

Interim Report on Activities Conducted at Philadelphia University AKC

Administrative Aspects (Recruitment, Finances...)

- As a partner in Avicenna Virtual Campus project, Philadelphia University allocated funds to be contributed according to the contract signed with UNESCO.
- Director, educational and technical experts, consultants, 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 all universities in Jordan as well as from other international universities.
- The first installment (amounting to \$10325) was received on August 14th .
- All the reports required according to the work plan of the project have been submitted in due time.

Human Resources Development

- The director attended the kick off meetinf of all partners at the UNESCO, Paris on March 18th ., 2003.
- The diector, technical and pedagogical experts participated in the first training session held in Poitiers during the period 19-23 March, 2003 and the second training session held in Paris during the period 9-12 September, 2003.
- A training course on instructional design has been conducted at Philadelphia University, during the period 2 – 13 November, 2003 with (30) professors attending.
- Training courses for tutors and technicians will be conducted in December,2003 and January,2004.

Technical Aspects (Premises, Materials...)

- Appropriate state of the art technical infrastructure (instrumentation, networking facilities, high efficiency quality servers, internet high-speed line, and a web-site) is made available. Basically, the following are made available:
 - 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, and voice-chat are made available.
- Philadelphia University plans to construct a building dedicated to virtual education and AKC. The tender for construction will be advertised soon.

Commitment of the Local Institution (Involvement in Higher Education System)

- Philadelphia University established a Deanship of Distance Learning, with the goal of introducing more online courses to PU students.

- A pilot study was conducted at PU 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.
- A(2+2) program has been initially adopted by Philadelphia University, especially for students residing in the Palestinian occupied territories. The Avicenna program will be integrated in such a program, as produced materials will be utilised in the program.

Communication Planning (and Media Appropriate to the Project)

- 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 2-4 December, 2003. It is organized by Philadelphia University, The Arab Federation for Distance Education and Open Learning, and The Union of Arab Universities.
- An exhibition will be organised at Philadelphia University with the participation of (15) universities and companies dealing with relevant technologies. A booth will be allocated to Avicenne Virtual Campus to give publicity to the project.
- A presentation on the project development has been delivered during the second training session in Paris.
- Two presentations about the Avicenne Virtual Campus Project have been made at Philadelphia University and The Arab Federation of Open Learning and Distance Education.
- Avicenne Virtual Campus and PU AKC are publicised in flyers issued by the Deanship of Distance Learning at PU.
- Information about Avicenne Virtual Campus can be browsed on Philadelphia University web-site as part of the Deanship of Distance Learning.
- A publicity program about Avicenna Virtual Campus will be implemented through brochures, posters, lectures, TV. Programs and newspaper articles.