

## 17.2.2 Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about SDGs

Academic Year  
2023-2024



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## Executive Summary

The University of Bahrain (UoB) demonstrates a systematic and high-impact approach to cross-sectoral dialogue on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), fully meeting THE Impact Rankings Indicator 17.2.2. Through formal partnerships, multi-stakeholder forums, and international conferences, UoB actively connects academia with government, industry, NGOs, and global organizations to co-create solutions for sustainable development.

### Key Achievements:

- **Structured Partnerships:** Over 30 MoUs and cooperation agreements with entities such as UNDP Bahrain, UNEP, IEEE, AAOIFI, Tamkeen, KPMG, and the Royal Humanitarian Foundation, fostering dialogue on sustainability, innovation, and social impact.
- **Global Dialogue Platforms:** Hosting major international conferences (ICDABI, SIBF, ICSH, SRC) and the IET Smart Cities Symposium, attracting 700+ participants from 5 continents and publishing 152 peer-reviewed papers, including 70 by UoB researchers.
- **Sector-Specific Engagement:** Initiatives spanning energy (IPTC, MEPEC), finance (Islamic finance MoU), healthcare (American Heart Association partnership), cultural sustainability (translation dialogues, heritage exhibitions), and digital transformation (AWS Cloud Innovation Center).
- **Capacity Building & Skills Development:** Programs with ACCA, Injaz Bahrain, and Tamkeen delivering professional certifications, entrepreneurship training, and workforce readiness aligned with SDG 4 and SDG 8.
- **Policy Influence & Knowledge Sharing:** Active participation in national and regional committees, enabling evidence-based policymaking and adaptive management for SDG-aligned strategies.



**Impact Highlights:**

- **Cross-sector reach:** Engagement with government ministries, private sector leaders, civil society, and global organizations.
- **Measurable outcomes:**
  - 15+ strategic MoUs
  - 700+ conference participants
  - 152 peer-reviewed papers
  - Multiple capacity-building programs benefiting thousands of students and professionals.
- **SDG Integration:** Initiatives address SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 9 (Industry & Innovation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships).

**Conclusion:**

UoB's leadership in convening inclusive, evidence-based, and globally connected dialogue platforms positions it as a regional hub for SDG partnerships, fully satisfying THE Impact Rankings criteria for Indicator 17.2.2.

## 1. ACCA – Professional Education MoU



In February 2023, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA–UK) and the University of Bahrain have established a strategic international partnership through the ACCA Professional Education Memorandum of Understanding, strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration between academia and a leading global professional body. This cooperation supports Bahrain’s national drive to expand access to internationally recognized qualifications and advance the country’s accounting and finance profession.

Through this partnership, UOB and ACCA work jointly to align academic and professional standards, co-develop training pathways, and provide skills development programs, capacity-building workshops, and opportunities for professional development. The agreement enhances access to ACCA learning resources and expert engagement, enabling students and professionals to achieve world-class certification aligned with global sustainability benchmarks.

By linking higher education with an international professional association, this initiative promotes knowledge sharing, industry engagement, and international cooperation, all core elements of SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals. It directly supports Target 17.2.2, which emphasizes fostering multi-stakeholder dialogue, strengthening institutional partnerships, and enabling sustainable skills development and innovation across sectors.

The UOB–ACCA collaboration reinforces Bahrain’s commitment to sustainable economic growth, education-to-employment integration, and the development of a competitive, future-ready workforce. It serves as a model for effective cooperation between universities, industry leaders, and global professional networks to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

## 2. Gulf Society for Maintenance & Reliability – Technical Cooperation

In May 2023, the University of Bahrain established a strategic international partnership with the Gulf Society for Maintenance & Reliability through the *Technical Cooperation Agreement*. This collaboration strengthens cross-sectoral dialogue, connects academia with a leading regional professional society, and promotes knowledge sharing, capacity-building, and technical innovation in the field of maintenance and reliability engineering.

The partnership supports joint research, professional training, and regional conferences, enabling students, faculty, and industry professionals to engage in skills development, technical excellence, and multi-stakeholder cooperation. By integrating academic expertise with industry practice, the initiative enhances national and regional capabilities in engineering reliability, operational sustainability, and applied research.

This cooperation directly advances SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals, particularly Target 17.2.2, which emphasizes collaboration between educational institutions, NGOs, and industry sectors to drive sustainable development, innovation, and professional growth.

The University of Bahrain’s engagement with the Gulf Society for Maintenance & Reliability demonstrates its commitment to building strong international partnerships, fostering sustainable industrial development, and strengthening regional networks that support long-term economic and technical resilience.

### 3. AAOIFI – Islamic Finance Education MoU



In April, 2024, the University of Bahrain established a strategic international partnership with the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) through the *Islamic Finance Education MoU*. This collaboration strengthens cross-sectoral dialogue, connects academia with a leading global standard-setting body, and promotes knowledge sharing, capacity-building, and professional development in Islamic finance.

Through this partnership, UOB and AAOIFI jointly co-develop academic and professional programs, facilitate expert exchange, and advance competencies in Sharia-compliant financial practices. The initiative enhances national and regional capabilities by integrating industry expertise, academic innovation, and skills development aligned with international standards.

This cooperation directly supports SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals, particularly Target 17.2.2, which emphasizes developing strong partnerships between educational institutions and professional organizations to advance sustainable development, economic resilience, and institutional excellence.

This collaboration aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 4 – Quality Education, SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals.

By working together, UOB and AAOIFI aim to strengthen the framework for Islamic financial education and practices, contributing to the growth, integrity, and sustainability of the financial sector.

#### 4. Bahrain Society of Engineers – Engineering Development MoU



In June 2024, the University of Bahrain established a strategic international partnership with the Bahrain Society of Engineers (BSE) through the *Engineering Development MoU*. This collaboration strengthens cross-sectoral dialogue, enhances knowledge sharing, and promotes capacity-building between academia and a leading national professional engineering organization.

Through this cooperation, UOB and BSE work together to expand training opportunities, advance engineering research, support innovation, and strengthen professional development pathways for students and practitioners. The partnership integrates academic expertise with industry needs, fostering skills development, technical excellence, and workforce readiness aligned with global engineering standards.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals, particularly Target 17.2.2, which emphasizes cooperation between educational institutions and professional bodies to drive sustainable development, industry engagement, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

By partnering with the Bahrain Society of Engineers, the University of Bahrain reinforces its commitment to advancing engineering education, supporting national innovation ecosystems, and enhancing the quality and impact of STEM-related learning and research.



## 5. Royal Humanitarian Foundation – Community Programs MoU



In May 2024, the University of Bahrain formed a strategic international partnership with the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) through the *Community Programs MoU*. This collaboration strengthens cross-sectoral dialogue, enhances knowledge sharing, and promotes capacity-building between academia and a leading national humanitarian organization.

Through this partnership, UOB and RHF work jointly to support community development initiatives, expand humanitarian programs, and empower vulnerable groups through targeted education, training, and skills development. The initiative integrates academic resources with community needs, fostering social inclusion, equitable access to opportunities, and sustainable community resilience.

This cooperation directly advances SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals, particularly Target 17.2.2, which emphasizes multi-stakeholder collaboration to address societal challenges and strengthen sustainable development efforts.

Additionally, the agreement supports SDG 4 – Quality Education, demonstrating the University of Bahrain's commitment to building a knowledge-based society, promoting lifelong learning, and expanding opportunities for marginalized groups through meaningful community engagement.

## 6. Fostering Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Energy Solutions Through IPTC Education Week

Mariam Taj, a member of the SPE Bahrain Student Chapter at the University of Bahrain (UOB), strengthened cross-sectoral dialogue on sustainable energy and industry best practices through her participation in the IPTC Education Week 2024, held from February 10–14 at the Dhahran Expo in Saudi Arabia. The program brought together approximately 100 top undergraduate students from 39 countries, along with executives, technical experts, and professional committees from leading energy companies, including Saudi Aramco, TotalEnergies, and ExxonMobil.



During the week, Mariam engaged in the “Unlock Reserves” project, a collaborative initiative where international, multidisciplinary student teams applied technical, economic, and sustainability considerations to propose innovative solutions for hydrocarbon resource development. This platform facilitated meaningful dialogue between academia, industry, and professional organizations on challenges such as sustainable resource recovery, advanced reservoir technologies, and energy sector innovation. By contributing to this cross-sectoral knowledge exchange, Mariam not only enhanced her own expertise but also represented UOB in shaping discussions on SDG-aligned engineering solutions within a global energy context.

## 7. UOB Advances Regional Cross-Sector Dialogue on Sustainable Engineering Through MEPEC 2024 Achievements

**Evidence Link:** [SPE Bahrain Student Chapter Instagram](#)

UOB strengthened regional cross-sectoral dialogue on sustainable development through the award-winning participation of its Chemical Engineering students—who are active members of the **SPE Bahrain Student Chapter**—in the MEPEC 2024 Chem-E-Car and Chem-E Jeopardy Competitions.

MEPEC functions as a major regional platform that connects academia, including UOB and other universities, with the private sector such as leading oil and gas companies like Aramco, alongside professional and technical organizations including AIChE and SPE. Within this multi-stakeholder environment, students, engineers, and industry specialists engage in SDG-oriented conversations on innovation, safety, and sustainable engineering practices.

