Final report

Iraq US -Iraq University Linkage Program (ULP) Grant

Sustainable education and awareness workshop

4th-13th March-2015

IREX- UNIVERSITY OF Florida

Prepared by

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IREX-Iraqi Universities linkage Program (ULP)

Florida University

Department of Architecture/ University of Technology

Sustainable Education And Awareness Workshop FL-USA/ mar 4-13,2015

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Sustainable education and awareness workshop

The program was sponsored by IREX US Iraq Universities Linkage Program and it was hosted by University of Florida, attended by faculty staff from three architectural departments in Duhok University, Baghdad University and University of Technology, for the period from March 4th to 16th 2015 including travelling days.

Dr. Asmaa Mohammed Hussein, and Lecturer Ghassan Jasim Al-Basri were nominated to represent the Department of Architecture- University of Technology while Dr Layla Rasoul. Dr Farst Hito and Mr Aram were representing Duhok University and finally Dr Huda Alwan and Dr Ausama altimemi for University of Baghdad

1-pre-History

The idea first raised by Dr Layla Rasoul-Duhok University and Mrs. Bahar Armaghani then Irex staff Last year and it was about sustainability awareness and how to include that topic within our curriculum for undergraduate studies. That was approved by Irex and U.O.Florida and connections were made between them and our head of departments, and it was agreed to set a workshop to be of two stages the first in Kurdistan at Nov 2014, which was cancelled due to security reasons and the second was in Florida which was achieved on the above mentioned dates.

Coordination was made by Irex People and Mrs. Bahar Armaghai from UF through emails to set some basic topics for the program which was elaborated by Skype meeting for the same by all participants as well.

Agenda and activities

The program distributed into ten days, including weekends, as follows:

The first day (February, 4th, 2015): arriving at the city of Gainesville –Florida and staying in (Holiday Inn Hotel) located across the University of Florida.

The second day (February 5, 2015) a.m 8:30 to 5:00 pm:

8:30-900 am- Deans Conference room, welcome and introductions:
Mrs. Bahar Armaghani attended the Hotel at morning and accompany the participants (by walk) to the school of architecture within the university campus and led us to the conference room and was responsible for all coordination and preparation stuff.

Curriculum review for the three participating schools of Architecture were made to show the contribution level for the sustainability topic in their undergraduate studies in Architectural departments, a power-point presentation with explanations were submitted accordingly for the same.

Brief for UF curriculum in Architecture and Landscape school was presented by Associate Dean Dr. Peggy Carr and the session was attended by Mr. Bahar Armaghani as well.

- Part II: Visiting graduate student’s gallery, to review some of their projects presentation with a brief explanation by Assistant Dean Professor Peggy Carr and Bahar Armaghani.
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Part III: 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm Introduction to green buildings: an introduction to green building within a field tour at the University of Florida under the supervision of UF LEED Program Director, Bahar Armaghani, for the following:

- Introduction of planning and departments allocation within the University of Florida and all the facilities associated. Then visiting the with students Library Book store.

- Introduction to Establishment and funds policy of the University of Florida, explaining how some parties that donated funds to contribute and build some building and the way it used to write their names on walls or ground of these establishment as a documentary and art work as well.

- Visiting one of (LEED Platinum) Green Building, a football stadium complex (Heavener Football Complex). With a capacity of more than 90,000 spectators.

- Reviewing some services and facilities in the university through the waste and water distribution system.
Third Day (February 6, 2015): Waste Water Treatment Plant design & operations

Part I:

- Visiting sewage treatment site within the University of Florida and reviewing the Operation and policy used in implementing principles of sustainability and green architecture showing how the treated water for different purposes Kalsaga distribution of water irrigation system within the University and the city of Gainesville. The explanation was through a lecture by the head of the Plant with photos and some data about the equipment and capacities involved..then a field tour within the plant was made and a detailed description for the process was submitted for the same.

Visiting Alachua County Recycling Center outside the city of Gainesville

Recycling Center Design and Operation (Alachua County Recycling Center)

The visit included a brief for the policy of garbage collecting in the city of Gainesville and mechanism of waste classification (plastic, paper and cartoons, glass, metal, oil, chemicals and others) within the plant processed and packaged, then transported to other locations for the purpose of more treatments for designated industrial purposes in USA or China and other countries, and how they get funds from this process as an investment which helps to cover the cost of whole process as well.
The fourth and fifth day (February 7-8, 2015):

Weekend was spent by making a tour in city of Gainsville, its buildings of different architectural styles residential projects and the impact of city regulations for the organization and city planning. A tour was paid for Disney land and a brief for the design, history and sustainability awareness in planning and services was explained by Mrs. Bahar Armaghani.

