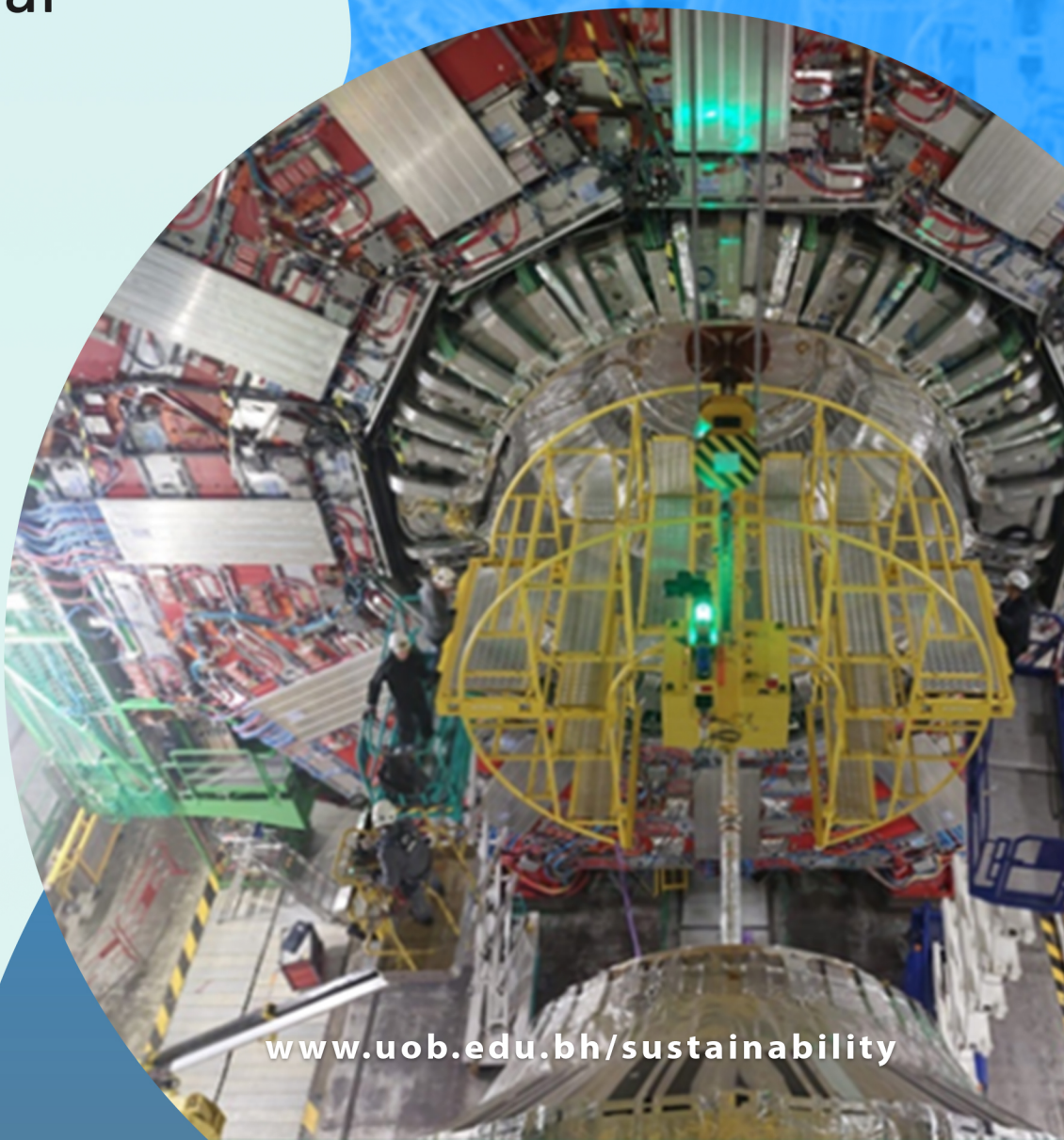


## 17.2.4 Collaboration for SDG best practice

Academic Year  
2023-2024



## 17.2.4 Collaboration for SDG best practice



**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



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## Executive Summary

The University of Bahrain (UoB) demonstrates global leadership in advancing SDG best practices through systematic **review of comparative approaches** and **co-development of international standards**. Fully aligned with THE Impact Rankings Indicator 17.2.4, UoB leverages strategic partnerships, cross-sectoral alliances, and multi-stakeholder platforms to benchmark, validate, and disseminate solutions that address global sustainability challenges.