The UOB Chem-E-Car, designed to operate through controlled and safe chemical reactions, served as a tangible demonstration of sustainable engineering in practice. By securing **second place** in the regional Chem-E-Car Competition, the UOB team directly contributed to discussions on green chemistry, alternative energy pathways, reaction safety, and technology-driven SDG solutions. Their participation positioned the SPE Bahrain Student Chapter



members as active contributors to meaningful cross-sector engagement on how engineering can advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

### 8. Empowering Future Leaders: UNDP Bahrain and UoB Workshop on Business and Human Rights

In May 2024, the University of Bahrain (UoB), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP Bahrain), organized an international workshop on Business and Human Rights (BHR) on May 21, 2024. The workshop brought together faculty from law, business, and other departments to integrate BHR principles into academic curricula, explore frameworks grounded in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and promote interdisciplinary, ethical, and leadership skills among students.



This initiative advances SDG 17, Target 17.2.2 by fostering cross-sectoral dialogue, partnerships, and collaboration between educational institutions, civil society, and international organizations. By embedding BHR into curricula, UoB strengthens knowledge sharing, capacity building, professional development, research collaboration, and multistakeholder engagement, supporting sustainable development, ethical business practices, and human rights promotion in line with global SDG priorities.



## 9. University of Bahrain partners with IEEE



The University of Bahrain (UoB), in collaboration with IEEE Bahrain Branch, has established an international partnership to advance SDG 17.2.2. This partnership provides students from the Colleges of Engineering and Information Technology with training, scholarships, and access to IEEE resources, events, and professional development programs, equipping them with skills in technology, engineering, digital innovation, and STEM fields.

Through programming competitions, collaborative projects, and nationwide hackathons, UoB addresses sustainability challenges, including climate action, renewable energy, environmental protection, and green technology, while promoting cross-sectoral dialogue, partnerships, mentorship, and capacity building between academia, industry, and professional organizations.

This partnership is helping shape Bahrain's innovation landscape by enabling the IEEE Student Branch to thrive across the university, organizing high-impact events, and empowering students to develop collaboration, creativity, and future-ready technical skills. The initiative strengthens multistakeholder cooperation, research collaboration, knowledge sharing, and practical solutions to global sustainability issues, preparing students for a rapidly evolving technological landscape. To date, the partnership has supported many students, organized multiple events/competitions, and facilitated



ongoing collaboration across sectors, demonstrating measurable impact in education, innovation, and professional development aligned with SDG 17.

#### 10. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Partners with University of Bahrain



The University of Bahrain (UoB) established a strategic partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to advance youth education, environmental awareness, and sustainable development, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on May 20, 2019. This collaboration supports the Future Leaders Programme, providing students with opportunities in training, workshops, seminars, and research on regional and global sustainability challenges.

Since December 2019, UoB has actively contributed to the “Development of National Implementation Plan (NIP)” project, approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) under the Stockholm Convention, engaging stakeholders to develop a national action plan aligned with Article 7 of the Convention.

As part of the partnership, UoB hosts initiatives addressing SDG 14 – Life Below Water, raising awareness on marine conservation, biodiversity, and sustainable use of resources among academic, governmental, and civil society stakeholders. This collaboration strengthens cross-sectoral dialogue, partnerships, capacity building, knowledge sharing, and multistakeholder

cooperation, demonstrating measurable impact in education, research, environmental management, and sustainability practices, in alignment with SDG 17, Target 17.2.2.

### 11. Approval of 30 Arab Universities to Join the Union



In 2024, the University of Bahrain (UoB) proudly participated in the General Conference of the Association of Arab Universities held in Baghdad, Iraq, where membership of 30 new Arab universities was approved. Dr. Fuad Mohammed Al-Ansari, President of UoB, attended both the General Conference and the Executive Council meeting, which provided a platform for discussions on international cooperation, academic collaboration, and the Arab university classification project.

Dr. Al-Ansari emphasized the importance of the Association of Arab Universities as a framework for enhancing cooperation, communication, and sharing of experiences among member institutions. The Union supports scientific research and innovation by providing resources and financial aid to researchers, promoting partnerships, and deepening regional and international cooperation in higher education.

This initiative aligns with SDG 17, Target 17.2.2, fostering cross-sectoral dialogue among educational institutions, strengthening knowledge sharing, collaborative research, capacity building, and professional development, and reinforcing the role of multistakeholder engagement in advancing the quality of higher education across the Arab region. The Association operates as an

independent, non-governmental organization headquartered in Amman, Jordan, continuing to elevate academic standards and cooperation across Arab universities.

## 12. Academic at UoB Elected Head of Publication in MEFOMP

In 2023, Dr. Habib Ibrahim Ashoor, Associate Professor in the Department of Physics, College of Science, University of Bahrain (UoB), was elected to the Board of Directors of the Middle East Federation of Medical Physics (MEFOMP) and appointed Head of its Publication Committee. This election marks a significant milestone as Dr. Ashoor becomes the first Bahraini to hold this position, which spans a five-year term.



Under his leadership, the Publication Committee aims to enhance the field of medical physics in the region, promoting research, education, and professional programs, while facilitating knowledge dissemination through publications and collaborative initiatives. Dr. Ashoor, also head of the Bahraini Society for Medical Physics and Bioengineering (BSMPB), actively engages with a network of specialists across 12 Arab countries, fostering multistakeholder collaboration, capacity building, and professional development in medical physics.

MEFOMP, a non-governmental, non-profit organization with international recognition, supports scientific advancement, knowledge exchange, and community awareness in medical physics. Dr. Ashoor's participation in the Middle East Medical Physics Conference in Oman, alongside 40 international speakers, further underscores UoB's commitment to cross-sectoral dialogue, partnerships, and international collaboration.

This achievement aligns with SDG 17, Target 17.2.2, highlighting the University's efforts in strengthening collaboration between educational institutions and professional organizations, and advancing regional and global scientific networks.

### 13. Injaz Bahrain Programs for UOB Students



In 2024, the University of Bahrain (UoB) collaborated with Injaz Bahrain, continuing a partnership of over 16 years, to deliver a series of programs aimed at empowering Bahraini youth for success in the global economy, fostering entrepreneurship, leadership, and workforce readiness.

This long-standing collaboration advances SDG 17, Target 17.2.2 by promoting cross-sectoral dialogue, multistakeholder collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity building between educational institutions and professional organizations. Through workshops, mentorship, and practical training, students gain hands-on experience, professional skills, and entrepreneurial mindset, contributing to sustainable economic growth and youth development in Bahrain.

#### A. The **Injaz Bahrain Company**

**Program** engages high school and university students over 12 consecutive sessions, guiding them to establish entrepreneurial companies

while developing research, communication, organization, and critical thinking skills. Participants gain practical experience, supported by volunteer consultants from the local business community, learning the



intricacies of business operations and understanding the economic impact of entrepreneurship in the MENA region.

B. The **Innovation Camp (ICAMP)**, a one-day workshop, challenges students to design innovative solutions to real business problems, fostering teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, and presentation skills under professional guidance.



C. The **Head Start: Boost Your Employability** program addresses university students' work-readiness needs, providing immersive sessions on resume building, interview preparation, and internship acquisition, thereby enhancing employability and career readiness.

Through these initiatives, UoB strengthens partnerships, knowledge sharing, mentorship, and experiential learning, contributing to sustainable economic growth, professional development, and entrepreneurial capacity across Bahrain and the region.



#### 14. UOB Students Win First Place in Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Hackathon

In 2023, a team of students from the University of Bahrain (UoB) achieved first place in the Bahrain Hackathon organized by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), competing against 12 teams from universities across the



Kingdom. The team presented an innovative electronic project focused on Arabized domain names, providing monthly subscription services for Arabic Internet site names, Arabic email addresses, and training for effective usage, thereby enhancing digital accessibility for Arabic-speaking users.

The hackathon, coordinated with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), included evaluation by ICANN representatives and communication specialists, highlighting the importance of multilingual Internet names and localized digital solutions.

This achievement aligns with SDG 17, Target 17.2.2, promoting cross-sectoral dialogue, partnerships, and collaboration among educational institutions, industry, and international organizations. By participating in this competition, UoB students advance innovation, entrepreneurship, knowledge sharing, and the development of regionally relevant technological solutions, strengthening Bahrain's ecosystem for digital innovation and professional capacity building.

## 15. University of Bahrain and "HOPALE" Discuss Cooperation in Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine



In 2023, the University of Bahrain (UoB) hosted a delegation from the HOPALE Foundation, a French organization specializing in orthopedic surgery and sports medicine, to discuss potential cooperation in rehabilitation and sports medicine. Dr. Jawaher bint Shaheen Al-Mudhahka, President of UoB, emphasized the university's research capabilities in these fields and expressed strong interest in partnership opportunities.

The delegation presented their scientific and specialized services, exploring areas of common interest and the potential to offer rehabilitation services in Bahrain. The meeting included representatives from the Bahrain Economic Development Board alongside UoB officials, fostering dialogue on regional healthcare innovation, knowledge exchange, and collaborative research.

This initiative aligns with SDG 17, Target 17.2.2, promoting cross-sectoral dialogue, partnerships, and collaboration between educational institutions and professional organizations. By engaging with HOPALE, UoB enhances its capacity in rehabilitation and sports medicine, contributing to improved health outcomes, professional development, and the sharing of expertise in the region.

## 16. Collaboration with Healthcare and Sports Institutions at the University of Bahrain

In 2024, the University of Bahrain (UoB) established strategic partnerships with multiple healthcare and sports institutions to enhance practical training, health education, and youth development. Formal Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the Ministry of Health, Primary Health Care Centers, and Governmental Hospitals ensure that nursing students gain hands-on clinical experience, emphasizing professional ethics, health regulations, and patient safety standards, thereby strengthening competencies and improving healthcare outcomes.



