

Report on Project Development and Activities Undertaken Philadelphia University AKC

Aspect of Evaluation	Strengths	Opportunities
Administrative Aspects (Recruitment, Finances..)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As a partner in the Avicenna Virtual Campus project, PU allocated funds to be contributed according to the contract signed with UNESCO. - Director, educational and technical experts, information desk secretary, two laboratory technicians have been appointed at Philadelphia AKC. - Database of staff to be employed in the activities of production of teaching materials are being collected from among the (21) universities in Jordan as well as from other international universities. 	Production will form an excellent financial investment for the University and its Avicenna partners.

<p>Technical Aspects (Premises, Materials ...)</p>	<p>- An Appropriate state of the art technical infrastructure (instrumentation, networking facilities, high efficiency quality servers, an Internet high-speed line, and a web-site) is made available. Philadelphia University plans to construct a building dedicated to virtual education and AKC. Basically, the following are made available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adequate computer laboratories for practical and virtual experiments appropriate to the courses offered. - Adequate number of servers of varying specifications which, together with the computer laboratories, are networked using fiber optics and UTP cabling. - Communication channels such as a web-site, E-mail accounts, voice-chat, and bulletin boards. 	<p>- Premises and materials will form part of an investment that positively reflect on the cost of instruction at the University as well as at the other Avicenna knowledge centers.</p>
<p>Commitment of the Local Institution (Involvement in Higher Education System)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PU established a Deanship of Distance Learning, with the goal of introducing more online courses to its students. - A pilot study was conducted at the University to evaluate the comparative merits of online versus traditional instruction. The results showed that online learning is more advantageous than traditional learning in the field of second language acquisition. - Virtual learning will reflect positively on the level of enrollment at the University. The handicapped, women and other segments of the community living in remote places and /or suffering from difficult conditions will be able to enroll. - A(2+2) program has been initially adopted by PU, especially for students residing in the Palestinian occupied territories. The Avicenne program will be integrated in such a program. 	<p>Philadelphia AKC will form an integral part of the Distance Learning Program at the University.</p>

<p>Communication Planning (and Media Appropriate to the Project)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Articles about virtual education were published in the University newspaper as well as the quarterly magazine published by the Arab Federation for Distance Education and Open Learning. - A conference on virtual education is scheduled at Philadelphia University for the period 2-4December, 2003. It is organized by Philadelphia University, The Arab Federation for Distance Education and Open Learning, and The Union of Arab Universities. - An exhibition of universities that provide distance learning and companies that deal with information technologies will be organised at Philadelphia University during the period 2-4 December,2003. Avicenna Virtual Campus will participate. - The Avicenna Project is advertised in flyers published by the Deanship of Distance Learning. It is also made public through Philadelphia University web-site. - A publicity program about Avicenna Virtual Campus will be implemented through brochures, posters, lectures, TV. programs, and newspaper articles. 	<p>Activities of the AKC will be made public through the mass media. Learners benefiting from the program will also publicize the Avicenne Virtual Campus Project.</p>
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