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# TOWARDS A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR ELECTRONIC LEARNING AND TEACHING IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN PALESTINE

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# CONTENTS

- ❖ **Introduction**
- ❖ **Why e-learning in Higher Education?**
- ❖ **E-learning Current Status in Higher Education in Palestine**
- ❖ **Higher Education Sector Strategic Plans**
- ❖ **An e-learning Case Study: An-Najah National University**
- ❖ **A Proposed Strategic Framework for e-learning in Higher Education in Palestine**

# WHY E-LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION?

- ❖ To enhance interaction between students, and between students and the instructor
- ❖ To provide flexibility and improve accessibility
- ❖ To improve quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning
- ❖ To improve accessibility to educational material
- ❖ To lead to fulfillment of student-centered teaching
- ❖ To assist in overcoming critical conditions in Palestine, such as limited funding, capacity limitation, and movement restrictions

# **E-LEARNING CURRENT STATUS IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN PALESTINE**

- ❖ **Limited ability to respond to rapid ICT pace**
- ❖ **Partially developed infrastructure**
- ❖ **Partial employment of new technologies in teaching**
- ❖ **Some e-learning courses are developed in a number of Higher Education institutions**
- ❖ **Training is partially conducted to the faculty**
- ❖ **Limited integration and coordination**
- ❖ **No national strategy on e-learning and teaching to guide development**

# HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR STRATEGIC PLANS

- ❖ **The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research prepared in 2000 the draft of the first Strategic Plan for Higher Education in Palestine spanning over 10 year, but was not finalized:**
  - Included a general goal on improving the quality of higher education**
- ❖ **The Education Sector and Cross-Sector Strategy “2011–2013” in Palestine:**
  - Included some policies and relevant interventions on e-learning in higher education**

# The Education Sector and Cross-Sector Strategy “2011–2013” in Palestine

Strategic Goal	Policy	Strategy
<p>Meeting the increase in demand on higher education</p>	<p>Examine the extent of internal and legislative need and readiness to use new higher education models in the traditional universities, such as distance learning and on-line learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation of the experiences of universities using these models</li> <li>- Conducting studies to determine the need for these models</li> <li>- Identification of requirements and constraints related to adopting such models</li> </ul>
<p>Improving Quality</p>	<p>Provide adequate infrastructure and appropriate teaching and learning processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of electronic networking and computers for use by students and staff</li> <li>- Provision of electronically connected libraries with the global databases</li> </ul>
	<p>Develop and use modern teaching methods to achieve student-centered learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Application of the notion of Student-based learning</li> <li>- Utilizing computers in teaching and learning, and introduction of e-learning in some courses</li> </ul>

# HIGHER EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLANS

- ❖ The Education Development Strategic Plan for 2014-2016 modified goals and strategies related to e-learning, compared with 2010-2013 Plan:
  - Included reformulation of the strategic goal of improving quality to be *“improving quality, control the quality and employing e-learning electronic technologies in teaching”*
  - Added one new strategy *“the employment of electronic technologies in teaching and management”*

# AN E-LEARNING CASE STUDY: AN-NAJAH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

- ❖ **The First Strategic Plan for 2007-2010, An-Najah National University**
  - Included a goal on *improving quality of education and enhancing the skills of teaching and learning*
  - Relevant strategies oriented towards *using proper leaning management systems, and promoting the use of ICT in the teaching and learning*

# AN E-LEARNING CASE STUDY: AN-NAJAH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

- ❖ **The Second Strategic Plan for 2011-2015, An-Najah National University**
  - **Included goals on the *advancement and promotion of higher education, and raising the efficiency of the relevant administrative performance at the university facilities***
  - **Relevant strategies oriented towards *developing ICT infrastructure, training faculty, implementing relevant regulations, and developing and managing academic processes including students-centered education***

# Strategic Plan for An-Najah National University for 2011-2015

Strategic Goal	Strategic objective	Strategy
<p>The advancement of higher education and its development and promotion</p>	<p>The development of academic facilities in accordance with the academic programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reconsidering the role and functions of these facilities especially the computer labs, in the refinement, development, and enhancement of the student's personality</li> </ul>
	<p>The development and promotion of faculty members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhancing the level of development and counseling programs for the faculty and enhancing the skills of faculty members in e-learning</li> </ul>
	<p>Developing the management of the academic process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementing regulations and instructions consistent with the standards of quality</li> <li>- The use of e-learning as a means of reinforcing the existing education</li> <li>- Ensuring students-centered educational processes</li> </ul>

# **E-LEARNING AT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTES: AN-NAJAH MODEL**

- ❖ **Not only a Strategic Plan with integrated e-learning strategies was developed at An-Najah but also strategies have been implemented**
- ❖ **The e-learning Center was established in 2011**
- ❖ **Adopted blended-learning model**
- ❖ **Adopted Moodle as the e-learning platform**
- ❖ **In 2 years, 300 faculty (35%) were trained**
- ❖ **13,000 learners use Moodle (55 %)**
- ❖ **321 courses developed, 443 courses recorded**

# TOWARDS A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR E-LEARNING

- ❖ **Formulate a vision considering e-learning as a tool to reach high quality competitive teaching and learning outcomes**
- ❖ **Define goals, which could include:**
  - **Meeting the need for increased flexible interaction with today's students**
  - **Improving learning environment**
  - **Improving the quality of learning outcomes**
  - **Enhancing the faculty and student capabilities**
  - **Achieving student-centered teaching and helping students to become lifelong learners**

# TOWARDS A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR E-LEARNING...

- ❖ **Identify relevant strategies, such as:**
  - **Improve infrastructure, networking and training**
  - **Coordinate and integrate among the various stakeholders providing higher education**
  - **Establish partnerships with outside universities and raise the level of globalization**
  - **Design high quality blended and MOOC courses**
  - **Secure funding to support e-learning through cross-sector, cross-stakeholder, and cross-budgetary financing**
- ❖ **Develop and Implement relevant action plans**