UoB's collaboration with the General Sports Authority advances sports sciences, athletic training, and evidence-based practices in sports management, aligning academic programs with Bahrain's national sports vision. Additionally, partnership with the Bahrain Pharmacists Society promotes safe healthcare practices through community outreach, enhancing students' professional skills and health literacy.



These initiatives contribute to SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being and align with SDG 17, Target 17.2.2, fostering cross-sectoral dialogue, partnerships, knowledge sharing, and collaborative innovation between educational institutions and healthcare and sports organizations, thereby strengthening public health, professional capacity, and community engagement in Bahrain.

▪ **Initiatives under Current Collaborations with Health Institutions:**

<https://www.uob.edu.bh/sustainability/sdg3/sdg3-mediaoutreach/>

1. Developing and Implementing a Capacity Building Educational Package for Midwives in Regional Community Settings
2. Participation in WHO Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative in Bahrain
3. UoB Contribution to Global Network and LINKS Magazine: Nursing and Midwifery Links
4. WHO AWaRe Antibiotic Resistance (for prescribers)
5. World No Tobacco Day – Call to Action Poster Campaign
6. Strategic Partnerships with Healthcare Institutions in Bahrain
7. Occupational Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Initiatives
8. Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Event
9. Participation in the Advancing Preventive Health and Genomic Awareness Program
10. College of Health and Sport Sciences International Training Center for Life Support Courses.

## 17. Collaboration with the American Heart Association



In 2024, the College of Health and Sport Sciences (CHSS) at the University of Bahrain (UoB) established a strategic partnership with the **American Heart Association (AHA)**, serving as an **International Training Center (ITC)**. This collaboration provides accredited life support courses, including Basic Life Support (BLS) and advanced emergency care programs, to healthcare professionals, students, and community members, equipping participants with essential life-saving skills, such as CPR and emergency response techniques.

By enhancing the quality and accessibility of health education, this initiative strengthens community capacity in critical care and emergency preparedness, improves survival rates during cardiac and medical emergencies, and supports continuous professional development in life support education.

The partnership aligns with SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being and SDG 17, Target 17.2.2, fostering cross-sectoral dialogue, partnerships, and knowledge sharing between educational institutions and international organizations. Through this collaboration, UoB contributes to public health resilience, workforce training, and community well-being, establishing a sustainable model for health education and emergency readiness.



## 18. UOB and BSE Sign a Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Cooperation



In 2024, the University of Bahrain (UoB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Bahrain Society of Engineers (BSE)** to strengthen cooperation in training, knowledge exchange, and the organization of joint conferences and workshops. The signing took place at UoB's headquarters in Sakhir.

This partnership advances SDG 17, Target 17.2.2 by fostering cross-sectoral dialogue and collaboration between educational institutions and professional organizations. Through this collaboration, UoB and BSE aim to enhance educational opportunities, promote professional development, and drive innovation in the engineering sector, contributing to sustainable development and capacity building in Bahrain. The initiative supports knowledge sharing, multistakeholder partnerships, and the practical application of engineering expertise, reinforcing the university's commitment to regional and international cooperation in higher education and professional practice.

## 19. University of Bahrain Seminar Explores Preserving Bahraini Identity and Citizenship in Academic Curricula

<https://www.uob.edu.bh/uob-college-of-arts-reviews-integrating-bahraini-identity-into-curricula/>

On December 26, 2024, the College of Arts at the University of Bahrain organized a seminar addressing the importance of preserving Bahraini identity and citizenship values, and exploring effective ways to integrate these concepts into academic curricula. The seminar featured several faculty members and experts from the College of Arts,



in collaboration with the Executive Office of the National Plan for Enhancing National Belonging and Citizenship Values (“Bahrainna”).

The event brought together faculty members, government representatives, and civic experts to discuss frameworks that promote unity, heritage, and civic values in alignment with Bahrain’s Vision 2030. Participants reviewed strategies for encouraging national participation and social responsibility among students, alumni, and the wider community.

This initiative fulfills THE Indicators 17.2.2 and 17.2.4, as it represents a direct collaboration between a national academic institution and a government body working jointly toward sustainable social development and education goals. It also supports Indicator 17.4.1 by providing a structured platform for capacity building and knowledge exchange on SDG-aligned values in education and community engagement.

Under SDG 4 (Quality Education), the seminar served as a public learning opportunity that extended beyond the university. By engaging alumni, students, and community participants in national discussions on civic identity and

belonging, the event promoted lifelong learning, community cohesion, and shared cultural awareness.

Through this partnership, the University of Bahrain strengthened its role as a bridge between higher education and society, advancing both inclusive citizenship education and sustainable community development in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

## 20. University of Bahrain College of Arts – “A Tour of Bahraini Heritage” Traveling Exhibition

**Evidence Link:** [University of Bahrain News Press](#)

In December 2024, the University of Bahrain, through its College of Arts, partnered with the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) to present “A Tour of Bahraini Heritage,” a national traveling exhibition combining education, culture, and technology. The exhibition featured rare archaeological artifacts from the Dilmun and Tylos civilizations—some previously showcased at the Louvre Museum in Paris—and employed virtual reality technology to create an immersive public learning experience.

This initiative exemplified SDG 17 in action, uniting academia, government, and technology specialists in a cross-sectoral collaboration that promoted heritage education, cultural awareness, and digital innovation. Faculty experts and cultural policymakers jointly curated the exhibition, transforming heritage into an interactive classroom for students, educators, and the wider community.

By offering open, public access to Bahrain’s archaeological history, the exhibition advanced Education for the SDGs (Indicator 17.4.1) through experiential learning that strengthened identity, civic engagement, and sustainable cultural understanding. The project established a replicable model for national partnerships that integrate academic research with cultural policy and digital technologies, thereby reinforcing Bahrain’s leadership in sustainable education and cultural preservation.

## 21. University of Bahrain and Royal Humanitarian Foundation – National Partnership for Sustainable Development

**Evidence Link:** [University of Bahrain News Press](#)

In May 2024, the University of Bahrain and the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) signed a comprehensive cooperation agreement to strengthen scientific, educational, and humanitarian collaboration in support of the United Nations Sustainable



Development Goals. This strategic partnership establishes a formal cross-sectoral framework connecting higher education, civil society, and public institutions to address national and community development priorities through research, innovation, and social service.

The agreement promotes joint research projects, knowledge exchange, and capacity-building programs focused on humanitarian action, inclusive education, and social innovation. It also enables co-organization of conferences, seminars, and outreach activities that raise public awareness of humanitarian values and sustainable development.

A key outcome of the agreement is enhanced access to higher education for RHF-sponsored students from low-income families, directly supporting SDG 1 (No Poverty) by empowering vulnerable groups through learning opportunities, mentorship, and professional skills training.

By integrating the University's academic expertise with RHF's field experience, the collaboration advances best-practice models for SDG-driven community partnerships, exemplifying the implementation of THE Indicators 17.2.2, 17.2.4, and 17.2.5. This initiative reinforces the University of Bahrain's leadership in social responsibility, inclusive education, and multi-stakeholder cooperation—demonstrating how academia and humanitarian organizations



can jointly drive sustainable development and long-term community wellbeing.

## 22. University of Bahrain Advances Cultural Sustainability through National Translation Dialogue

**News press:** <https://www.uob.edu.bh/42392/>



The University of Bahrain (UOB) convened a national dialogue on translation and cultural sustainability through its event “Translation, Cultural Sustainability, and Promoting Cultural Diversity,” coinciding with the UN World Day for Cultural Diversity. The session brought together leading translators, writers, and representatives from the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) to explore ways of preserving identity, cultural heritage, and linguistic diversity through translation.

Through open discussions, participants examined how translation acts as a tool for intercultural understanding and sustainable knowledge exchange, while showcasing national initiatives such as the Knowledge Transfer Project, which translated 50 books to stimulate cultural dialogue.



This initiative demonstrates the University of Bahrain's leadership in fostering cross-sectoral collaboration, fulfilling THE Indicator 17.2.2 by creating dialogue among academia, government, and cultural organizations around SDG-related themes. It also aligns with Indicator 17.2.4, through formal collaboration with BACA, a national entity advancing Bahrain's cultural policies and sustainable development agenda.

Under SDG 4 (Quality Education), the dialogue extended educational outreach to students, alumni, and community members, enhancing public awareness of translation's role in cultural sustainability and social inclusion.

By facilitating collaboration between scholars, government representatives, and creative practitioners, the University of Bahrain reaffirmed its commitment to embedding cultural sustainability within education and promoting inclusive dialogue that advances the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### 23. University of Bahrain College of Arts Organizes “Documentary Filmmaking and Cultural Innovation” Seminar

News Press: <https://www.uob.edu.bh/42354/>



The University of Bahrain, through its College of Arts, convened a high-level forum titled “Documentary Filmmaking and Cultural Innovation” to advance dialogue between higher education and Bahrain’s creative-media industry. The event featured prominent national and academic voices, including pioneering Bahraini film director and producer Bassam Al-Thawadi, documentary filmmaker Dr. Eva Dawood, Dr. Mohammed Othman Al-Sayed from the American University of Bahrain, and Dr. Abdunasser Fattah Allah from UOB’s Department of Media, Tourism, and Arts.

