



IDC CIO Excellence
Awards

HONOREE 2026

Prof. Omar Al Jarrah
Arab Open University



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Electronic Newsletter



HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Meets with the Arab Open University Community in Jordan – Headquarters

HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Chairman of the Arab Open University Board of Trustees, accompanied by Prof. Mohammed Al-Zakari, President of the University in the Arab World, visited the Arab Open University in Jordan and met with its academic and administrative staff. The visit reflected the Board's commitment to following the University's progress and strengthening its academic and developmental role. He was received by the University President, Prof. Tahrir Hamdi, along with the vice presidents and deans, who reviewed the University's key academic and administrative achievements and discussed the challenges facing its continued development.



Visit of the Secretary-General of the Digital Cooperation Organization to the University in Riyadh – Headquarters

The Arab Open University in Riyadh welcomed Ms. Dima Al-Yahya, Secretary-General of the Digital Cooperation Organization, and congratulated her on joining the University's Board of Trustees. The visit included discussions on strategic priorities for the University's future and the development of its initiatives, particularly in artificial intelligence, innovation, digital transformation, and entrepreneurship. Ms. Al-Yahya expressed her gratitude to the University community, especially the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Talal, for the confidence placed in her through her appointment to the Board.



AOU Wins IDC CIO Excellence Award – Kuwait 2026 – Headquarters

The Arab Open University has won the IDC CIO Excellence Award – Kuwait 2026 in recognition of its innovative IT and digital transformation project. The award highlights the University's use of digital solutions to improve operational efficiency and enhance academic and administrative services. Prof. Omar Al-Jarrah, Vice President for Planning and Development, received the award on behalf of the University.



AOU and the Presidency of Religious Affairs at the Two Holy Mosques Sign a Strategic Partnership Agreement to Enhance Services for the Guests of Allah – Saudi Arabia

The Arab Open University in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia signed a strategic partnership agreement with the Presidency of Religious Affairs at the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah, aiming to strengthen cooperation in human capacity development, scientific research and innovation, professional and training programmes, digital transformation, and artificial intelligence, thereby supporting the development of services provided to the Guests of Allah in line with the objectives of Saudi Vision 2030. The University was represented at the signing ceremony by its President, Prof. Ali bin Mohammed Al-Shahrani, while the Presidency of Religious Affairs was represented by its President, Prof. Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz Al-Sudais. This partnership reflects the integration of academic institutions and national entities and opens new horizons for cooperation in harnessing academic, research, and technological capabilities to serve the Two Holy Mosques and their visitors.



Dr. Najma Taqi Participates in Women Shaping Wealth Summit 2026 – Bahrain

Dr. Najma Taqi, President of AOU Bahrain, participated in the Women Shaping Wealth Summit 2026, held at King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology in Riyadh, as a judge evaluating entrepreneurial projects. The summit brought together over 3,000 participants and 250 speakers, including investors and entrepreneurs.



AOU Celebrates International Translation Day – Egypt

The Faculty of Language Studies at the Arab Open University celebrated World Translation Day under the theme "Linguistic Diversity and Language Rights: The Power of Understanding and Communication," with the participation of linguistics and translation experts from several Egyptian universities and AOU branches across the Arab world.



Prof. Omar Al-Jarrah Participates in the 20th General Conference of the Arab Towns Organization in Oman – Headquarters

Prof. Omar Al-Jarrah, Vice President for Planning and Development, participated in the 20th General Conference of the Arab Towns Organization in Oman, presenting a lecture on AI agents in smart cities and their role in improving urban services, sustainability, and quality of life, while emphasising responsible use, governance, and human oversight.



AOU Strengthens Community Partnerships to Support Education in Akkar – Lebanon

AOU hosted representatives from municipalities, schools, and local communities in Akkar to strengthen collaboration and expand access to quality education. Discussions highlighted the importance of partnerships with local and educational stakeholders to improve learning opportunities for students across the region.



AOU Hosts Panel on Cybersecurity, AI and Smart Cities – Kuwait

The Arab Open University in Kuwait recently hosted a panel discussion titled “Securing the Smart Future: Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, Data and Smart Cities.” The event brought together academics and specialists in technology, cybersecurity and digital transformation to strengthen scientific dialogue and keep pace with rapid technical change. The discussion covered the key challenges and opportunities of digital transformation, the role of modern technologies in strengthening cybersecurity and protecting data and digital systems, and how innovation can be supported. Participants also looked ahead to the future of smart and sustainable cities as artificial intelligence and information technology applications continue to grow.



AOU Spotlights Mental Health Through Student Art – Bahrain

The Arab Open University in Bahrain marked World Mental Health Day by running a student drawing competition, organized by the Student Counseling Unit. The contest gave students a creative outlet to express their feelings and views on mental health, reinforcing the university's commitment to student well-being.

AOU Launches Horizon Library Club Year – Bahrain

The Arab Open University in the Kingdom of Bahrain held the first meeting of the Horizon Library Club students for the 2026/2027 academic year. The session reviewed the club's goals and future plans and discussed proposed initiatives and activities aimed at promoting a reading culture and encouraging student participation in cultural and academic events.



AOU Takes Part in the 7th International Conference on Disability and Rehabilitation – Saudi Arabia

AOU sent a delegation of leaders and students, including deaf and hard-of-hearing students, to the 7th International Conference on Disability and Rehabilitation in Saudi Arabia. Held under royal patronage, the conference brings together experts and researchers from around the world to discuss the latest developments in rehabilitation.



AOU Launches “Be Aware” Program to Fight Cancer With 23 Partner Organizations – Kuwait

AOU in cooperation with the Patient Aid Fund Society of the Ministry of Health, launched the “Be Aware” program to combat cancer. The initiative brings together 23 government and private entities with the goal of raising community awareness about cancer prevention and early detection.