



JMI & KAFC SIGN AGREEMENT TO LAUNCH A MEDIA CREDIBILITY MONITOR, "JORDAN FACTS"



The Jordan Media Institute (JMI) and the King Abdullah Fund for Development (KAFC) signed an agreement to launch a project monitoring the credibility of Jordanian media titled "Jordan Facts". JMI's founder, Princess Rym Ali, attended the signature ceremony of the project which will serve as one of the components of KAFC's program for strengthening democratic values. The program was launched by King Abdullah and entrusted to KAFC for implementation.

Dr. Omar Razzaz, Chairman of KAFC, said "the signature of this agreement is a step towards achieving the goals of KAFC's program for the empowerment of democracy". Dr. Razzaz elaborated that "by supporting a culture of accountability through media and the public, the verification of news and separating fact from fiction will transform the public from passive to positive recipients of news". He noted that the website will serve as an independent national reference that sets the criteria for a professional media through its endeavors and reports.

Mr. Radi Alkhas, JMI's Chairman of the Board of Directors, said "the Jordan Media Institute where the project will be based, will be the implementing party, and will oversee publications and reports in cooperation with the project's partners". Alkhas added that the project will be staffed by a qualified team of professionals led by a Board of Trustees whose duty will be to safeguard the impartiality and independence of the media credibility monitor and lay the foundations for its sustainability. He elaborated saying "a committee of experts will establish the criteria for the monitoring activity, and determine the monthly issues to be assessed."

JMI's Dean, Dr. Basim Tweissi, remarked that "the media credibility monitor will introduce new practices to Jordan's media that safeguard accuracy of information through professional methods and mechanisms based on best practices stressing accuracy of content, and high quality news reporting".



JMI CELEBRATES THE GRADUATION OF ITS FOURTH INTAKE OF MA STUDENTS UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF PRINCESS RYM ALI



Held under the patronage of Princess Rym Ali, the Jordan Media Institute (JMI) celebrated the graduation of its fourth intake of MA students in Journalism and New Media. During the ceremony which was attended by Hamdy Kandil, the prominent Arab media personality called on journalists not to turn their backs on their profession by becoming political preachers. He advised them not to join political parties and groups in order to maintain their independence and integrity. Kandil said that the first mission of any pioneer was to instigate change and reform, and reiterated the importance of fighting corruption and resisting oppression.

In a ceremony that was attended by academic, media and diplomatic personalities, Kandil urged the graduates to uphold the media's independence, freedom and the right of access to information. He also stressed the importance of accuracy and attention to detail, and in differentiating between media and advertising; highlighting the importance of respecting religious beliefs, social values, national identity, and of spreading knowledge and avoiding sensationalism, sex and scandal.

Dr. Basim Tweissi, JMI's Acting Dean, said "the institute believes in excellence, and calls for ridding Arab media of pontification and political rhetoric, and replacing it with a media that adheres to professional values based on facts and accountability." He added that journalists who do not learn their profession in competent academic institutions, learn it at the expense of the public and the society.

Tweissi said that the changes witnessed in the Arab world during the past three years showed how many media outlets veered towards one side of the conflict or the other, instead of guarding the truth. He said that this exposed a huge gap between what was expected of Arab media, and its actual performance, noting: "we drowned in an inch of media freedom."

The valedictorian, Aya Alayan, said that she and her fellow graduates sought to excel in their profession, and thanked the Princess for her continuous support of the students and graduates. Aya also thanked the donors for their generous support which she said was one of the reasons behind the success of institute's educational mission.

At the end of the ceremony which was presented by journalist Anoud Alzu'bi, Master of Ceremony, Princess Rym Ali handed out the graduates' certificates in the presence of Dr. Khleif Tarawneh, President of the University of Jordan.

The twenty graduating students had completed a one year intensive, academic program spending most of their time in field work and the production of news reports, and conducting research in print, digital media, radio and television. During this time, the students demonstrated high standards of professionalism and accuracy attained through seeking facts in accordance with international, ethical standards.



