

Diversifying Horizons

Mr. Chalfaouat and four second-year GLSID2 and BDCC2 students organized an online conference titled "Diversifying Horizons". It was an interesting event that aimed to showcase various career paths for engineering students. The conference featured three speakers who shared their experiences in different domains, including research studies, freelancing, and start-upping.

Ahmed JAAFARI was the first speaker, and he is a Research Manager at Al Akhawayn University. He provided information about the NLP project he is working on, which is the Neural Network Processing of Darija dialect. He talked about the difficulties he faced due to Darija being a spoken language and not a written one. The project has a challenge of finding out what problems to solve by prioritizing and not getting overwhelmed by the amount of problems there are to solve. The idea of Neural Network Processing of Darija dialect is among the best projects because it has many advantages, such as facilitating communication between different regions of a country. Furthermore, the goal of this project is to enable the understanding and generation of texts in Darija, which could be useful in various fields such as automatic translation, information retrieval, and sentiment analysis in social media. The project can also contribute to the preservation and valorization of Moroccan language and culture.

Sofia EL BAHJA was the second speaker, and she is an Entrepreneur and Consultant in Social Innovation. She spoke about economic growth and development, how she managed to work on her soft skills and social innovation. From her speech, it was confirmed that developing strong soft skills like leadership, communication, management, and learning about other languages and cultures are important and obligatory to develop these skills. The combination of technical knowledge and soft skills gives a candidate an advantage and distinguishes them from other candidates during interviews. This combination helps to find better solutions to complicated problems and adds value to both the candidate and the company.

Ayman LAFAZ was the third speaker, and he is an Ensias student and a Data Science freelancer. He shared his experience in freelancing while studying at the same time. He talked about how he started freelancing and how he upgraded his profile with some techniques and keys in freelancing. He mentioned important things that should be found in the profile of each freelancer and the importance of ranking and upgrading the profile to increase the chances of getting a freelance job. Ayman's speech was informative and beneficial, and he provided some keys to success in freelancing. He mentioned that getting a freelance job is not easy because of the competition, especially in the computer field. As a

software engineer, it is important to be aware of the challenges and keep working hard to improve skills.

After the presentations, the students asked many questions to the speakers, and they provided satisfactory answers. The speakers provided their contact information for further communication.

In conclusion, the Diversifying Horizons conference was an engaging and informative event that provided engineering students with more information about various career paths and possibilities. The speakers demonstrated their passion and knowledge in their respective fields, and the students gained a better understanding of the opportunities available to them after graduation. There was only one issue with time management because the guests were not available, especially Ahmed JAAFARI, who had a time constraint. Therefore, it would have been preferable for the organizers to choose another time when all the guests would be available. Nonetheless, the event was well-organized, and the organizers should be commended for their efforts.