### Key Achievements

- **International Academic Benchmarking**
  - Dual-degree validation with Lancaster University ensures curriculum design, governance, and quality assurance meet global standards, reflecting comparative analysis aligned with SDG 4, SDG 8, and SDG 9.
  - Strategic cooperation with CERN integrates sustainable engineering and scientific innovation into global research ecosystems, enabling shared methodologies and best practice development.
- **Cross-Sectoral Best Practice Exchange**
  - Partnerships with Gulf Society for Maintenance & Reliability, Tamkeen, and Primary Health Care Centers promote technical excellence and health innovation through joint training and capacity-building programs informed by international benchmarks.
- **Global Competitions & Knowledge Sharing**
  - UoB students' award-winning participation in AIChE, SPE PetroBowl, and IPTC Education Week fosters comparative learning and dissemination of engineering and sustainability best practices.
- **International Conferences & Research Networks**
  - Hosting the Sustainability and Resilience Series, Data 24, and SIBF conferences attracts global participants and produces Scopus-indexed outputs, positioning UoB as a hub for SDG policy dialogue and comparative research.

- **Specialized Initiatives**

- Collaboration with UNEP and participation in UN Code of Conduct consultations advance global best practices in digital governance and information integrity.
- Joint nanotechnology research with Harvard Wyss Institute and Alexandria University strengthens SDG 3 through shared protocols and comparative health innovation strategies.

**Impact Highlights**

- 30+ formal MoUs and cooperation agreements with global and regional partners.
- Over 670 Scopus-indexed publications through IEEE/IET collaborations (2023–2024).
- International conference participation: 700+ attendees, 152 peer-reviewed papers, 70 authored by UoB.
- Capacity-building programs benefiting thousands of students and professionals across engineering, health, finance, and digital innovation.

**Conclusion:**

Through benchmarking, comparative analysis, and co-creation of SDG-aligned solutions, UoB positions itself as a regional and global leader in collaborative innovation, fully satisfying THE Impact Rankings criteria for Indicator 17.2.4.



## 1. Women Empowerment and Academic Collaboration – University of Bahrain and Royal University for Women

The University of Bahrain (UoB) and the Royal University for Women (RUW) signed a collaboration agreement in 2024 to strengthen academic cooperation, women's empowerment, and professional training across Bahrain's higher education sector. The agreement, endorsed by Prof. Fuad



Mohammed Al-Ansari and Dr. Riyad Yousef Hamzah, promotes faculty exchange, joint teaching, and shared academic expertise that advance gender equity and institutional capacity-building.

The partnership supports training programs, workshops, and professional-development courses for faculty and administrative staff, and fosters joint research, conferences, and student-engagement activities that enhance learning in sustainability, leadership, and equality. By integrating gender empowerment and lifelong-learning principles into academic collaboration, the initiative contributes to education for the SDGs, aligning with national priorities for inclusive growth and quality education.

This initiative directly supports SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

**Source:** [University of Bahrain News – UoB and RUW sign collaboration agreement \(2024\)](#)

## 2. University of Bahrain and Gulf Society for Maintenance and Reliability (GSMR) Partner to Promote Engineering Excellence and SDG Best Practices

The University of Bahrain (UOB) and the Gulf Society for Maintenance and Reliability (GSMR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in maintenance, reliability, and asset management, advancing education, research, and professional training aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The agreement, signed by Dr.

Jawaher bint Shaheen Al-Mudhahka, President of UOB, and Eng. Saad bin Ibrahim Al-Tuhaifan Al-Shamrani, Chairman of GSMR, reflects a shared commitment to implementing regional best practices in engineering education and sustainable technical development.