The seminar explored how documentary film serves as a platform for cultural preservation, social truth-telling, and creative innovation, demonstrating its potential to connect national identity with global creative practices. Speakers emphasized the value of authentic storytelling, cultural responsibility in media production, and the need for innovative approaches that allow Bahraini filmmakers to reach international audiences.

By uniting academic researchers, educators, and leading industry professionals, this initiative fulfilled the Indicator 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) through a partnership between the University of Bahrain and representatives of the film and media industry. The exchange bridged theoretical learning and professional practice, enabling students to understand how creative industries contribute to sustainable social development and cultural diplomacy.

The event also advanced THE Indicator 17.4.1 (Education for the SDGs) by serving as a public educational experience that cultivated creative thinking, professional readiness, and awareness of the arts as tools for sustainability. Under SDG 4 (Quality Education), it strengthened capacity building in media and cultural studies through experiential learning. Under SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), it promoted technological and artistic innovation in filmmaking as part of Bahrain’s growing creative economy.

Through this initiative, the University of Bahrain positioned itself as a driver of creative partnership and cultural sustainability, connecting education, artistic

practice, and industry collaboration to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

#### 24. University of Bahrain Students Present “Effective Social Marketing Campaigns Foreseeing the Future of Sustainable Cities”

News Press: <https://www.uob.edu.bh/41763/>



The University of Bahrain organized “Effective Social Marketing Campaigns Foreseeing the Future of Sustainable Cities,” an interdisciplinary exhibition highlighting how communication and marketing strategies can promote environmentally sustainable urban living. Developed collaboratively with members of Bahrain’s creative, tourism, and business sectors, the initiative served as a cross-sectoral platform for exploring how behavioral insights and design thinking can advance both Bahrain’s Vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

By bringing together experts from design, media, hospitality, and environmental industries, the exhibition exemplified Indicator 17.2.2, showcasing effective dialogue between academia, industry, and civil society to address sustainability challenges. It also fulfilled THE Indicator 17.4.1, offering an open educational event that enabled students, professionals, and the public to

engage with practical models of sustainable communication and urban awareness.

Aligned with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), the event presented forward-looking campaign prototypes promoting responsible consumption, eco-friendly behavior, and community resilience. Through this collaboration, the University of Bahrain demonstrated how education, creative industries, and civic engagement can work together to inspire sustainable lifestyles and build inclusive, future-ready cities.

### 25. University of Bahrain College of Arts Organizes Cultural Program Featuring Seven Scientific Seminars

**News press:** <https://www.uob.edu.bh/41250/>



During the second semester of 2023/2024, the College of Arts at the University of Bahrain implemented a comprehensive cultural program comprising seven scientific seminars designed to promote cultural sustainability, creative innovation, and inter-institutional collaboration. The program served as a national platform for dialogue connecting academia, cultural institutions, and creative-industry professionals, aligning cultural practice with Bahrain's Vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The seminars addressed themes such as Arabic Language and Cultural Sustainability, The Bahraini-British Treaties (1820–1971), The Biography of

Bahraini Pearls: Cultural History and Sustainability Pathways, Documentary Filmmaking and Cultural Innovation, The Creative Legacy of Prof. Alawi Al-Hashemi, Psychology and Cultural Sustainability in Shaping the Future, and Translation and Cultural Diversity, which coincided with the UN World Day for Cultural Diversity.

This initiative embodied SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by establishing cross-sectoral cooperation between universities, cultural organizations, and community partners. It demonstrated the implementation of THE Indicator 17.2.2, creating ongoing dialogue between academia, government, and creative sectors, and THE Indicator 17.4.1, transforming university expertise into open, public learning opportunities accessible to students, artists, and the broader community.

By linking education, culture, and sustainability, the University of Bahrain showcased how higher-education institutions can act as catalysts for cultural partnership and lifelong learning, strengthening Bahrain's leadership in sustainable cultural development and contributing to the realization of the UN 2030 Agenda.



## 26. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sports Law and Sustainable Development

<https://www.uob.edu.bh/39930/>

The College of Law at the University of Bahrain hosted a public seminar titled **“Law and the Sports Industry”**, bringing together legal experts, government authorities, and representatives from the sports sector to discuss the legal and policy dimensions of Bahrain’s evolving sports ecosystem. The seminar served as a platform for cross-sectoral dialogue, supporting national efforts to align sports governance with sustainable development priorities.



### Purpose and Focus

The event addressed the need for comprehensive legislation that protects athletes and sports institutions, while strengthening the governance and professionalization of the sports sector. Discussions explored

- the economic impact of sports in national development,
- international sports dispute resolution mechanisms, and
- policy considerations that enhance institutional resilience and integrity.

### Cross-Sector Engagement

The seminar facilitated structured dialogue between academia, government bodies, sports institutions, and the wider community. The open-access format enabled broad participation, promoting transparent conversation on legal reforms and the regulatory frameworks needed to support sustainable sectoral growth.

**Contribution to SDG 17**

By engaging multiple stakeholders in evidence-based discussion, the initiative strengthened national collaboration on policy development and highlighted the role of the sports industry in supporting social, economic, and institutional sustainability. The dialogue reinforced the University of Bahrain's commitment to advancing SDG 17 through partnerships that inform legislative development, improve dispute-resolution systems, and enhance governance across sectors.

## 27. Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Political Awareness and Human Rights

**The University of Bahrain partnered with the Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD) to**

support a series of awareness-raising activities under BIPD's National Awareness Program. These initiatives targeted students, youth, and wider community groups, strengthening public understanding of political, legal, and human rights issues in line with national development priorities.

**Purpose and Focus**

The collaboration aimed to enhance civic knowledge, build community awareness of rights and responsibilities, and promote informed participation in national governance. Activities highlighted:

- political and constitutional rights,
- legal protections and institutional accountability, and
- national and international mechanisms for safeguarding human rights.

**Cross-Sector Engagement**

As part of the partnership, the University co-organized a seminar on mechanisms for protecting community rights, bringing together speakers and experts from:

- the Shura (Consultative) Council,
- the Ministry of Interior, and
- the University of Bahrain.

This multi-stakeholder dialogue examined legal frameworks, institutional safeguards, and policy measures that support civic engagement and the protection of rights at the national and regional levels.

**Evidence:**

- The [National Awareness Program](#), targeting students, youth, and broader community groups to strengthen knowledge of political, legal, and human rights issues.
- The University co-organized a [seminar on national and international mechanisms for protecting community rights](#), bringing together experts from the Shura (Consultative) Council, the Ministry of Interior, and the University to discuss legal frameworks and institutional safeguards. The event enhanced understanding of constitutional and political rights, fostered dialogue on civic engagement, and promoted strategies to strengthen human rights protection at national and regional levels.

The initiative strengthened cross-sector cooperation by facilitating evidence-based discussion among government institutions, academia, and the wider community. It advanced SDG 17.2.2 by promoting shared understanding of human rights governance, fostering collaboration on policy-related topics, and supporting national efforts to build informed, empowered communities.

28. University of Bahrain and Tamkeen – Cross-Sectoral Partnership for Skills, Innovation, and National Capacity Development (2023)

The University of Bahrain collaborates with the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) to expand opportunities for student development and sector-focused training.

Through Tamkeen’s sponsorship and capacity-building support, UoB

students participate in practical, industry-aligned programs—such as international automotive engineering training delivered with Tamkeen and Mumtalakat—that enhance technical competencies and workforce preparedness.

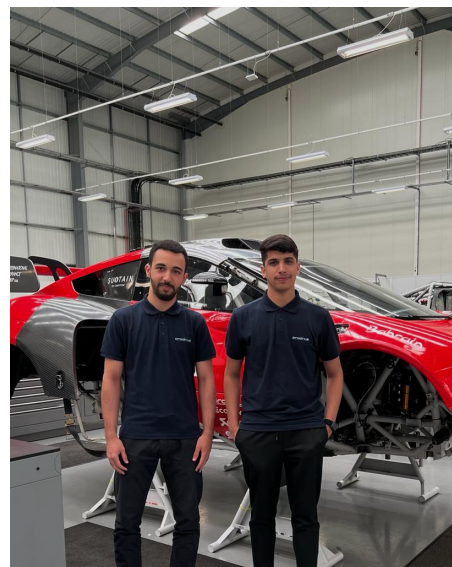
Tamkeen’s engagement in the Youth Entrepreneurship Forum “Micro Shabab” further strengthens UoB’s ecosystem for enterprise education by offering students direct access to guidance on entrepreneurship pathways and national support mechanisms. The partnership also contributes to the Cloud Innovation Center (CIC), which promotes digital skills, innovation readiness, and technology-driven problem solving.

This long-standing cooperation reinforces cross-sectoral collaboration, institutional capacity building, and multi-stakeholder engagement, aligning directly with SDG 17.2.2 by supporting national development priorities and strengthening UoB’s partnerships for sustainable development.



**Key outcomes include:**

- **International training and applied learning:** Tamkeen-sponsored programs such as the *Global Automotive Engineering Training at Prodrive (UK)* enabled students to gain practical experience in high-technology environments, enhancing technical and professional competencies.
- **Knowledge exchange and innovation promotion:** Workshops, entrepreneurship forums, and industry mentorships fostered collaboration among students, experts, and employers to drive innovation and future-ready skills.
- **Policy-aligned capacity-building:** The partnership supported Bahrain's economic diversification and digital transformation agenda through joint initiatives that enhance youth employability and sectoral competitiveness.



