

“More Than Internships: Sustainable Private Sector Engagement in Work-Based Learning”

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Session Objectives

- Identify engagement strategies with the private sector to promote workforce development and enhance student employability.
- Understand challenges and successful approaches to industry engagement, applicable to Iraq and other geographic areas of the world.
- Adapt and apply such strategies to work-based learning initiatives.

Employment in Iraq

Heavy burden of
employment on
government

Overall issue with
education system
in Iraq

Fixed mentality and
people being
dependent on
Government

Implemented interventions at various levels to enable sustainable engagement

Why Engaging with Private Sector?

- Heavy Burden on Government
- Overall issue with system



Almost Zero Public and Private Sector Engagement



Need for Faculty capacity building



Education was not graduating work-ready students



- Economic Crisis
- Mentality issue
- Culture of dependency

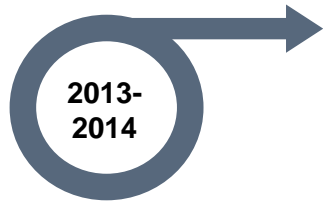
Difficulty with engaging local private sectors

Need for Opening Career center to bridge public and private sector

Programs did not enhance skills needed for employers

Approaches to Industry Engagement in Iraq

Coordination with Government to help system and Employment



Working with Ministry of Higher Education

Launching 43 Career centers. Introducing workforce and services.



Capacity building of staff and faculty for private sector engagement. Raising Awareness

Engagement Through career center



Heavy Youth and Faculty Engagement Implemented Career events / training

Conducting Labor Market Survey



Data from over 500 companies. Employers input on programs

National Industry Advisory Board



Expanding private sector engagement. Curriculum reform

Different Levels of Engagement Models with Industry Partners

Launching Career Centers

- Career Events
- Hosting Employers
- Design days
- Site visits.
- Entrepreneurship
- Internship program.
- Employer input to education.

Labor Market Survey

- Skills gap
- Issue with programs
- Education system.



High level Engagement - National Industry Advisory Board



Internship Handbook

Procedures and Guidelines for
a University Internship Program

Industry Advisory Board

Higher Education Workforce Development Working Group

NIAB

Higher Ed Working
Group

- Curriculum
- Instructional Strategies
- Extra Curricular

- System level change.
- Policy making from government level.
- High level advising for MOHE and other ministries on workforce.
- Fostering educational programs.

- Creating materials.
- institutionalize change in Iraqi classrooms.

The Impact of Models From Engaging Industry and the Institutions

- Creating a sustainable engagement with Industry partners.
- Building a strong workforce and supporting the local economy.
- Employers contributed to reforming university programs.
- Enhancing employment and work- based learning.
- Changing the culture and mindset.

Thank You!

