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Presence Across Four Continents: A Journey of Collaboration

I am happy to be back in Abu Dhabi after a long trip involving presentations and presence on four continents: three in physical presence and one virtual.

In Lebanon 🇱🇧 (Asia), I gave a presentation at the **Saint Joseph University of Beirut** about University Rankings, focusing on the case of ADU. I was joined by my colleagues Dr. **Ashwin Fernandes**, QS Executive Director for the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia; Prof. **Bassam Alameddine, FRSC**, President of **Gulf University for Science and Technology**; and Prof. **Georges Yahchouchi**, President of the **American University of the Middle East (AUM)**. Notable figures in attendance included Rector Father **Salim Daccache**, Prof. Bassam Badran, President of **Lebanese University**, Vice Rector of USJ, Professor **Richard Maroun**, and Prof. **Ursula El Hage**. I also had the pleasure of meeting the President of the Lebanese University separately to explore opportunities for collaboration.

In London 🇬🇧 (Europe), I attended the **The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)** Construction Manager of the Year Awards as a past president of this prestigious institute. It was a pleasure to meet the president of the CIOB, my good friend Prof. **Professor Mike Kagioglou FHEA, Cmgr FCMI, FRS NSW, FRICS, FCIOB** and other colleagues. I was particularly excited to meet new friends, such as Professor **Katie Normington**, Vice Chancellor of **De Montfort University**, and **Cressida Curtis**, Group Sustainability Director at **Wates Group**. We engaged in meaningful discussions about potential collaborations with ADU. I also met with colleagues from QS (**Jason Newman**) and WSP (Dr. **Gulnaz Aksenova**) in separate meetings.

In Rabat 🇲🇦 (Morocco , Africa), I participated in a panel discussion about investing in Water and Agriculture, organized by the **Amadeus Institute**. Many thanks to the kind invitation from **Brahim Fassi Fihri**, Founder and President of the Amadeus Institute. I also connected with my colleague Dr **Salma ARABI** from the National School of Commerce and Management of Settat (ENCG), Hassan I University.

While in Morocco, I delivered two keynotes to the CIB World Congress hosted by **Purdue University** (America 🇺🇸, Virtual). The invitations came from my colleagues Prof. **Patricia Tzortzopoulos** and Prof. **Makarand (Mark) Hastak**. My presentations were titled "The Future of Design and Construction Through Scenario Planning" and "The Art and Science of Leadership." These presentations across all four continents allowed me to interact with many esteemed colleagues, identify collaboration opportunities, and raise the University's profile.

I feel exhausted after these trips, but as the English saying goes, "no rest for the wicked." On my way back, I coincidentally met Prof. **Fares Howari**, Dean at **Ajman University**, at Casablanca Airport and we shared the same flight back to the UAE.

#GlobalCollaboration #UniversityRankings g#HigherEducation

Khulud Abdallah Abu Dhabi University



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