

Key Topic 6

Abstract

Generation Z: Women's Advancement

Paper title: Case Study: The Use of Blended Learning at Royal University for Women

Author/s: Ms. Nourhan Rahman, Director of Centre for General Studies, Royal University for Women

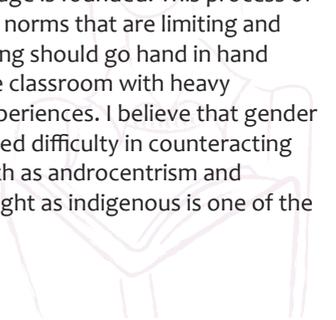
Blended learning is a learner-centered approach that integrates face-to-face learning with a technology-mediated learning environment (Garrison, 2004; Deepwell and Malik, 2008). This pedagogical method incorporates various teaching methodologies and an array of synchronous and asynchronous technology-mediated learning modalities both inside and outside the classroom. Blended Learning is one of the teaching models adopted by Royal University for Women (RUW). This action research examines (1) the use of blended learning at RUW, (2) The modalities that are used or not used at RUW, and (3) ways to expand the use of blended learning within the university. I will be analyzing the data both quantitatively and qualitatively to draw conclusions that will help enhance the teaching and learning at RUW.

Keywords: Blended learning, m-learning, technology, teaching models, projects

Paper title: Unlearning Hegemonic Discourses: Teaching Women's Studies

Author/s: Nawar Al-Hassan Golley, Professor and Faculty Senate President Coordinator of the Women's Studies Minor, Department of English, AUS

In my presentation, I strongly advocate further integration of gender and women's studies in the liberal arts curriculum in higher education. Departing from the conviction that the educator has several responsibilities, the most tangible of which is to help students acquire a body of knowledge and a set of skills, however, and equally important, a feminist educator should urge students to "unlearn" (or, at least, engage critically with) their own accumulated knowledge and the implicit assumptions on which their knowledge is founded. This process of unlearning can help students overcome discursively maintained norms that are limiting and disadvantaging to the subordinate and the marginalized. Learning should go hand in hand with unlearning in the modern classroom. Students come to the classroom with heavy baggage accumulated from personal, social and educational experiences. I believe that gender and women's studies contest discursive power and the associated difficulty in counteracting and challenging hegemonic and long-controlling discourses, such as androcentrism and Eurocentrism. Involving students to see that Arab feminist thought as indigenous is one of the



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first steps in unlearning the common, but mistaken, belief that feminism is imported discourse. As it is the case in many developing countries, histories of and discourses on feminism, nationalism and colonialism are interconnected in the Arab world. Still, unlike common opinion, feminism should be seen as an indigenous product of Arab political and socio-economic dynamics even though early Arab feminist consciousness developed hand in hand with national consciousness. Both colonialist and counter-colonialist representations of Arab women should be challenged when discussing the status of women in Arab countries. Arab women's need for positive change is no more or less than that of women anywhere else.



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Key Topic 7

Empowering Women in Art and Design Education

As Scottish sociologist Robert Morisson Malver (1882-1970) quoted, “If you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a nation”. In this light women empowerment through education has become a global quest and challenge. Inspiring women to become pacesetters in education, will result in them taking to the forefront of leadership in all fields. Art and design education has a transformative role in achieving more just, sustainable and equal communities at large. For many years’ women have played a major role in various fields of art and design by implementing their strong artistic expressions, critiques, and techniques. Women enrolled in Art and Design education are able to express themselves as individuals while simultaneously creating works which their communities and societies may benefit from.

The call for papers is addressed to the scholars, researchers, professionals and practitioners interested in issues related to women in art and design education to share their findings in the following sub-themes which include, but are not limited to:

- Leading and Professional Women in Architecture and Architecture education
- Women’s role in Art and Art’s education
- Gender Issues in Design Education for women
- Inspiring and empowering women in Design
- Leading women in Design profession and Design Education



Key Topic 7

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Empowering Women in Art and Design Education

Paper title: Sustaining Women in Design profession and design Education: A decade of interior design graduates in Bahrain

Author/s: Dr. Nehal Almurbati, Assistant Professor, University of Bahrain, nalmurbati@uob.edu.bh.