Through this collaboration, UOB and GSMR will exchange expertise, co-host regional conferences, workshops, and training programs, and jointly develop initiatives that connect academic research with industrial innovation. The partnership emphasizes continuous improvement and knowledge transfer, fostering a culture of quality, safety, and sustainability across the engineering sector in the Gulf region.

By aligning academic programs with professional standards and real-world applications, the initiative contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) while exemplifying SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice). The partnership serves as a model of cross-sectoral cooperation, demonstrating how universities and professional societies can jointly advance technical excellence, workforce development, and sustainable industrial growth through the exchange of best practices.

**Evidence:** [University of Bahrain – UOB and GSMR Sign Cooperation Agreement \(2023\)](#)

### 3. [UOB–Lancaster University Collaboration Advances Global Best Practice in Quality Education and Sustainable Development](#)

The University of Bahrain (UOB) and Lancaster University (UK) have built a robust international framework that exemplifies SDG 17.2.4, emphasizing collaboration for SDG best practice through comparative review, joint research, and evidence-based



innovation. The 2024 Memorandum of Understanding enables dual-degree validation for three undergraduate programs—Accounting, Banking and Finance, and Business Management—reflecting global benchmarking, academic governance alignment, and shared quality assurance processes.

This partnership operationalizes mutual capacity development, knowledge transfer, and comparative evaluation to co-create curricula that integrate SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 9

(Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure). Through collaborative research clusters, joint teaching strategies, and digital learning initiatives, both universities exchange expertise to strengthen international best practice, sustainable business education, and lifelong learning opportunities.

By embedding UN SDG frameworks into academic policy and institutional strategy, the UOB–Lancaster University alliance represents a model of global partnership, continuous improvement, and shared accountability, positioning Bahrain as a regional hub for sustainable higher education excellence.

### Supporting Evidence:

- [University of Bahrain – Partnership Announcement](#)
- [Lancaster University – MoU with UOB](#)
- [UOB – Program Validation and Quality Assurance](#)

## 4. Regional and International Collaboration to Share SDG-Aligned Engineering Best Practices Through Award-Winning AIChE Participation

The University of Bahrain advanced international collaboration and the exchange of SDG-aligned best practices through the strong performance of its Chemical Engineering students, who are active members of the **SPE Bahrain Student Chapter**, in the AIChE regional competitions held at MEPEC 2024. By securing **second place** in both the Chem-E-Car and Chem-E Jeopardy Competitions, the UOB team demonstrated the effectiveness of collaborative learning, interdisciplinary problem-solving, and engineering innovation within a multi-stakeholder regional environment.



Their qualification for the **global finals in San Diego, USA**, further positioned UOB as a contributor to global best practices in chemical engineering and STEM education. On this international platform, the team's successful project design, safety controls, sustainability-focused reaction mechanisms, and technical communication skills become shared references for global peers. This process of benchmarking, presenting, and exchanging solutions directly supports SDG 17.2.4 by reinforcing UOB's role in promoting collaborative, globally informed, and SDG-oriented best practices through the active engagement of its SPE Bahrain Student Chapter members.



### 5. Advancing International Collaboration and Best Practices in Energy Engineering Through SPE Support

The University of Bahrain fostered collaboration for SDG-aligned best practices through Mariam Taj's involvement in IPTC Education Week 2024. As part of the SPE Bahrain Student Chapter, she collaborated with international peers in the "Unlock Reserves" project, integrating geoscience, reservoir, and production engineering knowledge to develop practical, sustainable solutions for complex hydrocarbon recovery challenges. This collaborative project





reflects best-practice approaches in energy engineering education, demonstrating the application of advanced technical methods, economic evaluation, and digital technologies in a professional, international setting.

