



Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Education and IsDB Group agree to partner on developing education, capacity building, and scholarships

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 1 February, 2017 - On his 3 day tour of several ministries and institutions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to further solidify cooperation to contribute to achieving the Kingdom's Vision 2030 and the National Transformation Program, NTP, 2020, the President of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB Group), Dr. Bandar Hajjar, met in Riyadh on Tuesday with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Minister of Education, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Muhammad Al-Isa, to discuss partnership between the IsDB Group and the Ministry.

The two parties agreed, to strengthen partnership to achieve the education related targets of the National Vision of the Kingdom 2030 and the National Transformation Program 2020, through a number of programs, most notably, Education for Employment, Capacity Building for Teachers, and Exchange of Experience and Expertise with IsDB Group member countries.

Dr. Ahmed Mohammad Al-Isa also welcomed the partnership with the Bank Group, which has a long experience in the field of supporting education in member countries and Muslim communities in non-member countries. He assured the readiness of the Ministry to exchange experience with the Bank for the benefit of the Kingdom and other member countries. He then invited the Bank to participate in the upcoming 7th International Exhibition & Conference on Higher Education due in Riyadh in April 2017.

The IsDB Group President touched on a number of proposals to support the partnership with the ministry, including the provision of advisory services and knowledge in the field of Islamic finance, in cooperation with the internationally known institutions in this area.

He also expressed the need to develop a clear strategy for private sector participation in the education sector, with the importance of focusing on educational standards. Dr. Hajjar also expressed willingness for cooperation in the field of scholarships for Saudi students, and students from member countries to study in Saudi universities. He then invited the Minister to participate in the first forum for partnership between the public and private sectors (PPP), which will be sponsored by the Bank next March in Riyadh.

The technical teams from both sides have already embarked on studying aspects of partnership and cooperation to devise a detailed plan for partnership between the Islamic Development Bank Group and the Saudi Ministry of Education.