

Geodesy and Geoinformatics for sustainable development in Jordan

In this Issue

- Introduction
- First annual Project Management Board (PMB) meeting in Stockholm
- Internal dissemination seminar in YU University
- Monitoring visit to Jordan
- Opening new laboratory at YU
- Opening new laboratory at BAU
- First NAB meeting at BAU
- Geodetic and IT Instruments at The Hashemite University.
- 2019 Scheduled Activities

Introduction

Geo4d is Funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, the project aims at modernizing geodesy and geo-informatics education in Jordan for the purpose of supporting sustainable development in the country. Three new master programs in geodesy and geo-informatics, supported by three top-notch laboratories, will be established in three universities in Jordan: Yarmouk University, Al-Balqa Applied University, and Hashemite University. This newsletter is the second in a series of newsletters that will be published regularly (semi-annual) in order to inform project stakeholders and general public about the progress of the project.

First annual PMB meeting

First annual Project Management Board (PMB) meeting was convened in October 15-19, 2018, at Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm.

All PMB members (i.e. local coordinators of GEO4D project partners) attended the meeting.

The meeting has reviewed all ongoing and completed project activities, including;

- Completion of questionnaire survey among geodesy students and stakeholders,
- Three new master curricula that have been developed and are in the process of accreditation by university administrations and Ministry of Higher Education and the national accreditation agency,
- IT and geodetic equipment that have been delivered,
- Two staff training courses that have been organized by Polytechnic University of Milan and University of Leon (Spain) on GIS and remote sensing, respectively.



Internal dissemination seminar at YU

The GEO4D team at Yarmouk University (YU) has organized an internal dissemination seminar with university officials and staff members. Participants included Vice President of YU, Dean of Arts college, Dean of Science college, director of the international projects unit, and many of faculty members.

During the seminar, a full report on the achieved activities of GEO4D project was presented and discussed. Also, next year activities and workshops were highlighted. All concerns regarding new Master's program and tendering process were clarified and fully understood by attendees.



Opening new laboratory at YU

A new applied Geoinformatics laboratory equipped with an up-to-date technology was opened at Yarmouk University on 14 November 2018.

The opening was part of the activities of the Third Science Day of GIS and the First Geodesy Labor Market Day which were organized by the Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts, and Department of Earth Sciences and Environment, Faculty of Science.

Multiple presentations and seminars in the field of Geoinformatics were delivered by the participants including InfoGraph, Al-Mu'taz Company for Surveying Equipment, Modern Survey Office, Electricity Company of Irbid, in addition to the members of the GEO4D project.

First Monitoring Visit at YU

A GEO4D project monitoring visit by the Director of the National Erasmus Office (NEO) in Jordan was held in Yarmouk University on 7 November 2018. The visit was attended by the President of the Yarmouk University, Vice President, Dean of Faculty of Arts, Dean of Faculty of Science, in addition to the local coordinators of the project and other officials and faculty members in the university. In the visit, the Director of NEO met the GEO4D project members who provided him with a briefing about the progress of the project and the achievements that have been accomplished.



Opening new laboratory at BAU

A new Geomatics for Sustainable Development in Jordan laboratory equipped with an up-to-date technology was opened at Al-Balqa Applied University on 15 November 2018. The opening was part of the activities of the Second Scientific Day of Geomatics which was organized by the Department of Geomatics, Faculty of Engineering.

During the ceremony, multiple presentations and seminars in the field of Geomatics were delivered by the participants and the members of the GEO4D project, in addition to Dr. Huaan Fan, the organizer of the GEO4D project from the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden.



NAB meeting at BAU

The National Advisory Board (NAB) established to strengthen the link between geodesy education and the Jordanian society, in particular the geodesy labor market, to advise on curricular development and long-life learning and monitor GEO4D project activities.

The first annual NAB meeting was held on Thursday, November 15, 2018, at Al-Balqa Applied University. The following issues were discussed during the meeting:

- Questionnaire survey report
- New master curricula for HU, BAU & YU
- The current status of the project



HU geodetic and IT instruments

The Hashemite university (HU) has completed the process of obtaining Geodetic and IT instruments, which will enhance the existing GIS and Remote Sensing Lab. The received IT instruments included 4 high speed workstations with high capabilities to handle big data and remote sensing data, while geodetic instruments included total stations, RTK receivers, permanent GPS station, handheld GPS units, digital level and others.



2019 Planned Activities

- **April:** PBL and e-learning workshop in Leon, Spain
- **September:** Staff training course on geomatics for engineering applications, Polimi, Italy
- **October:** Staff training course on modern geodesy concepts, Al-Salt, Jordan.
- **October:** 2nd PMB meeting, Al-Salt, Jordan.

For more information



<https://gidec.abe.kth.se/GEO4D/>



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