This collaboration exemplifies **THE Indicator 17.2.2** by fostering sustained dialogue among academia, semi-government entities, and industry on the integration of education, innovation, and policy. It demonstrates how cross-sector partnerships can translate national development priorities into practical programs that empower youth, strengthen the labour market, and advance inclusive, sustainable economic growth.

**Evidence:**

- [UoB–Tamkeen Global Training Program for Automotive Engineering \(Prodrive UK\)](#)
- [Tamkeen–UoB Partnership Activities Summary](#)
- [Youth Entrepreneurship Forum “MicroShabab” Collaboration](#)



### 29. University of Bahrain and Amazon Web Services (AWS): Strategic Partnership for Digital Transformation and Innovation

The University of Bahrain (UOB) strengthened its global partnerships by signing an amendment to its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to expand cooperation in cloud computing, digital transformation, and workforce development. Through this collaboration, UOB became the largest university in the Middle East to migrate its entire IT infrastructure—including its student information system, correspondence management system, and digital platforms—to AWS Cloud, achieving a 40–50 percent performance improvement in service delivery.

This strategic partnership fosters cross-sectoral dialogue between academia, government, and the private sector, advancing digital innovation, data-driven research, and educational modernization in alignment with Bahrain’s Vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 4, 9, and 17). It supports capacity building and human capital development through AWS Academy training, certification programs, and the region’s first Cloud Innovation Center (CIC), jointly established by UOB, Tamkeen, and AWS to accelerate digital solutions for societal challenges.

By integrating cloud-based research, AI, and high-performance computing (HPC) into academic and administrative operations, UOB promotes innovation ecosystems and collaborative problem-solving that enhance national resilience, knowledge exchange, and sustainable economic growth.

**Evidence:**

[University of Bahrain goes all-in on AWS | AWS Public Sector Blog](#)

### 30. University of Bahrain and Amakin Sign Campus Development Agreement to Advance Sustainable Infrastructure

The University of Bahrain (UOB) signed a strategic development agreement with Amakin Company, one of Bahrain's leading private-sector enterprises in parking management and real estate leasing, to enhance the University's research and laboratory infrastructure. This collaboration represents a model of cross-sectoral partnership that integrates private-sector expertise with public higher-education priorities in support of sustainable infrastructure and capacity development.



Under the agreement, Amakin will partially develop key laboratories within UOB's College of Engineering, providing high-performance devices, smart screens, and technical systems that strengthen the University's research capabilities and improve students' practical training environments. The initiative directly contributes to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) by improving the quality of research facilities and advancing sustainable campus development.

The partnership further reinforces SDG 17.2.2 (Cross-Sectoral Dialogue about the SDGs) by promoting structured engagement between academia and the private sector, fostering mutual knowledge exchange, and aligning corporate social responsibility with national education goals. Both parties also discussed student training, research collaboration, and innovation projects, reflecting Amakin's commitment to social responsibility and youth empowerment.

Through this agreement, the University of Bahrain demonstrates its proactive approach to building strategic partnerships that link education, industry, and

innovation, contributing to Bahrain's Vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

**Evidence:** [University of Bahrain – Amakin Partnership Announcement](#)

### 31. [University of Bahrain–KPMG Fakhro Partnership: Advancing Cross-Sectoral Collaboration for SDG-Aligned Skills Development](#)

News Press: <https://www.uob.edu.bh/34780/>

The University of Bahrain (UoB) actively advances SDG 17.2.2 by fostering cross-sectoral dialogue and strategic collaboration with KPMG Fakhro, strengthening partnerships between higher education and the private sector to support sustainable development objectives. The memorandum of



understanding, signed by Dr. Jawaher bint Shaheen Al-Mudhahka, President of UoB, and Mr. Jamal Fakhro, Executive Partner of KPMG in Bahrain, provides a structured framework for professional development, skills training, internships, capacity building, and knowledge sharing.

This partnership facilitates mutual engagement between academia and industry, enabling students and faculty to participate in training workshops, practical internships, joint research, and the development of educational materials, fostering experiential learning, workforce readiness, and professional mentorship. Programs are aligned with national initiatives, including the Hussain Qassim vocational training program, promoting the preparation of Bahraini graduates for the labor market and encouraging entrepreneurship, employability, and community impact.

Through ongoing cross-sector engagement, UoB and KPMG Fakhro enhance institutional capacity, curriculum relevance, and policy alignment, ensuring that collaborative initiatives are evidence-based, impactful, and sustainable. Senior representatives from both organizations participate in strategic planning, knowledge mobilization, and quality assurance, strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships and enabling measurable contributions to professional competency, skills development, and long-term national human capital growth.

This partnership exemplifies a model of effective cross-sectoral collaboration, where higher education, private industry, and national workforce development priorities converge to advance SDG-aligned outcomes, capacity building, and inclusive professional development, supporting Bahrain's broader sustainable development objectives.

### 32. University of Bahrain–Lancaster University Partnership Strengthens Global Dialogue on SDG Integration and Academic Innovation

On 22 March 2024, the University of Bahrain (UOB) and Lancaster University (UK) established a strategic international partnership that advances SDG 17.2.2 by promoting cross-sectoral dialogue, mutual learning, and knowledge exchange on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The collaboration creates a structured platform for policy dialogue, capacity building, and shared research initiatives linking academia, government, and industry in pursuit of global educational excellence and sustainable impact.



Through joint academic programs, international conferences, and faculty exchanges, both universities foster active discussion on quality education, global citizenship, and institutional alignment with SDG priorities. This partnership embeds inclusive practices, evidence-based policymaking, and multi-stakeholder engagement into teaching and research, reinforcing the role of higher education as a driver of sustainable transformation.

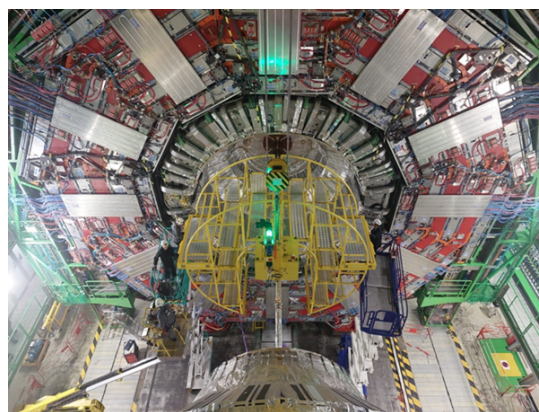
By integrating SDG literacy, innovation, and cross-border collaboration into curriculum design and governance, UOB and Lancaster University demonstrate how strategic academic alliances can operationalize SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through effective dialogue, global engagement, and systemic capacity development.

### Supporting Evidence:

- [University of Bahrain News – MoU with Lancaster University](#)
- [Lancaster University Partners News – UOB Collaboration](#)
- [UOB Academic Program Validation Announcement](#)

## 33. University of Bahrain and CERN Partnership Fostering Global Dialogue on Science, Innovation, and Sustainable Development

The University of Bahrain (UOB) and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) actively advance SDG 17.2.2 by initiating and participating in cross-sectoral dialogue on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through the International Cooperation Agreement signed on 22 June 2023, UOB represents the Kingdom of Bahrain in CERN's global scientific network, linking academia, government, and industry in structured dialogue on innovation and sustainable research governance.



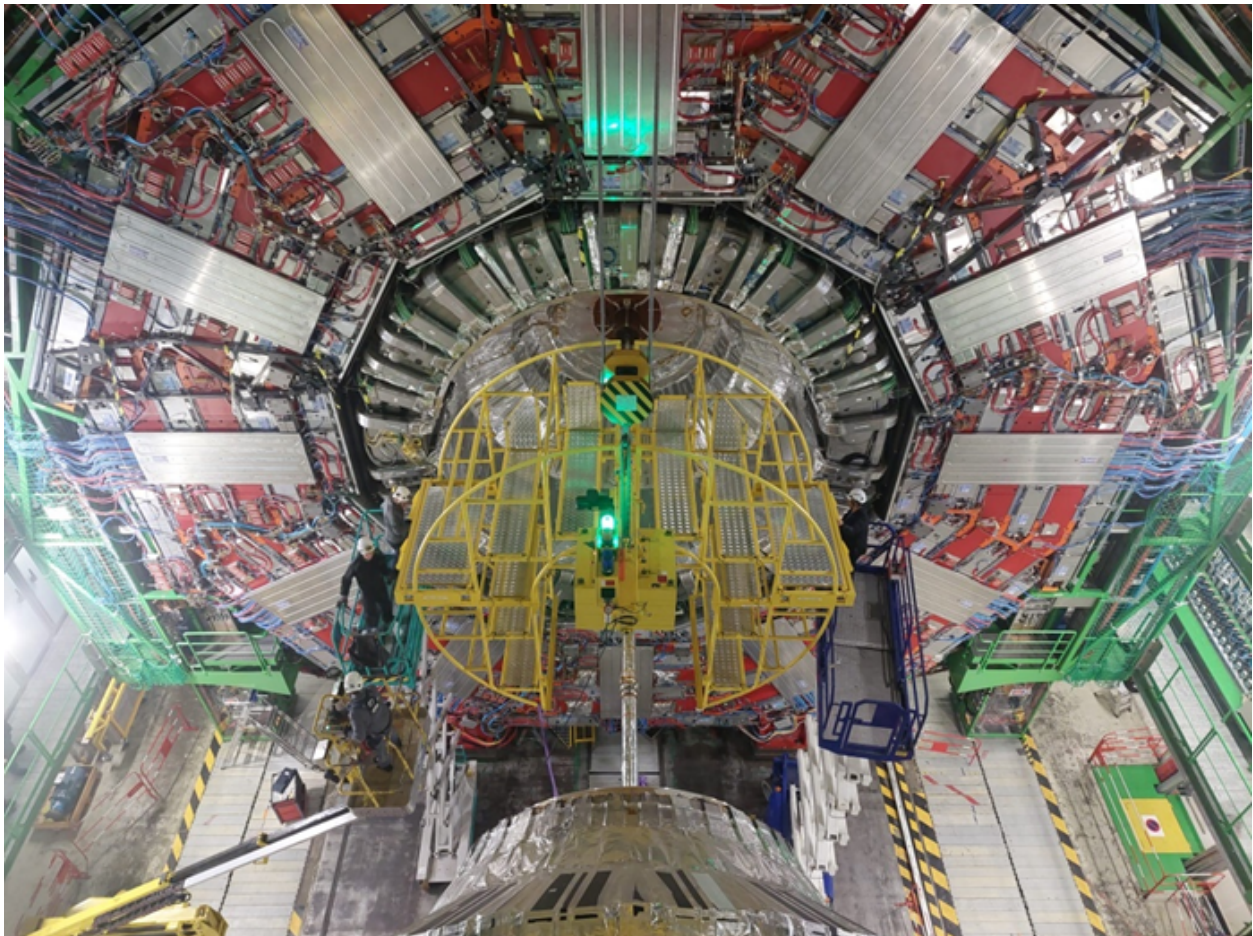
This collaboration hosts joint workshops, scientific forums, and public exhibitions that connect students, educators, and researchers with international experts on the role of