Support from the SPE Bahrain Section, which provided mentorship, travel, and accommodation, enabled UOB students like Mariam to participate in this global forum, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and practices across countries and sectors. By presenting innovative and collaborative solutions at a high-profile industry event, Mariam's experience contributes directly to the dissemination of internationally recognized SDG-aligned engineering best practices and reinforces UOB's role in shaping globally competent energy professionals.

### 6. Promoting International Collaboration and SDG-Aligned Best Practices Through SPE PetroBowl Competitions

The University of Bahrain (UOB) reinforced international collaboration and the exchange of SDG-aligned best practices through the exceptional performance of its SPE Student Chapter in the SPE PetroBowl regional qualifiers and subsequent global championship. The team, comprising Jamal, Mohamed, Mariam, Salman, and Hannah, secured second place in the highly competitive Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regional qualifiers held in Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia, earning a spot at the prestigious SPE Annual Technical Conference & Exhibition (ATCE) PetroBowl Championship in New Orleans, USA.



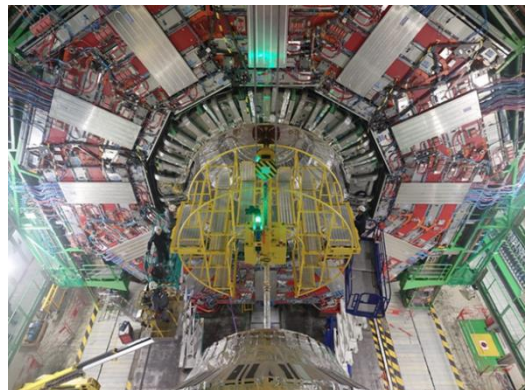
During the competition, the team engaged in rapid-fire quiz challenges spanning core petroleum engineering disciplines—including drilling, reservoir, production, and formation evaluation—while integrating industry knowledge, economic understanding, and sustainable engineering considerations. This rigorous environment required cross-institutional collaboration, critical thinking, and application of global best



practices in energy engineering. By competing alongside top international peers, UOB students contributed to a knowledge exchange that promotes SDG-relevant innovation, technical excellence, and professional standards within the energy sector. The SPE Bahrain Student Chapter's achievement reflects UOB's active role in fostering regional and global partnerships that advance sustainable practices in petroleum engineering education.

## 7. University of Bahrain & CERN – Global Scientific Partnership Advancing Innovation and Sustainable Development

On 22 June 2023, the University of Bahrain (UOB) and the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) signed an International Cooperation Agreement to enhance scientific research, education, and technology transfer in alignment with SDG 17.2.4 (Collaboration for SDG Best Practice). This strategic partnership positions Bahrain within CERN's global research ecosystem and demonstrates how academic collaboration drives knowledge sharing, capacity building, and innovation for sustainable development.



Through joint projects such as the Endcap Removal Platform for the HGICAL Upgrade, the CO<sub>2</sub> Cooling System R&D, and the GPU Optimization Framework, UOB and CERN co-develop sustainable engineering solutions and research methods that reflect international best practice in scientific sustainability. These initiatives integrate environmentally responsible design, energy efficiency, and technological innovation while enhancing local industrial skills and STEM education.

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 HGICAL Upgrade) and Manufacture an Automated Jig using an Aluminum Scaffolds in Bahrain:** The project aims to design and build an automated jig to handle work platforms allowing personnel to access the most inner parts of the CMS detector. The platforms is manufactured in Bahrain using Aluminum and then shipped and to be installed at CERN and now it is in full operation. The automated platform is made from Aluminum which a lighter material and has less corrosion than iron and more efficient in performing the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) detector maintenance .
- Project 2: [**Performance Auto-tuning Framework for GPU Applications Using Parameters Optimization:** The project aims to investigate how to automatically configure the CMS Software works (CMSSW) to get near optimal performance on different sets of hardware, with focus on Graphical Processing Units (GPUs) applications. This work successfully speeds up the data selection process by improving the algorithms, which save more computer 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, and supporting R&D on future detector infrastructure. The project involves work on the Risk Assessment for the future CO<sub>2</sub> cooling plants. The Two-Phase Accumulator Controlled Loop (2PACL) plants are used to cool CMS detector components to reduce the radiation damage on them. This project is an ongoing project to use CO<sub>2</sub> gas in cooling the detector and recover and use the heat generated.*
- Project 5: **Minimum Ionizing particle Timing Detector project:** *The project aims to develop a framework that will collect monitoring data from MTD front-end systems through an MTD DAQ board and store it in a database. So, the project involves the development of the next-generation control system for this novel CMS detector. This*

*monitoring provides notification to take action before any system failure, which increases 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.

