

# Innovative educational solution

University of Bahrain moves IT infrastructure applications to Amazon Web Services Cloud

● Students, teachers stand to benefit

TDI | Manama

The University of Bahrain (UoB) announced yesterday that it has reached the final stage of the process of moving the entire IT infrastructure to the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Cloud.

AWS is the world's most comprehensive and broadly adopted cloud platform, offering over 175 fully featured services from data centres globally. Millions of customers – including the fastest-growing startups, largest enterprises, and leading government agencies – are using AWS to lower costs, become more agile, and innovate faster.

Once the application transfer process is complete by the end of this year, UoB will be the largest university in the Middle East to fully move its core applications to the AWS Cloud, including Student Information Management System (SIS), Correspondence Management System (CMS), home page portal and domain subsidiary and backend systems.

Moving core applications to the Cloud (AWS) provides exceptional benefits to the UoB, including reduced costs, enhanced security, accelerated project launch and implementation of new ideas.

On the other hand, through the use of AWS, the performance of the core applications is improved by more than 40%. The performance of the university's website has also improved by more than 50%, which is the



University of Bahrain

page that is used to access the subdomains and services intended for students.

Other benefits that the university will get through the transition to the Cloud (AWS) include the ability to speed up research schedules for master's and doctoral students at the university, by enabling them to access high-performance computing to quickly and effectively analyse large data sets, as well as benefit from advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), and researchers can also easily share their results with collaborators in all universities around the world.

With the aim of making the transition process more smooth, UoB has invested in developing the workforce through intensive training programmes for the IT team, whose members have obtained official high-level Amazon Web Services (AWS)

certificates, which gave them the skills necessary to implement this project. Cloud-based customised services provide the university's IT teams with the ability to build secure environments while freeing up their resources to focus on students.

The move to the Cloud (AWS) is a continuation of the overall cloud computing strategy of the UoB, which it has started implementing over the past few years, and includes an increasing trend towards focusing on cloud learning for its students.

In 2017, the university joined the AWS Academy Program, a program that provides higher education institutions around the world with a customised curriculum for cloud computing.

UoB teachers who are accredited by AWS Academy provide curricula and training courses for students that include the fundamentals of AWS cloud



first semester of the 2020/2021 academic year.

In addition, in 2020, the university launched – in partnership with the Labor Fund (Tamkeen) and Amazon Web Services (AWS) – a Cloud Innovation Center (CIC), which focuses on accelerating the digital transformation of the public sector by leveraging cloud technologies to find effective solutions to realistic challenges.

UoB president Prof Dr Riyad Hamzah said: "It is important for higher education institutions to have the ability to quickly and effectively adapt to the transformations that our world is witnessing today. University of Bahrain has managed – through moving the IT infrastructure to the Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud from improving basic educational applications to provide better educational services and tools for students and teachers alike, which will undoubtedly contribute to opening a new world of opportunities to provide innovative educational solutions."

The university president expressed his pride in the efforts made by the members of the Information Technology Center



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at the university, which was able to complete the process of transferring applications smoothly without any impact on the progress of our operations, thanks to the high experience and advanced skills they have.

"We look forward to continuing to implement our cloud strategy through which we seek to provide our students with the latest innovations and solutions in the field of cloud education, and to develop new services and solutions based on the world's leading cloud," Prof Hamzah said.

For her part, Dr Azza El-Shenawy, Head of Education for the Middle East and North Africa at AWS, said: "The enormous potential and capabilities provided by cloud computing provide many positive benefits to the education sector, including helping to reduce expenditures and enhance levels of safety and protection, in addition to empowering universities and educational institutions."



**"It is important for higher education institutions to have the ability to quickly and effectively adapt to the transformations that our world is witnessing today. Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud will provide innovative educational solutions."**

UOB PRESIDENT PROF DR RIYAD HAMZAH

computing technology.

In 2019, UoB became the first university in the Middle East to launch the Cloud Computing Certificate in co-operation with AWS Educate, with the first batch being registered in the

## Education Minister briefed on college's progress

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Education Minister Dr Majid Ali Al Nuaimi chaired the Abdullah bin Khalid College for Islamic Studies Board of Trustees online meeting.

The attendees praised HM the King's decision to establish the Abdullah bin Khalid College for Islamic Studies, a great achievement that will serve the educational process in Bahrain.

The college is named after HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid Al Khalifa who is known for his Islamic and humanitarian achievements.

The board of trustees selected Dr Shaikh Abdullatif Mahmood Al Mahmood as vice-presi-



Education Minister chairs the online meeting

dent of the board and viewed a presentation on the college's function, departments, specialisations and student admission

process. The board was also assured about the measures taken during the coronavirus pandemic.

The members were also shown a design of the college and departments, classrooms and various facilities.



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## Bahrain-Israel postal exchange to start soon

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Assistant Undersecretary for Post at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunication Shaikh Bader bin Khalifa Al Khalifa has announced that postal exchange between Bahrain and Israel will start soon.

In a press statement, Shaikh Bader said that it was the result of the signing of the memoranda of understanding following the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Israel recently.ions for more



Shaikh Bader bin Khalifa Al Khalifa

stability and prosperity in the Middle East.

## Shaikha Mai takes part in culture and heritage forum

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Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) president Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa yesterday participated in an international forum organised remotely by the Italian Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation to highlight the publications of the forum 2020, Building Peace through Heritage - World Forum to Change

through Dialogue.

Through a recorded speech, Shaikha Mai thanked the Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation for inviting her in the forum which is held at a time when it is deemed necessary to cast light on culture and heritage as well as communication between peoples and civilisations.

She said undoubtedly the publications of "Building Peace through Heritage" forum will

have an active role in promoting the importance of culture and its role in laying bridges of co-operation between peoples, especially at this time when the world is suffering from various upheavals.

Shaikha Mai stressed that human heritage connects all mankind and is the common language between all countries in the world.

She noted that the basic in-



BACA president

frastructure of culture provides the opportunity to improve local communities and their heritage which plays an essential role in cultural tourism.

stressed that cultural tourism is inextricably linked to heritage as tourists always seek through their trip to get informed about the identity of nations and their heritage.

She also pointed out the great importance given by the United

Nations to cultural tourism as a main tributary for sustainable development.

Shaikha Mai underscored continuity of cultural work despite the coronavirus pandemic by investing available technological tools to enhance communication, promote national cultural achievements, invigorate internal tourism and inform the public of their cultural heritage.