science and technology in achieving the SDGs. Such initiatives promote knowledge exchange, STEM capacity building, and inclusive participation in sustainability-focused research. UOB also extends this dialogue to schools and the community through interactive sessions on physics and computational science, empowering youth and educators to engage in global sustainability discourses.

Through this collaboration, multiple joint projects have been conducted that integrate cutting-edge research and technology with sustainability principles and capacity building. Examples include:

- **Project 1: Design of Tooling B (Endcap Removal Platform for the HGCAL Upgrade) and Manufacture of an Automated Jig Using Aluminum Scaffolds in Bahrain:** This project aims to design and build an automated jig to handle work platforms, allowing personnel to access the innermost parts of the CMS detector. The platform is manufactured in Bahrain using aluminum, then shipped and installed at CERN, where it is now in full operation. The automated platform is made from aluminum, which is lighter and less prone to corrosion than iron, making it more efficient for Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector maintenance.



- **Project 2: Performance Auto-tuning Framework for GPU Applications Using Parameter Optimization:** This project aims to investigate how to automatically configure the CMS Software (CMSSW) to achieve near-optimal performance across different hardware setups, with a focus on applications using Graphics Processing Units (GPUs). This work successfully speeds up the data selection process by improving algorithms, thereby saving significant computing time.
- **Project 4: Fluid Mechanics Project: CO<sub>2</sub> Cooling System:** The project aims to design and integrate studies of CO<sub>2</sub> cooling equipment and services, supporting R&D on future detector infrastructure. The project involves conducting risk assessments for future CO<sub>2</sub> cooling plants. Two-Phase Accumulator Controlled Loop (2PACL) plants are used to cool CMS detector components, reducing radiation damage. This ongoing project seeks to use CO<sub>2</sub> gas for cooling the detector and to recover and utilize the heat generated.
- **Project 5: Minimum Ionizing Particle Timing Detector Project:** This project aims to develop a framework to collect monitoring data from MTD front-end systems via an MTD DAQ board and store it in a database. The project involves developing the next-generation control system for this novel CMS detector. This monitoring system provides notifications to take action before any system failure occurs, thereby increasing the sustainability of the experimental work environment.

In parallel, the UOB–CERN partnership plays a vital public-education role. The university has organized multiple open exhibitions, interactive sessions, and school programs to raise public and youth awareness about scientific innovation and sustainability. These events engage community members, educators, and students with hands-on demonstrations of physics, computing, and material science, promoting education for the SDGs (SDG 4.7) and showcasing how scientific discovery contributes to sustainable progress. The outreach initiatives also highlight inclusive access to science and technology, encouraging younger generations, especially women and youth, to pursue STEM and sustainability-related careers.

The partnership also encourages joint research on sustainable materials, notably in the industrial application of aluminum alloys, promoting environmentally responsible engineering and reinforcing the connection between higher education and national industry advancement.

By embedding UN SDG principles in research communication and science policy dialogue, the UOB–CERN partnership demonstrates how academic collaboration can catalyze multi-

stakeholder engagement, global dialogue, and evidence-based policy exchange for sustainable development.

### Supporting Evidence:

- [University of Bahrain – CERN Cooperation Agreement](#)

## 34. [University of Bahrain Conferences Strengthening Cross-Sectoral Dialogue and Global SDG Partnerships](#)

The University of Bahrain (UOB) advances SDG 17.2.2 by serving as a leading regional hub for cross-sectoral dialogue, bringing together academia, industry, government, and international organizations to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through major conferences and collaborative platforms.

In 2023–2024, UOB organized several high-impact international conferences with technical sponsorship from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), attracting over 670 peer-reviewed IEEE papers across multiple Scopus-indexed proceedings. These conferences—including the *Sustainability and Resilience Conference Series (2023–2024)*, the *International Conference on Data Analytics for Business and Industry (DABAI)*, the *International Conference on Sustainable Islamic Business and Finance (SIBF)*, and the *International Conference on Sustaining Heritage (ICSH 2024)*—provided structured platforms for policy dialogue, knowledge sharing, and multi-stakeholder engagement aligned with SDG principles.

Collaborations extended beyond academia to include key partners such as AAOIFI (Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions), Inform–Bahrain, and leading industry and policy institutions. International keynote speakers from the UK, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Pakistan, and Poland contributed to discussions on sustainability transitions, industry innovation, and Islamic finance for sustainable development, promoting inclusive global exchange and thought leadership.

Through these initiatives, UOB promotes capacity building, research dissemination, and international cooperation, strengthening Bahrain’s position as a center for knowledge-driven cross-sectoral dialogue and advancing global understanding of the SDGs in higher education, technology, and sustainable finance.

### Supporting Evidence:

- IEEE Technical Sponsorship Records (429 papers – 2023; 242 papers – 2024)

- UOB Sustainability and Resilience Conferences (2023–2024)
- UOB SIBF and DABAI Conference Proceedings
- Collaboration with AAOIFI, IET, and Inform–Bahrain

IEEE (technical sponsor) for UOB conference

No. of IEEE papers Conference	
2023	429
2024	242

Collaboration with Keynote Speakers

	Keynote Speaker's Name	Country	Year	Conference Name
1	Mohamed Al Shehab	Bahrain	2023	5th Sustainability and Resilience Conference: Energy and Industry 4.0 – Technologies and Applications
2	Dr. Agnieszka	Poland	2023	
1	Eng. Mohamed Al Shehab	Bahrain	2024	6th Sustainability and Resilience Conference: Integration of Nature-Based Solutions in Industrial and Developmental Transitions
2	Dr. Muftooh Ur Rehman Siddiqi	UK	2024	
3	Dr. Abdulmueen Bogis	UK	2024	
4	Dr. Amer Habibullah	Saudi Arabia	2024	
5	Prof. Zain H. Yaman	Saudi Arabia	2024	
1	Omar Mustafa Ansari	Pakistan	2024	4th International Conference on Sustainable Islamic Business and Finance: Building a Prosperous Future: Aligning Islamic Values with Sustainable Development Goals
2	Professor Alija Avdukic	United Kingdom	2024	
1	Dr Sami Al-Suwailem	Bahrain	2023	3rd International Conference on Sustainable Islamic Business and Finance
2	Prof Aznan Hasan	Malaysia	2023	

1	Dr. Eva-Marie	Middle East and Africa	2023	4th International Conference on Data Analytics for Business and Industry
2	Dr. Abdulla Al Shimmari	UAE	2023	
	Dr. Cheddad Abbas	Sweden	2024	5th International Conference on Data Analytics for Business and Industry
	Dr. Mounir Bouchnaki	Bahrain	2024	The 2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINING HERITAGE (ICSH 2024)
	Prof. Christer Gustafsson	Sweden	2024	
	Prof. Hossam Elborombaly	Egypt.	2024	

### Collaboration with the international Advisory Board

Journal	Name	Institution / Affiliation
Journal of Educational & Psychological Sciences	Prof. Huda Hassan Al-Khaja	University of Bahrain (formerly)
	Prof. Abdulmohsen Salem Aloqaili	King Saud University
	Prof. Saleh Abdulla Jassim	Kuwait University (formerly)
	Prof. Ousha Ahamed Almheiri	Emirates University
	Prof. Ali bin Sharaf Al Musawi	Sultan Qaboos University
	Prof. Bouhafis Mebarki	University of Oran
	Prof. Ian R. Haslam	West Valley College, USA
	Prof. Clive Dimmock	University of Glasgow, UK
	Prof. Marek Tesar	University of Auckland
Journal of Human Sciences	Prof. Alawi Hashim Al-Hashemi	Former Professor, University of Bahrain
	Prof. Chokri Mabkhout	Mohammed bin Zayed University for Humanities
	Prof. Ibrahim Abdulrahim Al-Saafin	Former Professor, University of Jordan