Complementing research collaboration, UOB conducts public outreach and education programs to raise awareness of scientific innovation and its link to the SDGs. This includes school visits, interactive exhibitions, and STEM workshops promoting SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure). The UOB–CERN alliance thus serves as a model of how strategic academic partnerships translate global best practice into tangible impact on education, innovation, and sustainability.

### **Supporting Evidence:**

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

## **8. UOB’s Global Academic Collaborations Advancing International Best Practice in Research, Education, and Innovation**

The University of Bahrain (UOB) exemplifies SDG 17.2.4 by building international partnerships that drive collaboration for SDG best practice, integrating global standards of academic excellence, research governance, and sustainable innovation across disciplines.

Through long-standing partnerships with IEEE, IET, and leading global institutions, UOB ensures that its academic conferences, journals, and research projects reflect internationally benchmarked best practices. UOB’s collaboration with IEEE yielded more than 670 Scopus-indexed publications across 2023–2024, enhancing Bahrain’s research



visibility and knowledge transfer capacity in engineering, computing, data analytics, and sustainability.

In parallel, the university's partnership with AAOIFI for the *International Conference on Sustainable Islamic Business and Finance* connects global experts in Islamic finance, sustainability, and ethical investment, developing frameworks that align Sharia-compliant finance with the UN SDGs. Similarly, UOB's *Data 24 Conference* with Inform-Bahrain strengthens industry-academia collaboration in data governance, digital innovation, and evidence-based SDG measurement.

UOB's engagement extends into academic publishing and governance, supported by an international network of reviewers and advisory board members representing top universities in the UK, USA, Oman, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and New Zealand. This global ecosystem of experts ensures that research outputs meet ethical, scientific, and sustainability benchmarks, reinforcing continuous improvement and mutual learning.

Through these collaborative structures, UOB advances knowledge exchange, capacity building, and global best practice development, demonstrating how cross-border academic partnerships can transform research, policy, and education into measurable SDG outcomes.

### Supporting Evidence:

- IEEE and IET Technical Collaborations (2023–2024)
- AAOIFI-UOB Partnership (SIBF 2023–2024)
- Inform-Bahrain Data 24 Collaboration
- International Reviewers and Advisory Board Records (2023–2024)
- Scopus-indexed IEEE conference papers

### 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-
2	Dr. Muftooh Ur Rehman Siddiqi	UK	2024	

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3	Dr. Abdulmueen Bogis	UK	2024	Based Solutions in Industrial and Developmental Transitions
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

### Successful joint research projects and their outcomes.

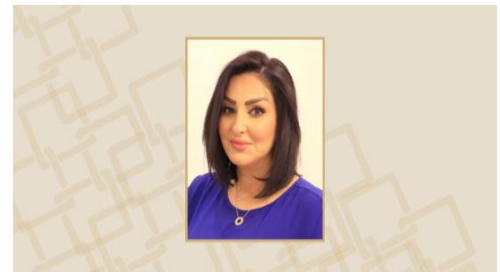
- The outcomes of the CERN projects: For more details on the other related projects, please contact Dr. Mohammad AlHilo.
- IEEE collaborations outcome papers from 2023 - 2024 published in Scopus



No. of IEEE papers Conference	
2023	429
2024	242

## 9. Digital Information Integrity – UN Code of Conduct Consultation

The University of Bahrain (UoB) actively contributes to regional and global SDG best-practice exchange through its participation in a United Nations–led consultation on digital information integrity. Through collaboration with government bodies, regional NGOs, and policy-oriented institutions, UoB shared academic insights on digital governance, media literacy, and information resilience within the context of SDG implementation.