In 2002 the first design related program patch started at the University of Bahrain with a group of 17 students enrolled in the BSc. of Interior Design Program. Since their graduation in 2007 many groups followed. A decade after the first group graduation the design profession market has changed and so did the education field linked to this profession. This research aims at reviewing the existing research on education and academic career patterns for the majority of women enrolled in the interior design program to enhance this profession and sustain women in this field. Moreover, the research paper gives an overview of a qualitative study done by semi-structured interviews with 50 female interior design graduates from the year 2007- 2017. The study investigates the social, cultural and professional challenges that faced female graduates of the interior design program and their current role in either the design or the educational profession in the field. The results also show a thematic graphical analysis of their current profession trajectories. The primary research results is then compared to secondary data of two ad hoc committee comments of students and professionals undertaken in 2017 along with an online survey result answered by more than 150 graduates. This study is of high importance as it is pioneering in documenting and predicting graduates' competitiveness and sustainability. This complies with the economic vision of Bahrain 2030, requires investigations and investments in non-oil sectors and design can be the way forward.

Paper title: “A study of the new Modest Fashion Phenomenon, and how it impacted International Fashion Weeks, and influenced Fashion Designers, and what is its impact on the Fashion Industry”

Author/s: Author’s Name: Dr. Sana Mahmoud Abbasi, Dar Al Hekma University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Chair of the Fashion Design Department

As Fashion designers always seek to come up with new silhouettes every season, the modest silhouette continues to gain popularity with influencers. The effect of online networking is certain and its impact has changed the way the world works. The basic demonstration of sharing pictures online, and web-based social networking, has given the world access to a generally obscure inside to the universe. Modest fashion started to gain media attention

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several years ago with the rise of the millennial bloggers who - for the most part - sought to use social media as a creative outlet. On demonstrating that dressing conservatively could correspond with being trendy, they have challenged the notion that modest dressing can be extremely fashionable. For many women seeking modest yet trendy clothing is quite a challenge, the lack of availability of such clothing has made it difficult to put together outfits that would look trendy and serve the purpose of being conservative at the same time, without compromising the high fashion look. Fashion influencers such as Dian Pelangi and Ascia Akf who have harvested over a million followers on social media, provide fashion direction for these women, teaching them how to mix and match high street clothing in very innovative ways. For example, by pairing long-sleeved tops with sleeveless dresses, or wearing kimonos, or tunics over straight-cut jeans, they're indulging in fashion without sacrificing the concept of being modest. Speaking to Haute Elan, Canadian blogger Hanan Tehaili, said that "Modest fashion is a way of expressing your style parallel to your way of life. It is beautiful because of the varying styles and beliefs that are intertwined to create this phenomenon." Fatima Kasu, Dec, 01, 2017. This research paper will look into the origin of the Modest Fashion Phenomenon, and how and when it was introduced to the International Fashion world, its influence on Fashion Designers, and how it impacted the Fashion Industry?

Paper title: Higher Education for Women Employability; with Special reference to Women in Art and Design in the Kingdom of Bahrain

Author/s: Dr. Janon A.W. Kadhim, Dean of College of Art and Design, RUW, and Ms. Khadija Saeed, Master of Design Management, RUW

All over the world employers seek to hire graduates with the appropriate skills set for the job. In a global perspective, embedding employability in a creative curriculum is the integration of practice, behaviors and qualities to sustain and develop a rewarding profession or career which as a result will generate benefits for both the new graduate and for their communities.

Graduates, specifically in Art and Design disciplines, have clear intentions and desires in engaging in enterprise by using their employability skills after graduation in the work place. However, it should be well comprehended what they can really offer as fresh graduates in the industry. Preparing the students for employment in Art and Design begins with their higher education experience which should incorporate explicit learning, teaching, and curriculum design to make employability a prominent, inclusive and valued part of the discipline and its practice.

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Empowering Women in Art and Design Education

In the contemporary realm of higher education Employability has been identified as one of the four main objectives of higher education. There is a clear relationship between the employability of university graduates and the actual learning activities that they engage in and are exposed to in their university degree programs.