The sixth day (February 9, 2015):

Part I: a tour visit was paid to a number of green buildings within the university campus, a lecture on green architecture was made by Bahar Armaghani at the football stadium building, and it was a very impressive and valuable lecture.
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Visit students studios for interior design department, reviewing their projects with a brief of the methodology of design and process implemented given by their tutors. Discussions were made with the students and the staff for some projects and their expected outputs, concerning the time allowed and the project objectives.

What’s important is the team work process which was used to gather all the efforts and idea to produce an outcome.

Seventh Day (February 10, 2015):

Part I: Lecture by Professor Peggy Carr for a storm water control and collection system in the city of Gainesville and the process used to do treatment and filtration before allowing the water to get into the soil as underwater resource which meant to be safe and ready to be used as potable water after that. The lecture included several charts and illustrations for watersheds, Storm water Management and Ecological Connectivity.

Part II: included a site visit to the water plant and filtering center to review the systems that have been adopted for the use of tourism purposes, as well as to show how these areas were adopted to collect the water trails within the streams and lakes, and control its path to be as an artificial pond in the end. The tour ended by paying a visit to natural field with alligators and some wild animals in the city, it was also under the supervision of Professor Peggy Carr.
Eighth Day (February 11, 2015):

Part I: Design studio visit for urban design school. For a group that participated in an international design competition for sustainable building that integrated sustainability in landscape, explaining the project process, goals and outcomes, which an explanation was made by a group of students with their supervising professor.

Part II: Visiting one of the buildings with LEED silver rating LEED, Renewable energy systems in action, Energy Park, as well a brief on using BIM in design and construction.
Ninth Day (February 12, 2015):

Part I: Visiting Research International center, a lecture was made by Professor Tilson about organizing chart for the work of the center, sub-centers, related research institutions which gives an idea of how growth and development can be achieved by integrating their work within the UF campus and how can we directed work to be as an investment. Finally a short meeting with the director of the Center also made and he was welcoming us and offering his ability to help developing any related projects in Iraq on the capacity of human resources and academic support.


- visiting the Recreation center winning the Golden LEED Prize.
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The tenth day (February 13, 2015):

Held a final meeting was a discussion to explore results and to identify the nature of the next steps and agreed to activate cooperation between the Universities of Florida and the Iraqi universities mechanism.

Results obtained

General findings:

- In general what’s important is the acquisition of knowledge for the American universities system, especially the University of Florida in terms of the department and schools, teaching techniques, planning, scientific centers and services that support activities to work effectively

- How to identify the green architecture and buildings that achieves sustainability and the various classifications standards Properties.

- figuring the difference between the various projects assigned to the architectural undergraduate students regarding the area and the time allowed an the process of design as well.

- Reviewing the overlap between disciplines through design process to complete the project (architects, landscapers, electro-mechanic department student and project management) all to work in one project assignment and how the outcome is to be evaluated by group of tutors and supervisors

Recommendations

1. The need to establish a specialized research center in sustainability in Iraq to upgrade awareness and to focus on related researches. The proposed location is in Duhok university with participation of both department of architecture I Baghdad university and University of Technology.
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2-this center can work also to establish a code and criteria’s derived from American and other international institutes and experience for Iraqi building related to LEED or sustainability topic and To be legalized the authority to give certificates for buildings,

3. A need to organize an international conference to be sponsored by the three universities...the date for that is not elaborated yet.

4. The need to establish additional specialized courses at the University of Florida for other group of faculty staff as a training sessions and workshops for the three architectural departments and the need provide them with detailed technical information relating to the achievement of green architecture and buildings made of achieving sustainability criteria.

5- Efforts to be made to upgrade sustainability awareness in society, that may be achieved by doing connections with N.G.O staff and other related Ministries like Ministry of Education, Ministry of Woman Affairs, and Ministry of Labour and Social affairs. These efforts can be started by establishing groups of students with a staff supervisor who represent a first nucleus and leaders to train their colleges for the same and so on.

Others

- Preparation and coordination was of high professional level from all IREX staff in a way that gave us an impression that they dedicate all their efforts and time to us and to make that event take place,, and that’s what really happened and we are so grateful for them for providing a suitable hotel rooms and pocket money as well.

- The extraordinary efforts paid by Mrs Bahar Armaghani from day one and her coordination for all activities was so great . Her tender personality and her high manners overwhelmed us in unforgettable way . also her Husband Dr Jamsheed with his humbleness and impressive personality whish gave us that we all working as a one big family and that was so remarkable and create a suitable environment to move and work in all the time.

- The diversity in workshop topics and activities was so significant in a way that made us so happy to wander between one to another.
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- The Staff of UF were so helpful and professional like Dr. Peggy Carr, other Professors and Faculty staff.

Finally there is an urgent need to provide participants with certificates of participation in this workshop activities and to be signed by University of Florida and Irex (Mrs.Bahar and Irex representative as well).

Participants

Assist. Prof./ Asmaa Mohammed Hussein

Senior Lecturer/ Ghassan Jasim Al-Basri

14th-March/2015