

iWIL Instrumental in New Partnership Agreement: UAE University and Agthia Group (PJSC) sign MOU

Technical and educational cooperation between the two entities sought to encourage knowledge transfer and more career development opportunities for national students

Al Ain, 21st December 2008: In a significant move that will see closer cooperation to integrate UAE nationals in the corporate sector, as well as greater exchange of ideas and sharing of knowledge between the nation's premier educational institution and one of UAE's homegrown, publicly listed corporate entities, Al Ain based UAE University and Agthia Group (PJSC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding today to increase cooperation in several areas of common interest.



Speaking at the announcement of the MOU, **H.E. Dr. Abdullah Saad Al- Khanbashi**, Vice Chancellor, UAE University, said: "In today's world, where success is often the result of a combination of theoretical knowledge and sound, practical skills, this step we have taken today, I am hopeful, will result in a richer, broader experience for our students, preparing them better for the corporate world once they graduate."

Briefing on the landmark agreement, **H.E. Rashed Al Hajeri, Chairman of Agthia Group (PJSC)** – the group that controls Al Ain Mineral Water Company, Al Ain Vegetables and Grand Mills – said: "Nationalization of the UAE's workforce is a priority of the Federal Government as no true progress can take place if the nation's own citizens are unable to participate in the country's development. I am happy that as Agthia, we are able to contribute to this great cause."

Commenting on the MOU, **Ilias Assimakopoulos**, Chief Executive Officer, Agthia Group (PJSC), said: “As Agthia Group (PJSC), we feel it is our responsibility to help nurture the next generation of managers and technocrats, enabling them with cutting edge skills. Furthermore, we want to support growing local talent to take up positions of responsibilities in the corporate world.”

To take this MOU forward, a committee will be formed by the University and the Agthia team. The joint committee will collaborate in student placement in meaningful internship assignments and different areas of graduate placement, supporting Graduate Studies Programs offered by the University which are of common interest to both parties and undergoing joint research projects that aim at supporting and revitalizing technological development.

In addition, the MOU envisages collaboration in education, student research, applied research and career consultations. Cooperation in higher education studies for existing Agthia employees will be undertaken as well. Other co-supported activities such as organizing educational conferences, workshops and seminars that focus on latest educational developments are also part of the agreement.