This research addresses the topic of Employability for Women in Art & Design in Kingdom of Bahrain, which is an important issue to study in the dynamic market of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the Art and Design. The research will mainly focus on the role of higher education institutions in Bahrain in preparing women for a profession in Art and Design by providing them with the essential employability skills. A literature review will focus on HEI around the world prepare their graduates for a career in Art & Design. This will be followed by a review and field study that researches how local institutions prepare their graduates in a very competitive and highly-skilled environment. Women graduates in Art and Design in Bahrain face different challenges and issues in finding a suitable job and place to succeed in their profession. The challenges women face in their career is also addressed in this research.

Higher education is facing new challenges in preparing students for the workforce. As demand increases, for students to differentiate themselves when seeking employment, it becomes necessary for higher education not only to understand these challenges, but also to provide a pathway for students to develop the skills necessary to become sought-after employees. In addition, this paper will investigate the different issues of employability in the Art and Design industry in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the role of Local HEI in addressing market needs and embedding employability skills for Art and Design in their curriculums. The example of the College of Art and Design at the Royal University for Women will be used as a case study in this regard.

The paper concludes with a number of findings on the role of HEI in Bahrain and at RUW in particular to address the issue of Women Employability In Art and Design and presents suitable recommendations to make use of this experience and to further enhance it.



Paper title: Assessing Prior Knowledge in Order to Build Instead of Repeat or Fail

Author/s: Dr. Karima Hemida and Rae Mearkle

Higher education instruction in the field of visual communication in Saudi Arabia falls prey to the gap between instructor's expectations of student background knowledge when they join a new semester and what they actually remember or know. This study aims to assess student prior knowledge on content, skills, and experiences essential for understanding current course content using various tools useful for theory and practical/studio classes in higher education in visual communication. It also outlines the steps and tools to assess said prior knowledge in order to offer guidelines for other educators. The findings present that understanding students' prior knowledge gained throughout their entire educational career which have direct bearing on current course content allows the instructor to tailor her teaching methods and strategies to facilitate the building of knowledge, skills and experiences which minimize repetition and failure. It also supports the retention of knowledge from the past as the student moves through her plan of study.

Keywords: Assessing prior learning, Background knowledge, Higher education in Saudi Arabia, Visual communication

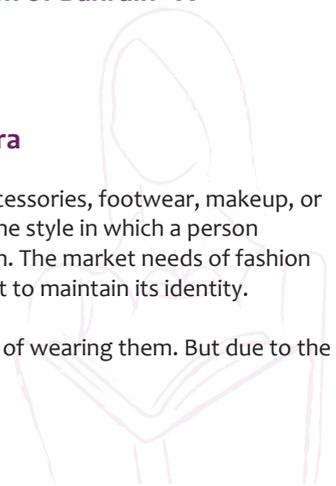
Paper title: Empowering Fashion Market in Kingdom of Bahrain - A contemporary inspiration

Author/s: Noora Khalid Albinfalah

Presenter/s: Dr. Nessreen Elmelegy, Dr. Shweta Kinra

Fashion is a popular style or practice, especially in clothing, accessories, footwear, makeup, or furniture. Fashion is a distinctive and often constant trend in the style in which a person dresses. The style keeps on changing due to contemporization. The market needs of fashion require new ideas and yet preserve the traditional culture for it to maintain its identity.

Bahrain has its own traditional wear and the people are proud of wearing them. But due to the



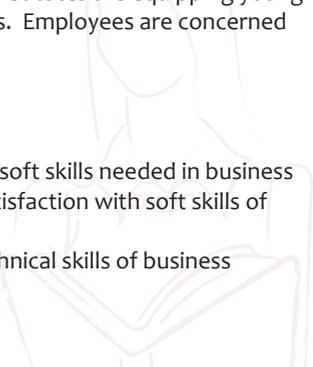
current environment, a change is required to fulfill the present market needs. The present research aimed at studying the styles of traditional Jalabiya in Bahrain and its contemporization. The inspiration for the present project was derived from the traditional clothes of Africa-Nigeria, with touch of silhouette of Bahraini Jalabiya. South Africa has a large and diverse fashion industry. The inspiration was drawn from the concept of modesty as a Muslim country. Vibrant color and prints added to the inspiration. The collection was made for spring summer 18/2017 casual wears, to meet the current Fashion needs of women in Bahrain.

