

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
AND
UNESCO INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF EDUCATION (IBE)**

1. During the presence of H.E. the Minister of Education in Geneva for the purpose of attending the 61st Session of the IBE Council from 25th - 27th January 2012, a meeting was held with the Director of IBE and IBE programme coordinators to enhance the existing cooperation between Bahrain and IBE, in the domain of School Curriculum.
2. The two sides agreed to cooperate very closely within the frameworks of policy and programmes of the Ministry of Education and the IBE to respond to the request from Bahrain to develop School Curricula in general and Citizenship and Human Rights Education Curricula in particular.
3. Cooperation between the two entities will serve the longer-term vision of the Ministry of Education to enhancing the quality of education for all through the development and implementation of relevant and forward thinking curricula as part of a comprehensive education development strategy. At the same time, it will provide grounds for dissemination to, and cooperation with other Gulf countries and the international education/curriculum community in the realms of education and curriculum development and innovation.

Main areas of cooperation will include:

- (a) Curriculum evaluation;
- (b) Capacity development of curriculum specialists and specialized curriculum-related institutions (for instance, through customized Curriculum Diploma programmes; and through the implementation of programmes focusing on ICTs and e-learning in education);
- (c) Curriculum planning in line with the strategic objectives of the Ministry of Education and the Government of Bahrain and based on informed policy dialogue;
- (d) Curriculum review that promotes competencies for study, life and work underpinned by values of Human Rights, participatory citizenship and sustainable development;
- (e) Curriculum implementation through quality learning resources and tools, including e-learning; enabling learning environments; learner-centred teaching and learning; and effective links between schools, communities and stakeholders;
- (f) Curriculum-focused research and knowledge management and production aiming to inform curriculum review processes based on national and local good practices, needs and development prospects; as well as international effective practices and trends.

4. The Ministry of Education will ask for technical support from IBE in selected areas in accordance with the needs which will be commonly identified. Such areas may include:

- Advisory Missions
- Staff Training Workshops
- Assistance to Curriculum Design and Selection/Organisation of Learning Content
- Curriculum Evaluation
- Research merely focusing on curriculum trends and effective practice.

5. More specifically, the Ministry of Education would like the engagement with IBE for the five-year period covered by this Memorandum of Understanding (2012 – 2017) to address the following:

- (a) To review the state of the art vis-a-vis the existing curricula, their design, content and methodology with the view to identifying points of strengths to build upon and weaknesses to be addressed within the perspective of the policy objectives of the Ministry of Education.
- (b) To propose a new strategy (Framework for Action) for developing school curricula in a manner that can effectively improve the quality and the relevance of curricula to the changing situation in Bahrain, particularly the need to review the citizenship and human rights education in school curriculum. To this purpose, the development of a Curriculum Framework for Primary, Intermediate and Secondary education in Bahrain is envisaged as a key lever in promoting curriculum development based on existing strengths, as well as targeting strategic objectives, such as competency development by stressing Human Rights, participatory citizenship, peace, intercultural understanding, tolerance, Learning to Live Together (LTLT) and sustainable development.

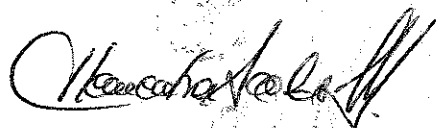
- (c) Based on the prospective strategy (Framework for Action), develop a five-year plan of action for curriculum development which should include programmes for reinforcing the national capacity in the following areas:
- (i) Through the development of a Curriculum Framework, building an advanced, competency-based high quality curricula for the three levels of general education (Primary, Intermediate and Secondary).
 - (ii) Reinforcing the existing efforts by the Ministry (such as the “King Hamad Project for the Schools of the Future”) to develop a comprehensive long-term strategy for future development of school curricula in synergy with education development efforts in higher education and teacher training.
 - (iii) With a view to quality curriculum implementation in line with the Curriculum Framework, reinforcing training activities to include, in addition to curriculum specialists, teachers, school principals, education supervisors, evaluators, ICT specialists and research specialists.
- (d) To work in close cooperation with curriculum specialists in the Curriculum Department of the Ministry of Education in order to enhance the needed synergies between different education development initiatives, as well as the relevance of education development efforts for learners, teachers and other stakeholders (such as Higher Education institutions and the National Council for Higher Education). Special attention will be given to cooperation with the National University of Bahrain, especially the Bahrain Teacher College (BTC).
6. A preparatory phase of 3 to 6 months will be devoted to finalizing a five-year technical assistance project based on IBE’s exploratory/fact-finding missions to Bahrain, as well as discussions with the Ministry of Education and other relevant stakeholders. For this purpose, and upon the signature of the MOU the Ministry of Education will transfer to IBE as soon as possible the amount of USD20’000.00 to be used as seed money towards covering the initial costs of preparatory activities.
7. Following this initial preparatory phase, a comprehensive technical assistance project 2012-2017 with a detailed budget will be submitted by IBE to the Ministry of Education for approval. The project document will refer to concrete mechanisms of execution by defining institutional roles and responsibilities. It will contain the general and specific objectives, the terms of reference for IBE’s technical assistance, specific activities/interventions, expected outcomes and deliverables, timelines, resources needed, partnerships, as well as means of monitoring and evaluation.
8. In line with UNESCO rules and cost recovery policies, the two sides agreed that the Ministry of Education will provide the necessary funding for all operations undertaken by IBE based on a commonly agreed project document, and adjustable plan of activities and budget approved by the Ministry of Education that will be presented as annexes to the present Memorandum of Understanding.



9. The two parties will constantly inform one another about progress made and obstacles encountered that solicit effective action from their side.
10. The present Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will become effective upon its signature by H.E., the Minister of Education and the Director of UNESCO IBE.

Signed in Geneva on this day, Wednesday, 25th January 2012

by



Mrs. Clementina Acedo, PhD
Director,
International Bureau of Education (IBE)



Dr. Majed Ali Al Noaimi
Minister of Education
Kingdom of Bahrain