	Prof. Saad Al-Bazie	Former Professor, King Saud University
	Prof. Suzanne Stetkevych	Indiana University, USA & Brill Publishers, Netherlands
Journal of Law	Dr. Mariam Bint Hasan Al Khalifa	Former President, University of Bahrain
	Prof. Mufeed Shehab	Former President, Cairo University
	Prof. Austen Parrish	University of California, USA
	Prof. Yenkong Ngangjoh Hodu	University of Manchester, UK
	Dr. Mohammad Taha Almarshhadani	Former Dean, University of Bahrain
	Prof. Ronald Brand	University of Pittsburgh, USA
International Journal of Computing and Digital Systems	Rajkumar Buyya	University of Melbourne, Australia
	Raouf Boutaba	University of Waterloo, Canada
	Brij Bhooshan Gupta	Asia University, Taiwan
	Sherali Zeadally	University of Kentucky, USA
	Ayman El-Baz	University of Louisville, USA
	Kevin Curran	Ulster University, UK
	Nik Bessis	Edge Hill University, UK
	Helen Karatza	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
	El-Sayed M. El-Alfy	King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Saudi Arabia
	Mohammed Ghazal	Abu Dhabi University, UAE
	Nabil Benamar	Moulay Ismail University of Meknes, Morocco
	Ebrahim Mattar	University of Bahrain, Bahrain
	Ayman A. Abdel-Hamid	Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport, Egypt
Journal of Islamic Financial Studies	Dr. Nizam Yaqoobi	—
	Prof. Ahmed El-Masry	—

	Prof. Mondher Bellalah	—
	Dr. Sutan Emir Hidayat	—
International Journal of Pedagogical Innovations	Prof. Clive Dimmock	University of Glasgow, UK
	Prof. Marek Teaser	University of Auckland, NZ
	Prof. Fahad AlShaya	King Saud University, KSA
	Prof. Saleh Al-Busaidi	Sultan Qaboos University, Oman
	Prof. Salah A.A. Emara	University College of Bahrain
	Prof. Amal Al-Saleh	University of Kuwait
	Dr. Reem AlBuainain	Euro University of Bahrain
Arabian Gulf Journal of Administrative Sciences	Dr. Bassam bin Abdullah Al-Bassam	Secretary-General, Council of Saudi Universities Affairs
	Prof. Hatem Mahmoud Masri	President, University of Applied Sciences, Bahrain

### 35. University of Bahrain – International SDG Dialogue Platforms (2024)

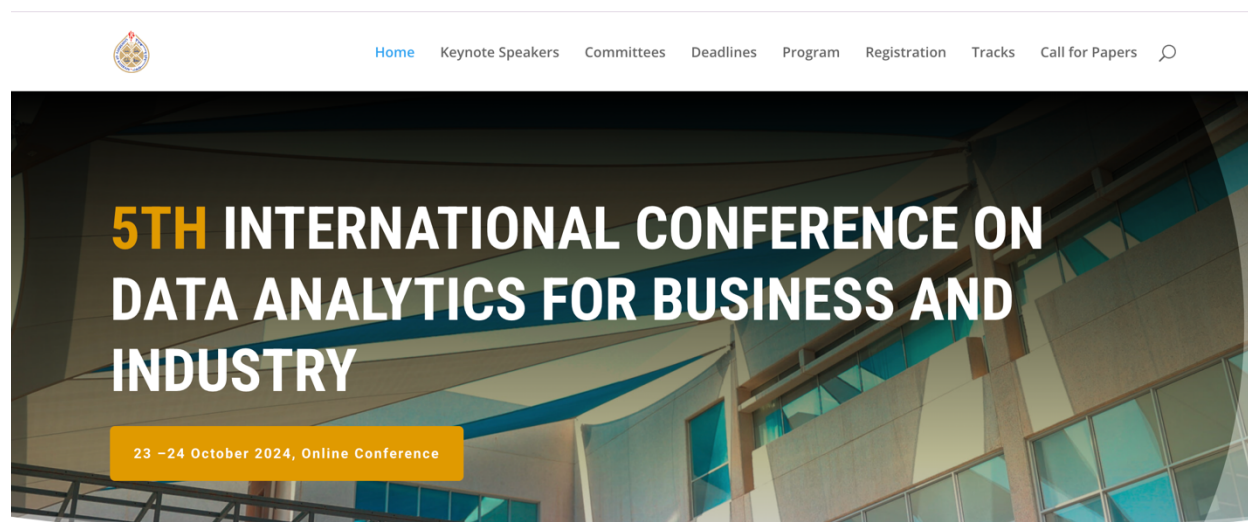
In 2024, the University of Bahrain significantly advanced **SDG 17.2.2** by initiating and participating in major cross-sectoral and cross-regional dialogues focused on the Sustainable Development Goals. Through four large-scale international conferences, the University convened academics, government agencies, industry leaders, civil-society organizations, financial institutions, and global research communities to exchange SDG-aligned knowledge and co-develop practical solutions.

Collectively, these events accepted 152 peer-reviewed papers, including 70 authored by UoB researchers, and attracted over 700 participants representing Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and North America. Asia accounted for more than half of all contributors with strong engagement from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, and Vietnam, demonstrating UoB's role in strengthening South–South and

triangular cooperation. The conferences served as powerful platforms for dialogue across sectors such as data science, Islamic finance, climate resilience, sustainability, industry, cultural heritage, creative industries, and government partnerships—directly addressing multiple SDGs through shared global expertise.

By ensuring that sessions were publicly accessible and designed to facilitate interdisciplinary, multi-stakeholder dialogue, the University of Bahrain reinforced SDG 17 by expanding opportunities for joint SDG problem-solving, fostering cross-regional collaboration, and promoting shared SDG learning ecosystems. These platforms strengthened national and international partnerships for sustainable development and amplified UoB's contribution to the global SDG conversation.

### 1. ICDABI 2024 – Cross-Sector Dialogue on Data-Driven Innovation for SDG Solutions



**URL:** <https://icdabi.uob.edu.bh/2024/>

ICDABI 2024 convened researchers, private-sector innovators, policymakers, and students to exchange SDG-relevant insights on AI, predictive modelling, and digital transformation. The conference

facilitated cross-sector dialogue on how data science supports sustainable economic development, operational efficiency, and evidence-based decision-making. Discussions connected academia with industry and public-sector stakeholders, strengthening SDG 17 partnerships for knowledge transfer and digital-capacity building.

- **Participants:** 200
- **Accepted Papers:** 38 (20 from UoB)
- **Regions Represented:** Asia, Middle East & Africa, Europe, North America

## 2. SIBF 2024 – Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Sustainable Islamic Finance Systems



**Evidence URL:** <https://icsibf.uob.edu.bh/2024/>

SIBF 2024 provided a global platform for academics, financial institutions, fintech developers, policymakers, and civil-society organizations to jointly explore the role of Islamic finance in advancing the SDGs, particularly inclusive growth, ethical governance, and poverty reduction. The conference strengthened SDG 17 by

connecting public, private, and academic sectors through shared discussions on risk-sharing, social-impact financing, and sustainability-aligned economic models.

- **Participants:** 400
- **Accepted Papers:** 61 (33 from UoB)
- **Regions Represented:** Asia, Middle East & Africa, Europe, North America

### 3. ICSH 2024 – Cross-Cultural Partnership Dialogue on Digital Heritage and SDG Preservation



**Evidence URL:** <https://icsh.uob.edu.bh/2024/>

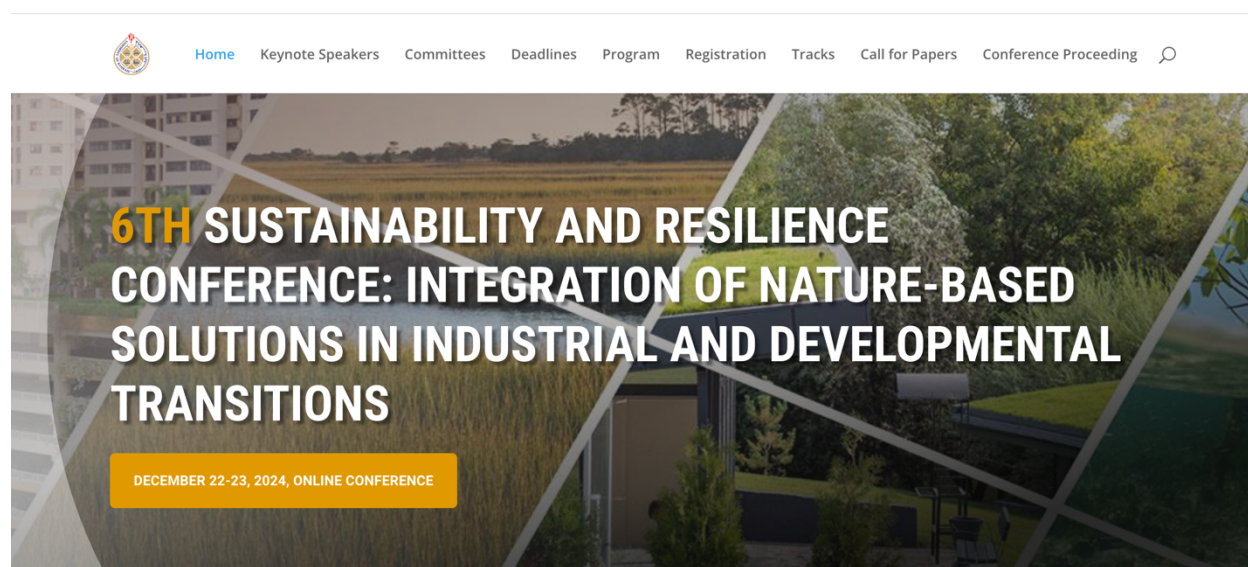
ICSH 2024 united heritage institutions, policymakers, digital-technology experts, creative industries, cultural practitioners, and academics to discuss how AI, 3D modelling, and immersive environments can support sustainable preservation. The event strengthened SDG 17 partnerships by enabling cross-sector collaboration on cultural sustainability, knowledge-sharing between



nations, and interdisciplinary exchange across tourism, education, and cultural-policy sectors.

