

Key Interventions Made by Jordanian National Institutions

In response to Corona pandemic (COVID-19), Jordanian national institutions launched a number of activities/ initiatives and research projects to mitigate the negative impacts on the social, economic and health levels. Some key interventions are given as:

HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal Initiative, Chairman of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) "Teach yourself"

The crisis associated with the widespread of the coronavirus in Jordan and the rest of the world demands that Jordanians act swiftly and responsibly in devising solutions to solve imminent threats and breakdown of systems vital to life and well-being. Among the most important issues is the continuation of the higher education system during the crisis in order to enable the students to continue self-learning through using digital technologies.

As a response to the urgent request of HRH Prince El Hassan, Chairman of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), an initiative was designed to enable university students in Jordan to continue learning through the internet while staying at home to salvage what remains of the current semester. Moreover, this program will prepare the stage to institutionalize digital learning within a "blended" system of distant-digital learning mixed with in-class learning for future semesters.

This initiative comes as a collaborative effort of the HCST, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR), Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission of Higher Education Institutions (AQACoHEI) and some of the major Jordanian universities.

The main idea of this program is to utilize the already existing digital learning materials by many of the universities in addition to using open source material available at the internet. Some of the Jordanian universities have already started this program for the current semester for their students. There is need to open these systems for students of all universities.

Moreover, HCST has put the pandemic on the hierarchy of national priorities by proposing programs that support science and technology at the national or international level.

HCST also began preparing Memoranda of Understanding at the regional and international level which aim to exchange experiences and research outputs to help combat the epidemic.

On the other hand, the Scientific Research and Innovation Support Fund (SRISF) of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has launched a call for proposals "*Corona Virus in Jordan: Effects and Solutions*" for projects aimed at combating the effects of the pandemic in all sectors, whether health, educational, humanitarian or others.

RSS statement: http://comsats.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/RSS-Jordan_COVID19-Statement_and_Response.pdf