

Future Skills Forum: Reimagining Technical Education in the Arab World

Al Hussein Technical University

Amman – Jordan
20-21 September 2026

About the Forum:

The **Future Skills Forum: Reimagining Technical Education in the Arab World** brings together leading regional and international institutions to shape a new vision for technical and vocational education across the Arab region. Organized under the umbrella of the **Association of Arab Universities (AARU)** and in strategic partnership with **UNESCO**, the forum convenes top Arab technical and enterprise-intensive universities, alongside major industry leaders in ICT, energy, advanced manufacturing, and emerging technologies.

Against the backdrop of rapid technological disruption, shifting labor market needs, and the growing demand for future-ready competencies, the forum explores the current state of vocational education in the Arab world and the transformative opportunities ahead. Discussions will focus on **digitization in technical education**, **stronger university–industry partnerships**, **integration of future skills into curricula**, and **the role of innovation and entrepreneurship** in developing a competitive, knowledge-based workforce.

Through its interactive sessions and multi-stakeholder dialogues, the forum aims to produce impactful regional outcomes, including the “**Amman Declaration on Technical and Vocational Education 2026**”, outlining a shared vision for the sector’s development. The forum will also witness the establishment of the **Arab Technical Universities Network (ATUN)** under AARU, fostering collaboration, mobility, and data-driven benchmarking across the region. Additionally, the forum will launch the **Future Skills Guide and Toolkit**, a practical resource designed to support Arab universities in aligning their programs with future labor market needs.

By convening policymakers, educators, global organizations, and industry partners, the Future Skills Forum seeks to catalyze a regional movement to modernize technical education systems, elevate workforce capabilities, and equip the Arab world for the demands of tomorrow’s economy.

Strategic Partners

- UNESCO as a key international partner in vocational education.
- Arab Technical and/or enterprise-intensive Universities:
 - Khalifa University (UAE)
 - Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (Morocco)
 - Kuwait College of Science and Technology (Kuwait)
 - New Cairo Technological University (Egypt)
 - Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (Saudi Arabia)
 - Colleges of Excellence (Saudi Arabia)
 - Middle Technical University (Iraq)
- Industry and Technology Sector Partners
 - Information Technology and Communications Companies
 - Energy and Manufacturing Industries
 - Major Industrial Firms

Forum Themes

1. Vocational Education in the Arab World: Reality, Challenges, and Opportunities
2. Digital Transformation in Technical and Vocational Education
3. Partnerships between Universities and the Labor Market
4. Future Skills: Their Relevance, Integration, and Development in Curricula
5. Promoting Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Technical Education

Forum Expected Outcomes

- “Amman Declaration on Technical and Vocational Education”, an official document endorsed by participants (2026).
- Recommendations for establishing the Arab Technical Universities Network (ATUN) under the umbrella of AArU.
- Launch of the Future Skills Guide and Toolkit for Arab universities.

Agenda Day 1

09:00–10:00 | Registration and Networking Coffee

10:00–10:045 | Opening Ceremony

- National Anthem of Jordan
- Welcoming Remarks: Prof. Ismail Al-Hinti, President of Al-Hussein Technical University (HTU)
- Opening Remarks: Representative of UNESCO
- Opening Address: H.E. Prof. Amr Ezzat Salameh, Secretary-General, Association of Arab Universities
- Guest of Honor Speech: Representative of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II

Keynote Speech 1

10:45–11:15 | Keynote Address:

“The Future of Technical Education in a Rapidly Changing World”

Speaker: *Senior UNESCO Official or Global Expert in Vocational Education*

11:15–12:00 | Official Photo Session & Coffee Break

Panel 1: Bridging Education and Employment in the Arab World: Building Future-Ready Skills through Technical and Vocational Education

Time: 12:00–13:30

Key themes:

- Closing the skills gap
- Labour market forecasting
- Industry-driven curricula
- Graduate employability
- Public-private partnerships

Moderator: Representative from AArU

Panelists: Representatives from Jordan, KSA, Morocco, UAE, and Iraq (Presidents Only).

Panel 2: Empowering Women through Technical and Vocational Education: Unlocking Talent for Inclusive Economic Growth

Time: 13:30–15:00

Key themes:

- Women's participation in TVET
- Leadership and entrepreneurship
- Breaking occupational stereotypes
- Skills for emerging industries
- Policies supporting women's economic empowerment

Moderator: Representative from HTU

Speakers: Tech company leaders + Arab university representatives

15:00–16:30 | Lunch

16:30 – 17:30 Prescheduled B2B meetings with major industry leaders in ICT, energy, advanced manufacturing, and emerging technologies.

Day 2

Keynote Speech 2

10:00–10:30 | Keynote Address:

“Building Skills Ecosystems for the Arab Knowledge Economy”

Speaker: TBD

Panel 3: Micro-Credentials, Digital Skills and Lifelong Learning: Rethinking Workforce Development for the Future Economy

Time: 10:30–12:00

Key themes:

- Micro-credentials
- Professional certifications
- Upskilling and reskilling
- AI and digital transformation
- Flexible learning pathways

Moderator: HTU representative

Speakers: Industry CEOs, Arab and international experts

Presidents Roundtable: Reimagining Technical Education in the Arab World

Time: 12:00–13:30

Closing Session (13:30–15:00)

- Presentation of key recommendations
- Reading of the **Amman Declaration for Technical and Vocational Education**
- Closing remarks by AArU and HTU leadership
- Official announcement of the establishment of ATUN.

15:00–16:30 | Lunch

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