WORKSHOP ON PRODUCING RADIO DOCUMENTARIES

The Jordan Media Institute (JMI) organized a five-day specialized training workshop on producing radio documentaries in cooperation with the Norwegian Institute for Journalism (NIJ).

Journalists from different media outlets ranging from state TV and radio to independent journalists in online media and radio stations participated in the workshop. Participants were exposed to mechanisms and methods used to translate the situation on the ground to good radio narration and programs, and to the elements making up a radio documentary.



The workshop agenda included practical exercises such as recording real stories and live events with the purpose of raising the participants' capacities in using the microphone as a recording lens. Participants also received training on how to conduct interviews for documentaries, and the way audio visual effects impact the final production of the programs.

The training was conducted by Berit Hedemann from the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (radio broadcasting division) considered an expert in radio documentary production with more than 40 years of experience in the field, and by Frode Rekve, Director of the Norwegian Institute for Journalism, and a well-known journalist and trainer in producing news stories and documentaries.

Mr. Yasar Durra, JMI's Director of Training, emphasized the importance of this workshop in developing the skills of radio journalists in producing high quality audio segments that the audience can easily interpret into images, as well as raising their capacities in narrating real stories, and producing documentaries that enrich the knowledge of the audience.

Journalist Anoud Alzu'bi spoke of the importance of reflecting reality in radio narration, and providing audience members with good audio content enabling them to transcend the spoken word and visualize the stories being narrated. She added that this workshop gave them the skills that will help them in accomplishing that very task.

This workshop is one of several joint events that JMI is holding in cooperation with NIJ, which has also hosted JMI's MA students for a week long cultural exchange visit to Norway during the past two years.

AN INTERACTIVE DAY BETWEEN JMI AND COVENTRY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

With the purpose of exchanging expertise and information, the Jordan Media Institute (JMI) received 14 students from Coventry University (UK) for an interactive day with the institute's MA students including training activities and open debates between the two groups.

This interactive day came as part of the third "Majid Al-Saadi Program for Changing Paths of Life" that Coventry University students are participating in. The program promotes the exchange of views and opinions between the students of both institutions on a range of topics and issues of concern to both Jordan and the United Kingdom.

The students discussed some of the environmental issues in the two countries noting similarities and differences. They also explored recommendations they could put forward on how to overcome environmental pollution problems.

The issue of Syrian refugees in Jordan was of particular interest to the students. They shared ideas and information on the socio-economic impact of the Syrian refugee crisis on the Jordanian economy. The students also discussed its effect on natural resources, infrastructure and education.



A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINS AT JMI: 26 STUDENTS FROM 5 ARAB COUNTRIES REGISTER IN THE MA PROGRAM

The MA program for the 2013-2014 academic year at the Jordan Media Institute (JMI) kicked off on 15 September 2013. The fifth intake of JMI's MA students in Journalism and New Media consists of 26 students coming from Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, United Arab Emirates and Egypt. The intake comprises 12 female students and 14 male students, of which 16 are Jordanians while the rest carry other Arab nationalities.

JMI's MA program requires applicants to pass a series of exams including writing and editing skills, computer literacy and digital familiarity in addition to a verbal interview. The curriculum includes 33 credit hours delivered during three academic semesters.



RADIO PRODUCTION WORKSHOP AT JMI IN COOPERATION WITH THE NORWEGIAN INSTITUTE FOR JOURNALISM

In cooperation with the Norwegian Institute for Journalism (NIJ), the Jordan Media Institute (JMI) organized a specialized workshop in radio news production. The workshop, which lasted for a week, brought together 14 journalists working in community radio in different municipalities.

Nina Bull, a well-known Norwegian journalist, trained media professionals working at Yarmouk FM, Sawt El Janoub, Irbid Radio and Sawt El Karak, and discussed how community radio can contribute in democracy and local development.

The workshop, which was overseen by NIJ's Director Frode Rekke, aimed at giving the participants the tools that will enable them to strengthen the participation of local communities, in addition to encouraging social change, supporting democracy and women's rights and giving a voice to those who have been marginalized.

