

KING FAHD UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM & MINERALS
PROGRESS REPORT ON
ESTABLISHING ENTREPRENEURIAL AND VALUE-ADDED PROGRAMS

Background

Within the context of KFUPM Strategic Plan 2006-2011, KFUPM faculty identified eight major strategic goals aiming at delivering the best values. To achieve these goals, a total of 24 projects (actions) were identified to be commissioned for the years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. These projects will not be academic in nature, rather they will be action-oriented.

This strategic project (action) on entrepreneurship is one of the 24 projects (actions) associated with the KFUPM Strategic Plan 2006-2011.

The implementation and oversight of these projects will be the joint responsibility of Office of Planning and Quality (OPQ) and Strategic Plan Implementation Steering Committee (SPISC), with full support of KFUPM Administration.

The following paragraphs present a refresher on the terms of reference, tasks to be carried out, study approach, progress report, and preliminary results.

Terms of Reference

The following are the terms of the reference of our project:

- Review of the structure of the existing academic programs for a measure of the existing level of entrepreneurship and market focus and to establish a level of entrepreneurship and the relevance of the programs with respect to market demands.
- Planning and adoption of academic programs and extracurricular activities that will enable the students to acquire entrepreneurial and employment skill.
- The aim of the study is to create a new focus in curricula on entrepreneurship skills and market demand through new program offerings and initiatives.

Tasks

In conformity to the above terms of reference, our project entails the following specific tasks:

- Task 1: Review the structure of the current academic programs
 - Review the structure of the academic programs to identify the current level of exposure to the concept of ‘*entrepreneurship*’ and the degree of the programs focus on market needs and demands, and knowledge and skills.

- Task 2: Conduct a survey of the past and the present graduates
 - Conduct a survey to obtain data and information on the number of entrepreneurs, and the skill acquired at the University that contribute to their entrepreneurial experience and its relevance to job market.

- Task 3: Benchmarking the level of entrepreneurship and the market focus

Study other institutes’ programs and initiatives that address the issues related to entrepreneurship and the job market, and establish the desired level of the focus on the two components.

- Task 4: Develop faculty training and orientation programs
 - Develop training and orientation programs for the faculty to gain knowledge in entrepreneurial concepts and teaching, and to have industrial exposure. The first one can be addressed through exchange or co-operative programs with other institutions or through study programs

- Task 5: Propose new courses and improvement of current programs offerings

Propose new course(s) that would focus on the concept of entrepreneurship. Additionally, some specific requirements will be proposed to make the programs more relevant and responsive to job market.

- Task 6: Propose new initiative through extracurricular activities
 - Propose new extracurricular activities for the students that enable them to explore entrepreneurial and innovative ideas. These may include student club activities, an annual competition hosted by each department, rewards for innovative ideas or solutions, use of incubators and workshops.

Study Approach

In working on the above tasks, the following study approach will be used:

- First: take stock of all existing training programs at KFUPM and other regional and international institutions.

Concurrently, the team will design a questionnaire which would help survey the needs of Saudi Arabia in terms of building capacity in the field of entrepreneurship.

- Second: Institutional visits will be made to a select universities/organizations that have had proven track record.

Deliverables

The following are the project deliverables:

- Measures of the level of entrepreneurship and market focus.
- New courses and suggestions for improvement of current programs offerings.
- New curricular and extracurricular initiatives and actions that would enhance the entrepreneurial knowledge and experience among KFUPM faculty and students