healthcare provider in France, to assume the role of CEO.

Biomnis Oral Health’s Chris Parry said the company planned to increase its turnover by 30% in the next four years, taking it to £50m, and would invest £5m in marketing and development.

Biomnis’ shareholders included Alba Capital, a private-equity arm of Blackstone, and French financier Jean-Pierre Lagardere.

“Biomnis has a good reputation in the market and I believe we can grow the company substantially,” Mr Parry said.

Biomnis, founded in 1990, provides medical services covering diagnosis and treatment of oral health.

Ex-dental chief Trevor Mann struck off for fraud

The former chairman of the British Dental Association was struck off for fraudulently withdrawing £14,000 in expenses from his organisation. Trevor Mann, of Cheam, Surrey, attempted to evade investigation by offering to repay the money.

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