Paper title: Performance of Graduates in Kingdom of Bahrain: Case of RUW Business Students

Author/s: Jawaher Almarri, and Fatema Almusallam

Graduates are vital for organizations because they help to enhance growth and promote innovation at multiple levels. The employers are looking graduates with multiple skills such as adaptability, flexibility, communication, problem solving, critical thinking, planning, and self-management. These skills are needed in graduates since the knowledge intensive economy places an emphasis on creative and flexible workers that are able to work in an effective manner. Employability skills are extensive and varied, but can be put into four main categories. These include: a) behavioral (adaptability, resilience, thoroughness, enthusiasm), b) functional (numeracy, language, literacy), c) intellectual (self-management, problem solving, planning skills) and; d) work related (customer service, time management, customer service, team working skills). While many soft skills are considered inherent, some of them can also be learned. Therefore, universities have been trying to focus on teaching these soft skills to their students along with the hard skills. Higher educational institutes are equipping young graduates with job readiness skills that are crucial to job success. Employees are concerned about the presence of employability skills in graduates.

Objectives of The Research:

- The purpose of this study is to identify the soft skills needed in business graduates in Bahrain. Identify employer satisfaction with soft skills of business students.
 - Identify the employer satisfaction with technical skills of business students.
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- Assessing the gaps in skills of business graduate skills.
- Determining the skills which employers are seeking when recruiting new graduates.

Significance of Research:

There is little research regarding the performance of graduates in the kingdom of Bahrain which makes it difficult for the Universities to determine the success rate and also to identify the areas of improvement. This study in particular understands and investigates the satisfaction and role of Students from RUW in different professional and personal careers and determine the critical success factors and areas of improvement for bringing change in the current university policy for better, if needed.

Poster title: MUNICIPAL BUDGETING IN THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

Author/s: Dr. Arpita Mehrotra, Dr. Hala Elias and Layla AlThawadi

Presenter/s (if different from Author): Layla AlThawadi

Budget of state government must be distinguished from that of a private or public limited company. It is not a mere exercise in the balancing of books of account. It is not a document prepared by an accountant for an accountant. It has large implications for the rate of growth of development, human resource development, reduction of poverty, provision of safety net for the poor and underprivileged, and so on. Every member of the public has, therefore, a vital stake in what finds a place in the budget and what gets omitted therefrom. Budgets are the link between resources and objectives, and are monetary records of the goals to be achieved and the resources allocated to accomplish them. In this era of reducing municipal revenues, it has become imperative for municipal governments to use their financial resources effectively and efficiently. Available municipal resources must be channeled towards satisfying the critical needs of citizens as efficiently as possible; proper budgeting and its effective implementation can play a crucial role in this endeavor. Municipal budgeting requires spending public monies based on decisions made by individuals in their roles as mayor, council or board member, administrator, finance director, head of an operational department, and (sometimes) citizens. There are no studies of municipal budgeting in the Kingdom of Bahrain. This study attempts to

fill this gap by exploring the purpose and methods of the municipal budget process in the context of the practices of one of the four Municipalities in the Kingdom of Bahrain. In a second phase of the research project, the study will provide an in-depth analysis of the implementation process of the Municipal budget as well as explore the problems and challenges faced by the Municipality in the budgeting process.

Key Words: budgeting process, Kingdom of Bahrain, municipal budgeting, municipalities, strategic funding

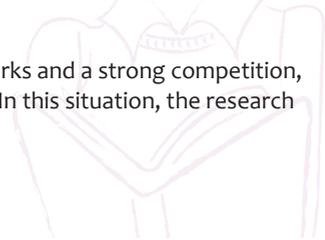
Poster title: The Effect of Employee Satisfaction on Customer Satisfaction in the Telecommunication Industry in Bahrain

Author/s: Fadheela Salman Ali Ahmed Naser; Zahraa Ahmed Ghuloom Abdulla Saleemi & Dr. Matthias Bode