This engagement enabled cross-sector knowledge sharing, joint dialogue, and the exchange of best practices on how governments, civil society, and universities can strengthen integrity, transparency, and responsible digital communication. By participating in this multi-stakeholder consultation, UoB helped advance regional alignment and contributed to the development of globally informed SDG practices related to digital trust, ethical communication, and governance.

**Evidence:** [University News Press.](#)





#### 4. Nanotechnology Research for Breast Cancer – Cross-Border SDG Collaboration

UoB advances SDG best practice through a multi-institutional collaboration with Alexandria University, the Cancer Nanotechnology Research Laboratory, and the Harvard Wyss Institute. This partnership facilitates the exchange of scientific expertise, laboratory practices, research methodologies, and innovative approaches to nanomedicine for breast cancer treatment.



The collaboration promotes shared learning across countries, joint research development, and knowledge transfer in advanced drug delivery, nanoparticle engineering, and computational modelling. Training opportunities for Bahraini researchers further enhance regional research capacity and support the dissemination of best practices in health innovation.

By contributing to a cross-border scientific ecosystem, the initiative supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and advances SDG 17.2.4 through international cooperation, collaborative problem solving, and shared best practices in emerging health technologies.

**Evidence:** [Times Higher Education News](#).

#### 5. Tamkeen – Capacity Development & Innovation Partnership (2023)

UoB's collaboration with the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) strengthens national and regional best practices in skills development, entrepreneurship, and digital innovation. Through joint programs—such as international automotive engineering training, cloud innovation initiatives, and entrepreneurship forums—the partnership enables continuous knowledge exchange between the university, semi-government entities, and industry.



## 17.2.4 Collaboration for SDG best practice

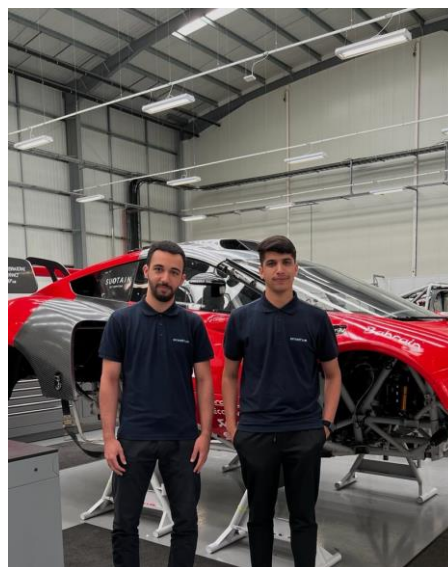
This collaboration enhances workforce readiness, supports the development of youth entrepreneurship ecosystems, and promotes shared learning in technical, digital, and professional training models. The partnership provides a platform for benchmarking and adopting best practices in talent development and innovation aligned with SDG 8 and SDG 17.

### Contribution to SDG 17.2.4:

- Joint forums and training programs that disseminate best practices in vocational and technical skills.
- Cross-sector knowledge exchange with national and international partners.
- Collaboration on innovation-focused initiatives that enhance SDG-driven economic development.

### Evidence:

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



## 6. Primary Health Care Centers – Joint Training & Research Cooperation (2023)

Through its partnership with the Ministry of Health’s Primary Healthcare Centers, UoB contributes to SDG best-practice exchange in clinical education, research collaboration, and community health development.

Joint activities include shared clinical training models, co-developed applied research, capacity-building workshops, and collaborative publication efforts. These initiatives promote mutual learning between academic researchers and healthcare professionals, enabling both sides to exchange best practices in primary healthcare, service quality improvement, and evidence-based interventions.

### Contribution to SDG 17.2.4:



#### 17.2.4 Collaboration for      SDG best practice

- Dissemination of best practices in clinical training and community health research.
- Cross-institutional learning that strengthens national healthcare education models.
- Enhanced research capacity through joint studies and shared methodologies.

**Evidence:** [UoB News Press](#).