- **Participants:** 46
- **Accepted Papers:** 28 (6 from UoB)
- **Regions Represented:** Asia, Middle East & Africa, Europe, North America

#### 4. SRC 2024 – Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilience



**Evidence URL:** <https://srcdi.uob.edu.bh/2024/>

SRC 2024 facilitated cross-regional and cross-sectoral dialogue on integrating Nature-Based Solutions into industrial and developmental systems. The conference brought together policymakers, researchers, environmental NGOs, climate-technology industries, and community leaders to discuss NBS applications that support SDG 13, SDG 11, and SDG 7. Through open sessions and technical tracks, participants exchanged practical strategies for climate

adaptation, biodiversity protection, and green transitions, reinforcing SDG 17 partnerships for environmental resilience.

- **Participants: 127**
- **Accepted Papers: 25 (11 from UoB)**
- **Regions Represented: Asia, Middle East & Africa, Europe, North America**

36. University of Bahrain, in partnership with The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)

## 5. 8th IET Smart Cities Symposium (1–3 December 2024)

# Literature Review

Table 1: Review of related works

Ref	Dataset	Accuracy	Model	Data split	Classification	Tool	Contribution
[1], 2024	[2],MCSI	92.80%	MobileNetV3Large	N/A	2-class	N/A	Detection of Monkeypox using mobile images
[3], 2022	[4],ArXiv [5],MSLD	88%	M-VGG16 model	80:20:00	2-class	LIME	Diagnosis of monkeypox
[3], 2022	[4],ArXiv [5],MSLD	89%	M-ResNet50	80:20:00	4-class	LIME	Diagnosis of monkeypox
[6], 2023	[7],MSID	87%	CNN–LSTM hybrid model	80:10:10	4-class	LSTM	Detection of monkeypox
[8], 2023	[7],MSID	91.19%	ResNet18	80:20:00	4-class	LIME	Classification of monkeypox
[9], 2024	Web data	82.96%	ResNet50	70:20:10	5-class	---	Diagnosis of monkeypox

8th IET Smart Cities Symposium - University of Bahrain, 1-3 December 2024

The University of Bahrain (UoB), in formal partnership with the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), organized and hosted the 8th IET Smart Cities Symposium from 1–3 December 2024. This annual international forum brings together global stakeholders to discuss smart and sustainable urban

development, with a direct focus on SDG-aligned innovation, digital transformation, and low-carbon city strategies.

The **8th IET Smart Cities Symposium**, facilitated structured, cross-sector dialogue that brought together government bodies, policymakers, professional engineering organizations, industry and private-sector leaders, academic researchers, and civil-society stakeholders. Participants included urban planning authorities, national ministries, regulatory agencies, global professional networks, smart-technology firms, ICT providers, engineering companies, researchers, faculty, postgraduate students, urban practitioners, infrastructure specialists, and sustainability experts.

The symposium delivered SDG-focused dialogue through keynote addresses from international experts, panel discussions on smart-city resilience, low-carbon innovation, energy transitions, and AI-enabled urban systems, as well as technical research sessions that enabled the exchange of global best practices. Open learning and publicly accessible discussions allowed students, graduates, and community members to engage directly with emerging knowledge. The event examined global smart-city strategies and reflected on future-ready solutions for sustainable, intelligent, and climate-responsive urban development, directly linking to the SDGs.

Through cross-sector knowledge exchange, the symposium advanced SDG 17 by strengthening partnerships with the IET and global technology networks. It also contributed to SDG 11 by promoting sustainable and resilient urban development, SDG 9 through industry innovation, digital transformation, and infrastructure, and SDG 13 by supporting low-carbon planning and climate adaptation initiatives.

The 2024 symposium achieved significant international and cross-regional reach, with participants from the GCC and Middle East including government agencies, industry, and academia; Europe, through IET networks and affiliated experts; and Asia, including ICT specialists, engineers, and researchers. This broad engagement highlights the symposium's role as a sustained platform for

cross-sectoral, cross-regional collaboration, knowledge exchange, and partnership building in support of the global SDG agenda.

### **Public Availability**

Details of the symposium—including objectives, speakers, themes, and sessions—are publicly accessible on the official event website.



### **Long-Term Impact: IET Indexing of UoB Smart-City Research (Evidence of Quality & Global Collaboration)**

The impact of the Smart Cities Symposium extends beyond annual dialogue and contributes to sustained international collaboration, a key criterion for SDG 17.2.2.

On 3 May 2023, the IET formally indexed the research papers of the 6th Smart Cities Forum (Dec 2022) organized by the University of Bahrain. This

independent, third-party validation demonstrates the global quality, relevance, and visibility of UoB's smart-city research outputs.

**Key impact evidence:**

- 99 out of 108 papers accepted and indexed by the IET (a major international professional body).
- Participation from UAE, USA, UK, India, France, Denmark, Mauritius, demonstrating significant cross-regional cooperation.
- At least 37 UoB-authored papers, strengthening UoB's global research footprint and SDG-related scholarly contribution.
- IET indexing has occurred for six consecutive years, highlighting consistency, credibility, and durability of the partnership.
- The forum acts as a recurring international platform to accelerate smart-city transformation in Bahrain and the region, aligning with SDG 11 and SDG 17.

**Verified Public Source:**

- **IET Smart Cities Symposium – University of Bahrain & The IET** ([iet-smartcities-symposium.com](http://iet-smartcities-symposium.com))
- **News Press:** <https://www.uob.edu.bh/34286/>

37. [University of Bahrain | Micro Water Desalination Forum: Modern Trends and Practices](#)

Source: [UoB News Press](#)





In 2024, the University of Bahrain (UoB) reinforced its regional leadership in advancing scientific research and innovation in water desalination and treatment technologies, addressing the pressing challenges of water scarcity in arid environments such as Bahrain. As part of this effort, UoB organized the second edition of the Micro Water Desalination Forum: Modern Trends and Practices, providing an open, cross-sector platform for knowledge exchange among government agencies, industry practitioners, academic researchers, and professional associations. The forum created opportunities for multi-stakeholder dialogue on sustainable water management, policy development, technological innovation, and regional collaboration, directly supporting SDG 17 on partnerships while advancing SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation and SDG 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

The event brought together participants from across Bahrain and the Gulf region, including water authorities, environmental regulators, desalination plant operators, technology providers, and academic researchers, enabling dialogue on cutting-edge desalination technologies, energy-efficient water treatment processes, and process optimization strategies. Through panel discussions, presentations, and open sessions, the forum

facilitated cross-disciplinary collaboration, sharing of best practices, and co-development of solutions for sustainable water use. By promoting inclusive participation from government, industry, and academia, the forum strengthened regional networks, enhanced the visibility of UoB research, and advanced practical solutions that can be implemented in arid regions.

The University of Bahrain's leadership in hosting this forum demonstrates a sustained commitment to fostering innovation, building cross-sector partnerships, and promoting regional capacity in water management technologies. The Micro Water Desalination Forum not only strengthens collaborative research and professional networks but also accelerates knowledge transfer, supports lifelong learning, and contributes to the development of sustainable, resilient solutions to water scarcity challenges in Bahrain and the broader Gulf region.



### 38. Strategic Partnership between the University of Bahrain and Government Hospitals to Advance Health Education and Research

The University of Bahrain has established a formal cooperation agreement with the Government Hospitals of the Kingdom of Bahrain, signed by Dr. Fuad Mohammed Al Ansari, President of the University of Bahrain, and Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Ansari, Chief Executive of the Government Hospitals. This agreement represents a structured, institutional partnership between the higher education sector and the national healthcare system, directly contributing to SDG 17.2.2 – Cross-sectoral dialogue about SDGs.



#### The framework agreement stipulates:

- **Joint Research and Knowledge Exchange:** Faculty members and hospital professionals collaborate on applied research projects to improve health services and nursing practices.
- **Capacity Building and Training:** Students from the College of Health and Sport Sciences are trained within hospital facilities, ensuring practical exposure and workforce readiness.
- **Resource Sharing:** Both institutions commit to human and material resources to strengthen healthcare delivery and education.
- **Institutional Integration:** Coordination between therapeutic and preventive services in hospitals and academic health education ensures optimal use of national capabilities.

#### Impact and Outcomes:

- Enhanced quality of healthcare services through evidence-based research.
- Improved student employability and professional readiness in the health sector.
- Strengthened national capacity for scientific innovation in medical and nursing practices.

- Contribution to Bahrain's comprehensive development goals under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

This partnership exemplifies cross-sectoral dialogue and collaboration between academia and government institutions, fostering sustainable development through shared expertise, joint initiatives, and institutional cooperation. It demonstrates how universities can act as catalysts for national development by embedding SDG principles into education, research, and service delivery.

**Evidence Link:** [News press](#)