Presenter/s (if different from Author): Fadheela Salman Ali Ahmed Naser

The research is based on the research hypothesis, that employee satisfaction can have an effect on customer satisfaction in the telecom industry in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Based on a thorough review of the existing literature, a conceptual model with the main factors for employee and customer satisfaction is developed and empirically explored. In the primary research, the following main factors for employee satisfaction were identified: Motivation, Pay and Promotions, Fairness, Working Environment and Job Security. For Customer Satisfaction, the following main factors were identified: Service Quality; Customer Service; Price Fairness; Promotions and Employee Friendliness. Methodologically, the study is using satisfaction questionnaires for employees as well as customers. The results indicate a positive link between employee and customer satisfaction. For telecom companies this is an important result, taking into account that 40% of the participating consumers will switch telecom networks, when they are dissatisfied with their services. Based on the results, the most important factors for the employee satisfaction are especially pay and promotion, and then working environment, and job security.

As Bahrain is characterized by a low number of telecom networks and a strong competition, the research has important implications for the local markets. In this situation, the research



shows that for securing competitive advantages, companies should focus more on employee satisfaction to increase overall satisfaction levels of the organization's client base.

Key Words: employee satisfaction, customer satisfaction, internal and external organizational performance, telecommunication industries, Kingdom of Bahrain

Poster title: "Investigating individual's Cultural values in the workplace among the millennial generation in Bahrain"

Author/s: Student: Sara Bin-Hethlain, Supervisor: Dr Iman Alfakhri,

The purpose of this study is to identify the cultural value orientations of the millennial generation in Bahrain who are the future workforce of the country. Hence, identifying their individual cultural values is very important when doing business internationally. Hofstede's dimensions enable future manager to compare a culture you may know little about to your own with a set of and understanding of other cultures. Since, Bahrain is blooming with growth it is necessary to establish a strong and long-lasting business relationships with international partners. Nevertheless, there is a lack in studies applying Geert Hofstede's dimension on management practices among the millennial generation in Bahrain. Therefore, the current study utilized the quota sampling technique and 150 questionnaires were distributed to company employees belonging to the millennial generation in Bahrain. The results of the study indicated that millennial generation in Bahrain prefer low power distance and consensus building among subordinates and employees. In addition, the millennial generation in Bahrain prefers high uncertainty avoidance in the workplace; they think that rules and regulations, and instructions are important for operations. The findings of the study also indicated that millennial generation in Bahrain strongly prefer long term orientations in the workplace, they think that long term planning is important, and they are willing to give up today's fun for future success. The millennials in Bahrain are more individualistic, they think that individual success is more important than group success and will not sacrifice self-interest for the group. In terms of femininity versus masculinity, the millennial generation in Bahrain mostly believe that both men and women should have professional careers. In conclusion, the findings are in line with Geert Hofstede assumptions with regard to high uncertainty avoidance, and long-term orientations. However, the current study contradicts past assumptions concerning power distance, collectivist versus individualist, and femininity versus masculinity value

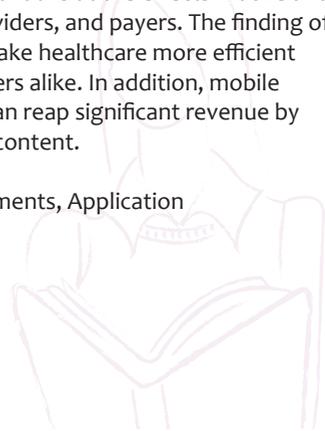
orientations. Since the millennials in Bahrain are more individualistic generation cohort, who prefer low power distance and believe in fluid gender roles.

Poster title: Supporting Healthcare Management through Mobile Technologies: BH Hospitals Android Application

Author/s: Dr. Humam Elagha, Centre for General Studies, Royal University for Women, Ms. Hanan Bamasood, RUW Alumna, Royal University for Women, Ms. Nayla Albinali, RUW Alumna, Royal University for Women

