

## Meet The Team

The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) is responsible for fiduciary management of all projects funded by World Bank and being implemented at the MOEHE in both West Bank and Gaza. The PCU also provides technical support to ensure that project activities are implemented in a timely and comprehensive manner through monitoring the implementation of the projects within the PCU.



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### Gaza Team



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## Guest Corner

### QIF.... A Golden Opportunity to Initiate a Change

Ms. Suha Khalili  
PCU Director

Quality Improvement Fund has been a rich learning experience since its commencement in 2005. Being competitive and transparent was enough to keep it continuous 12 years and even beyond. QIF is a very powerful tool that can enhance the quality of higher education in Palestine and also is a non-ending learning experience with solid foundation where no boundaries for enhancements and creativity are present. The exclusivity of QIF is that it provides a full package of developing any tertiary education program trying not to leave anything behind; this includes review and development of the curriculum while focusing on the practicum part which is an essential component of any education program, QIF also aims to enhance the teaching methodologies via building capacity of the academic staff and their private sector partners and to empower students with the needed life & entrepreneurial skills which are crucial to enhance youth employment opportunities & thus contributes to better economy in Palestine.

QIF -in my opinion- is a golden opportunity for those TEIs who grabbed the chance to successfully pass the different phases of proposals submissions allowing them to make use of the available funds to implement necessary changes that enable Palestinian tertiary education to catch up and compete regionally and even internationally. QIF should never be seen as a project based grant that is not sustained and left out once the project is completed.

Our gained experience through the successful journey of 12 years revealed that the vision & dedication of TEIs toward their projects guided by the Projects Coordination Unit (PCU) professional efforts, support and advice were enough to bring any project into success. This has been clearly seen in the last two cycles of QIF, where 20 projects became a real evidence to witness QIF becoming the seeds for future major changes in different areas, different programs and different TEIs.

Ownership, sustainability, efficient use of money and real long term partnerships are key words to keep the momentum for further changes that will surely have a strong impact on youth and on economy.

## Quality Improvement Fund

This Newsletter is issued quarterly aiming at promoting results and outputs of the QIF projects

## QIF Background

In 2005 The Palestinian National Authority through its Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE) implemented a Tertiary Education Project with the support of the World Bank and participation of the European Union (EU) between 2005 and 2009. On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012, the MOEHE received new financing from the World Bank in the amount of USD 6.5 million, under the project named "Education to Work Transition Project – E2WTP". A major component of this Project was The Quality Improvement Funds (QIF).

QIF is being administered by Projects Coordination Unit (PCU), branched out of the MOEHE. PCU includes small technical staff (QIF Team) that is accountable to a centralized board representative from eleven qualified stakeholders representing the academia and the private sector as well. The project mainly aims at enhancing Palestinian youth's transition from education to

work through fostering the linkage between Tertiary Education Institutions "TEIs" and private sector employers.

A new allocation of USD 5 million-grant was approved on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors to support ongoing efforts to increase job opportunities for Palestinian graduates. The additional financing for the Education to Work Transition Project - E2WTP will focus on improving the employability of Palestinian students graduating from Tertiary Education Institutions, thus improving their job prospects as well.

QIF will continue to manage the grants in a similar transparent and competitive manner to provide incentives to TEIs to develop and implement employment-oriented education programs in partnership with the private sector. TEIs have fostered their partnership with private sector employers through collaboratively designing curricula, updating teaching practices and providing practical training to students. It is expected that QIF will (i) increase the productive linkages between TEIs and businesses; (ii) promote social responsibility among the business community; and (iii) better prepare graduates to find and keep gainful employment.

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## Practice Tip: Want to Write a Successful Proposal ?



### Think like an Evaluator:

Your proposal is evaluated against QIF standards, guidelines and priorities, therefore through the writing process let QIF manual be your inspirer, and think how an evaluator will review your narrative.



### Language Selection:

Applications written in Arabic or English undergoes similar evaluation tracks, we advise you to use the language of which you feel stronger, more fluent and proficient to strongly clarify your ideas.



### Include Income Generating Activities:

Whenever applicable, think of then include realistic income generating activities in your proposal to ensure financial sustainability upon closure of QIF Grant Fund.



### Sustainability:

Be Creative, Sustainability does not only mean money; sustain your project by ensuring:

- Availability of human expertise to hold the project for longer phase.
- Continuity of private sector support to the project upon closure.
- Social sustainability.



### Internal Filtration of Proposals by TEI:

- Spread the competitiveness spirit among interested academic departments to participate in QIF Program.
- Conduct internal filtration for all proposals according to fulfilling QIF guidelines, clarity of idea, TEI priorities & the creation of proper partnerships to increase your TEI's chances of getting awarded.



### Realistic Numeric Figures:

- All numbers, statistical facts, expected outcomes & KPIs included in your proposal must be realistic & referenced to their original source.
- Do not exaggerate nor underestimate any numerical figures related to your proposal.



### Efficient Use of Money:

Properly plan your proposed activities & make sure they are efficiently and wisely reflected into your Financial Budget.

## At a Glance

An up-to-scale ceremony was convened on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to officially announce the additional financing of E2WTP and to launch a new cycle of the Quality Improvement Fund under the auspices of H.E Dr. Sabri Saidam Minister of Education and Higher Education. The launching event was attended by a high level delegation from the WB and also by representatives of a large number of institutions including beneficiary institutions from Academia & Private Sector, representatives of international community and the civil society from both West Bank and Gaza who participated via video conference. It is worth to mention that an exhibition adjacent to the event was held where several students' projects were in display to showcase innovative ideas and products that were developed in full collaboration between Academia and Industry under the frame of QIF grants.



On Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 A high level delegation led by the World Bank president Dr. Jim Yong Kim were hosted by H.E. Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Sabri Saidam to present students' projects implemented through QIF and supported initiatives in sectors mainly related to information technology, energy, tourism, production of documentaries. The minister expressed his appreciation towards the World Bank continuous support to the development of the education sector in Palestine. Dr. Saidam also briefed the guests on the situation of the education, the challenges, and the achievements/innovations at the local and international levels. On his part, the World President valued the cooperation between the ministry and the Bank that aims to increase access to quality of education, urging students to excel in their achievements and creativity.

Upon launching the call of proposals for the third cycle of QIF in mid-January and as a part of its technical support to TEIs; the PCU team held two orientation workshops to assist TEIs in West Bank and Gaza to better understand the newly developed online application system and to introduce the educational tutorials about QIF concept, priorities, procedures and eligibility for funds. The deadline to submit preliminary proposals was February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Upon which the QIF Board started the process of screening and evaluating the 72 received applications from 28 different TEIs. However, on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 the PCU has officially announced the results of the QIF third cycle – preliminary phase, which came as follows:

Description	Gaza			West Bank			Total
	Community Colleges	University Colleges	Universities	Community Colleges	University Colleges	Universities	
# of Passed TEIs	1	2	2	1	3	5	14
Total		5			9		
# of Accepted Applications	1	3	3	2	3	10	22
Total		7			15		

## TEI's Inspiring Stories

### AR Converts Learning Process into Fun at Schools...

Augmented Reality (AR) is a technology enriching the real world with digital information and media, such as 3D models and videos, overlaying in real-time the camera view of your smartphone, tablet, PC or connected glasses, the effect makes the computer-generated item appear like it's really there.

Hadeel Shaib, an Engineering Student at Al-Quds University, has started an initiative using the new supported program by QIF in the field of (AR), as she had launched her Educational Augmented Reality Application about Agriculture targeting school students from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grades.

The new Application makes students gain virtual knowledge about plants' parts, this app in action using a Cylinder. When students point their Smartphone or tablet at the 3D model, the plant will pop up on the screen; users can then tap the plant to hear the name and also tap the info button to hear interesting facts. It also illustrates how plants grow using pictures and 3D Model and let students go beyond the pictures in their textbooks to interact with three-dimensional figures.

Use of similar Applications developed via utilizing (AR) concepts has provided a much more appealing platform for students today than the traditional classwork, providing a learning system that is scalable and wildly entertaining so that students' curiosity is awoken for learning and makes learning addictive. This is a fun way to engage students and reinforce concepts they've seen during class lectures.

### 40 International Speakers Share Experiences in Birzeit Conference about Archeology & Tourism in Palestine...

In its mission to expand knowledge and research opportunities, and as a result of the solid partnerships with the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the Network for Experiential Tourism in Palestine (NEPTO) represented by Al-Rozana Association; the History and Archaeology Department at Birzeit University under the umbrella of QIF supported-project titled "Development of the Academic Archaeology Program at Birzeit University for the Benefit of Rural Tourism in Palestine" has successfully conducted a 3-day International Conference on Archaeology and Tourism in Palestine between 13-15 of March 2017.

The conference was designed in a way that aims at identifying the linkages between tourism, archaeology and cultural heritage through discussing and analyzing various projects conducted by local and international scholars. This was made possible with the involvement of more than 40 speakers coming from 10 different countries, who were given the opportunity to exchange knowledge and expertise among themselves as practitioners and academics, and highlight new emerging fields relevant to tourism and archaeology.

The interaction between these participants during the conference and the positive feedback and recommendations afterwards, paved the way towards expanding future coordinated efforts between Academia and the Public and Private sectors as well as civil society organizations, to join forces towards development in Palestine.

### Dar Al-Kalima Cinema Club: A Platform for The New Generation of Filmmakers in Palestine...

Dar Al-Kalima Cinema Club; has been initiated by Dr. Nuha Khouri; the Vice President for Academic Affairs; where a collection of movies were added to the Club's library through the QIF funded project "Portrait of Palestine" as a support to Dar Al-Kalima University or Arts and Culture in Bethlehem. This new Cinema Club aspires to be an important platform to show International and Arabic movies; whether they are narrative or documentary films; short or long films. The club has a mission to create and raise cinematic; artistic and cultural awareness; and to establish an audience base of high level cinema movies; thus being a supporter to local filmmakers and a local platform to show their films.

It is worth to mention; that the idea of this cinema club; came through the students' initiatives and their enthusiasm to work and gain the necessary knowledge to develop their abilities in the area of filmmaking. On the importance of this initiative; Shatha Fazouz; a student in film production at Dar Al-Kalima and also one of the founders of this cinema club; added:



**"We did not have a cinema that provided us with movies enriched with artistic and cinematic values so far; this newly established platform allows us as students of film production to have an access to movies of the right artistic and cinematic values; where we learn the importance of cinema. As students we are required to offer ourselves and the audience a good cinema that enhances our cultural awareness ..."**

As a first step; a movie will be showed on the first Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the main theatre at Dar Al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture; followed by a discussion session of the movie by audience.