

K-19 Task Force

Minutes of Meeting, August 14, 2022

Catholic University of Erbil

Agenda

Discussion of Symposium/Forum for latter half of October

Objectives of Event

Defining the Audience for the Event

Speakers

The Program (proposed):

- Introduction
- Panel discussion on importance of education-workforce alignment: Minister of Education, Minister of Higher Education, Minister of Planning, Minister of Labor & Social Affairs
- TVET Presentation
- University Admissions Presentation

Logistical Arrangements

- Date
- Guest List
- Inviting Guests
- VIP support
- Printing Materials
- Banners, Posters, Stage Set-Up
- Responsible Persons

Attending

Bashdar Sarbaz, MoE

Shelan Khalil, MoE

AbdulSalam Medeni, Rwanga

Behar Ali, Emma Organization for Human Development

Dr. Mohammad Ahmed, MoHESR

Dr. Soran Saeed, Sulaimani Polytechnic

Dr. Zana Ibrahim, UKH

Dr. Galawezh Obaid Osman, MP, Education Committee

Kirstin Crawford, UKH

Vida Hanna, CUE

Dr. Honar Issa, AUK

Dr. Randall Rhodes, AUK

Meeting called to order at 13:15

Agenda

There was a review of the agenda as submitted.

Discussion initially focused on the objectives for the event. Comments included:

- To learn about TVET as providing alternative pathways from school/university to employment; TVET on the governmental agenda
- To be informational and motivational
- To present the TF's vision for reform/improvement
- To "sell" what the TF has done to date (sales and marketing of TF's role)
- To present a vision for curriculum
- To enhance coordination with decision-makers

The TF also needs to reach consensus on the intended outcomes for any event.

Vision/Recommendation

It is important that the TF reaches consensus on whether it is presenting its vision of reform or actual recommendations as to a roadmap for reform. It is important that the TF not give the impression that it has crafted policies/procedures without the input of various stakeholders/decision-makers. All conversations must be "open" for discussion and debate as collaboration will ensure the success of reform. Details of the TF's research, data collection, data analysis, and discussions with international experts will be the focus of the conversations as they have led to the reasoned formulation of visions/proposed actions.

Stakeholders/Decision-Makers

There are several "publics" that need to be engaged to ensure a smooth path for reform. These include universities, high schools, ministries, student organizations, parliament, NGOs, etc.

In order to warm up these *publics* and gain valuable insights, it is proposed to stage sessions to review the TF's progress, vision, and reform proposals. It is hoped that during/after each session, the targeted *public* endorses the TF's vision and supports the roadmaps presented. Sessions were envisioned with these four *publics*:

- 1) Council of the Ministry of Education
- 2) Council of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
- 3) Education Committee of Parliament
- 4) Representatives of the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Social Affairs, Board of Investment, PM Advisors

These four sessions would be full-day conversations. Locations to be determined. Dates depend on the availability of attendees.

Large Event

Once the TF receives support from the above groups of decision-makers, the large event will be planned. Attendees shall include the Kurdistan stakeholders, the country directors for NGOs, and Iraqi governmental leads in the educational sector. Tim Mizen would come to support the TVET presentation. There could be break-out sessions and workshops depending on the feedback received during previous conversations and the ministries' advice on defining "stakeholders" and the issue of introducing systemic reforms to a population that embraces the status quo.

Action Items

- **The TF representatives from the MoHESR will work with the Ministry to identify a date for the session.**
- **The TF representatives from the MoE will work with their respective Ministry to identify a date for their session.**
- **The TF representative from Parliament will work with the Education Committee to identify a date for their session.**
- **The TF's at-large governmental liaison will work with Planning, Social Affairs, Board of Investment, etc. to set the date for the fourth session.**

It is hoped that the sessions are conducted during the first weeks of September.

In the meanwhile, the three components of the presentations need to be prepared. They will be rehearsed virtually with the TF to ensure the concise and efficient communication of the vision, objectives, methodologies of research, proposal formation, and recommendations for action.

Meeting adjourned at 14:50.