Mobile applications and related technologies promise to alter the way that healthcare is delivered, to empower patients to take responsibility for their health, to make the delivery of healthcare more efficient, and to potentially lower costs and improve outcomes. In this research, the main goal is to develop a mobile application with several features that provides useful contents and information about Bahrain private hospitals. Many people nowadays require getting their information fast and in a simple way. The app provides information about different hospitals in Bahrain with detailed information about each hospital with its contact information and enables users to book an appointment for a selected hospital of their choice. The need to cope and keep up with new upcoming technologies and the responses gathered about the idea is what inspired the creation of such mobile application. The proposed Android-based mobile application allows both the patient and the medical practitioners to manage appointments and make use of the electronic messaging facility to send reminders when the appointed time is approaching in real-time. This research also examines how mobile applications and technologies are transforming healthcare, and looks at the effects mobile and related technologies will have on patients, IT, developers, providers, and payers. The finding of this research shows that healthcare mobile applications will make healthcare more efficient and effective, bringing dramatic benefits to providers and payers alike. In addition, mobile Health offers tremendous opportunities for developers who can reap significant revenue by providing timely, useful apps powered by reliable and proven content.

Keywords: Healthcare, Mobile Technology, Hospitals, Requirements, Application



Poster Title: The development of women’s rights: From international protection to national implementation

Author/s: Ms. Noof Almoawda, Ms. Marwa Alnafea, (supervised by Dr. Pasquale Borea)

International Organizations and particularly the United Nations have developed international conventions and protocols on human rights and women’s rights addressing the demands coming from social fabric represented by most of the feminist movements. Consequently, this international framework allowed the development of other levels of human rights and women’s rights protection where regional conventions and national laws were progressively implemented providing a substantial improvement of women’s rights.

Spotting the light on the Middle Eastern region and specifically the Kingdom of Bahrain women’s rights emerged through different stages and reached a considerable high level of protection over the last few years.

This research is an opportunity to shade light on the development of women’s rights protection on both international and national level in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

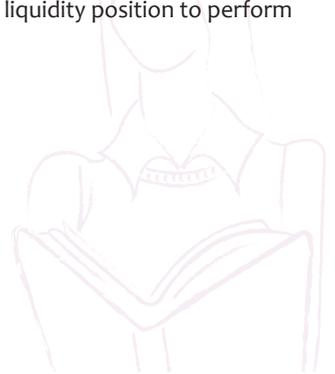
In particular, it will focus on the international efforts for the protection and implementation of women’s rights through the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW). It will also address the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) as a landmark regional approach to implement certain women’s rights. A specific section of this research will focus on the national implementation of the wider women’s rights protection in the Kingdom of Bahrain, highlighting the role and actions of the Supreme Council for Women in such field and assessing the status of the participation of women in different sectors of the Kingdom. Conclusively, it will also provide a particular focus on the implementation of women rights through the national legislation protecting women from domestic violence, codified by the Bahraini Law n. 172015/.



Poster title: Comparative Performance Evaluation of Selected Commercial Banks in India using CAMELS Rating Model

Author/s: Dr. Elizabeth M Samuel

Sound financial health of a bank is the guarantee not only to its depositors but is equally significant for the shareholders, employees and whole economy as well. As sequel to this maxim, efforts have been made from time to time to measure the financial position of banks. Indian banking sector has been the backbone of the Indian economy over the past few decades. The banking sector being the life line of the economy was treated with uttermost importance in the financial sector reforms. The reforms were aimed to make the Indian banking industry more competitive, productive and efficient and to follow international accounting standards. Indian banking sector widely includes commercial, nationalized, co-operative, private and international banks in its fold. In the present study an attempt is made to evaluate the financial performance of three major commercial banks (IOB, Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank) using CAMELS Rating Model. CAMELS rating model is basically an approach widely used to measure the performance of banking unit inside and outside India. This model measures the performance of banks from all important parameters like Capital adequacy, Asset quality, Management efficiency, Earning quality, Liquidity and sensitivity to market. The study is based on secondary data drawn from the annual reports. For the purpose of evaluation the data's of five years (2011-2016-) before demonetization are analyzed by calculating the 17 ratios related to CAMELS rating model. It is found out that according to Basel Norm the overall state of capital adequacy of all the three banks are satisfactory. As far as loan portfolio is concern, the overall state of asset quality and management efficiency are satisfactory, whereas the earning capacity of the banks is not and the liquidity is also not satisfactory. The high level of NPAs and sluggishness in the domestic growth, slow recovery in the global economy and the continuing uncertainty in the global market leading to lower exports and imports are one of the main reasons for the low earning capacity of banks along with these reasons RBI's new rules to make higher provisioning for substandard assets also affected the earning capacity of all the three banks. Based on the evaluations all the three commercial banks should improve its earning capacity and the liquidity position to perform efficiently and effectively.