As part of the workshop's agenda, the participants received training on how to produce radio news in accordance with professional standards and ethics, and carried out practical exercises on conducting interviews, and the role that audio visual effects play in the final production of the news.



THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR VISITS JMI

Princess Rym Ali, JMI's founder, received at the institute's premises the Swedish Ambassador in Amman, Mrs. Helena Gröndahl Rietz. The guest toured JMI's facilities comprising the news room, the TV and radio studios and the library.

The Ambassador listened to a briefing about the development of the institute, the programs it offers and its role in developing Jordanian media through furnishing the sector with qualified graduates from its MA program in Journalism and New Media, and the training and capacity building programs the institute executes.



JMI'S FRIENDS GATHER AT A RECEPTION

Attended by Princess Rym Ali, the Jordan Media Institute (JMI) hosted a reception in honor of the Director of the Norwegian Institute for Journalism, Dr. Frode Rekve; a prominent journalist specialized in documentary and news production, and Berit Hedemann, specialist in producing documentaries working at the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation.

The reception brought together JMI's friends from the diplomatic community, the institute's program partners, several company CEOs and a group of JMI's alumni. At the end of the evening, Princess Rym Ali presented the Norwegian guests with JMI's shield and commemorative gifts.



THE MINISTER OF POLITICAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS LECTURES AT THE JORDAN MEDIA INSTITUTE

In a lecture he delivered at the Jordan Media Institute (JMI), Minister Khaled Kalaldeh said that the complications of democracy can only be alleviated by more democracy, and that Jordan has chosen dialogue over violence in dealing with crises.

Addressing JMI students, the Minister explained that as a result of the restraint observed by the regime, popular movement protesters acted in a similar manner, and the two sides worked to preserve the Kingdom's security and higher interests. He elaborated that during the Arab Spring, Jordan met several of the public's demands, and accomplished a whole set of political reforms.

Kalaldeh said the most important achievements were the amendments to the constitution, the endorsement of the Elections Law and the Political Parties Law, the establishment of the Constitutional Court and the Independent Elections Commission. The Minister; however, acknowledged that the current Political Parties Law does not encourage partisan life, stressing that parties should not be restricted in any way. He also noted that there is no consensus regarding the Elections Law adding that any dialogue on a new law will be conducted after a blueprint is put forward for discussion to arrive at the highest level of agreement.



JMI WELCOMES A MILITARY DELEGATION

A delegation of officers from the Military Intelligence School visited JMI, and toured the facilities of the Institute. The visit included a lecture by JMI's Dean, Dr. Basim Tweissi, on the role of media in development and democracy-building. The Dean explained that freedom of expression is one of the guarantees for security and stability, and that responsible media is an effective tool in building democracy and promoting public participation.

The delegation also met with Yasar Durra, JMI's Director of Training, who gave the guests an overview of the training programs offered by the institute, and highlighted the importance JMI attaches to providing quality training and practical exercises.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR :

4 November 2013:

Conference on freedom, press and religion organized by JMI in conjunction with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty, the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies and the SKeyes Center for Media and Cultural Freedom.

5 November 2013:

A specialized workshop titled “Enhancing Media Coverage of Religious Issues”

11–14 November 2013:

Workshop aimed at developing the skills of university students in using media tools for electoral propaganda

17 November 2013:

JMI and Higher Population Council to sign MoU on Sunday

The Jordan Media Institute (JMI) and the Higher Population Council (HPC) will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Sunday November 17th 2013 at JMI premises. This step comes within the two sides’ concern to implement initiatives that aim at spreading awareness on population issues like the window of demographic opportunity and the demographic impact on the various development sectors.

17–20 November 2013:

Workshop on developing social media skills at JMI

The Jordan Media Institute (JMI) organises a workshop entitled “Developing Social Media Skills” from November 17-20 at JMI premises. This workshop, which will be attended by 12 students from Al-Quds University in Palestine, will include visits to the Jordan Media City and some media outlets in the kingdom.

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