Students of final year of Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science visited Public Authority for Radio and Television (PART) recently, accompanied by faculty member Dr. Ismail Baki, in Qurum. Various popular radio and TV channels in Oman are broadcasted from PART including Oman TV, Oman Radio, Oman Sports, Al Shabab Radio and Quran Radio. The visit was organized to understand the working of live radio and television channels in Oman.

The visit commenced by showing the students various studios for radio channels, including those for Arabic, Quran, English, Youth and Classical channel. The resource person explained the working of various equipment, including the mixers and the software and showed us how the schedule is prepared and transmission is done. The students also saw a live broadcast for an Arabic channel, where the RJ mentioned Waljat College ON AIR. It was then explained that the transmission is done via fiber optics and satellites. The students saw the Master Control Room where the broadcast from all studios are received on a matrix. The final transmission takes place from an FM Transmission Tower located in Ruwi.

The students were then taken to another building that hosted TV broadcasts. The students saw various studios for news channels and interviews. They also saw the camera equipment including a teleprompter which displays scripts in front of the camera for the reporter. A display of old equipment was shown and a resource person explained that nearly 1,500 meters of reel was required for filming one hour of a programme. It was told that all cameras are automated in a separate camera control room and hence no cameraperson is required on stage. Rooms for receiving broadcasts from external on-field reporter and camera persons were shown, where the audio and video quality are checked and noise is removed. It was informed that a popular TV programme Qahwat Al Sabah (Morning Coffee) was live at the time of the visit.

The students got a good understanding of the working of FM Radio and Television broadcasts in Oman. The students were able to appreciate the efforts that go into produce something every day that is usually taken for granted.

The industrial visit to Public Authority for Radio and Television was a great experience for the students as well as the accompanying faculty. It facilitated learning and understanding of a new domain for the students and also made them aware of the workings in a real life work environment. The students are grateful to the college for organizing this visit.