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CORPORATE PROFILE - Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba)

Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba) - one of the leading aluminium smelters in the world - is listed on both the Bahrain Bourse and the London Stock Exchange, with its shareholders being Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (69.38%), SABIC Investment Company (20.62%) and the General Public (10%). Alba is widely regarded as one of the top ten performers on a global scale and is known for its high track record for safety, technological strength, innovative policies and strict environmental guidelines.

Alba was incorporated by Charter in 1968 and officially commenced its operations in 1971 as a 120,000 tonnes per annum smelter. Today, Alba produces more than 981,000 metric tonnes per annum of the highest grade aluminium, with products including standard and T-ingots, extrusion billets, rolling slabs, properzi ingots, and molten aluminium. Around 50 per cent of its output is supplied to Bahrain's downstream aluminium industry, with the rest exported to regional and international customers in the Middle East, Europe, Far East, South East Asia, Africa, and North America.

Safety is a priority in Alba. The Company has received many awards for its efforts towards maintaining a safe and healthy work environment; including Gold ROSPA Health and Safety Awards 2017, Green World Award 2016 for Environmental Best Practice; 2015 Occupational Excellence Achievement Award by National Safety Council – USA; 2015 International Safety Award by British Safety Council; and Gulf Aluminium Council's 2014 Health & Safety Award under the Smelters Category.

About Line 6 Expansion Project

Alba's Line 6 Expansion Project is one of the largest brownfield developments in the region. Expected to begin production by January 1st 2019, this Project will boost the smelter's per-annum production by 540,000 metric tonnes, bringing its total production capacity to 1.5 million metric tonnes per year.

With a CAPEX of approximately US\$ 3 billion, the Line 6 Expansion Project involves the construction of a sixth pot line utilising EGA's proprietary DX+ Ultra Technology, a 1,792 MW Power Station (Power Station 5) and other industrial services.

Bechtel is the EPCM contractor for the Line 6 Expansion Project smelter. For Power Station 5 (PS 5), GE and GAMA Consortium was awarded the EPC contract, while Siemens is the Power Distribution System contractor. J.P. Morgan, Gulf International Bank (GIB) and National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) are the Financial Advisors for this Project.

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In June 2015, Alba Board approved the Line 6 Expansion Project and in November 2015, Alba secured the natural gas supply for this Project.

Alba successfully closed a US\$ 1.5 Billion syndicated term-loan facility comprising two tranches: Conventional Facility & and Islamic Facility in October 2016 as well as the first tranche of the Export Credit Financing of c. US\$ 700 million for Euler Hermes and SERV-covered facilities in July 2017. The Company is looking to secure the second tranche of the Export Credit Agency (ECAs) within the first quarter of 2018.

The Front End Engineering Design (FEED) study for the Project was completed in the first quarter of 2017. The construction site-works have started in the second quarter of 2017 while the mass earthworks was completed by the end of the third quarter of 2017 as per schedule. Alba has also laid the First Concrete in Potline 6 Foundation in May 2017 wherein the concrete foundations will reach 85,000 m³ upon completion by December 2018. As of February 28, 2018, Line 6 Smelter's Overall Progress exceeded 45% (Engineering progressed more than 81% while Contracts and Procurement advanced by more than 90%); Power Station 5 & Power Distribution System Overall Progress exceeded 55% and 77% respectively.

The Line 6 Expansion Project will make Alba the world's largest single-site aluminium smelter and be a significant economic boost for the Kingdom of Bahrain due to the many co-investment opportunities through local and foreign aluminium investments.

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We offer a vibrant research environment with research that brings real benefits to people's lives. We were awarded our fourth Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education for our work with farming communities in Africa. The creation of carbon-neutral building materials by university spin-out company Carbon8 Systems Limited won a Queen's Award for Enterprise.

After graduating from the university, you can join our global network of over 67,000 international alumni. We will help you to stay in touch and benefit from networking opportunities.

Diversity is one of the key strengths of our organisation. So wherever you're from, and whatever your career plans, you will find a warm welcome at the University of Greenwich.