

**ISTS Planning Meeting for the
Arab States Sustainability Roundtable**

Third World Academy of Sciences

12-13 June 2003

Trieste, Italy

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Final Programme

Wednesday 11 June

19:30 *Welcome buffet* (Adriatico Guesthouse)

Thursday, 12 June

09.00 Welcoming remarks

M.H.A. Hassan, TWAS

A.A. Al-Shamlan, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science

Jill Jäger, Initiative on Science and Technology for Sustainability

Brief introductions by the participants

09.45 Summary of previous workshop and roundtable activities in ISTS (Jill Jäger)

Characteristics of Arab Countries: Overview (Mohamed Hassan)

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 Millennium Development Goals in the Arab Region. (Gaith Fariz)

11.45 Defining the objectives of the Arab States Roundtable

Discussion on agenda of the Arab States Roundtable

12.30 Lunch break

14.00 Discussion on funding possibilities of the Arab States Roundtable

15.30 Coffee break

16.00 Discussion on potential participants of the Arab State Roundtable

18.00 Adjourn

19.30 Official Dinner (Adriatico Guesthouse)



Friday 13 June

09.00 Summary of previous day's discussion

09.30 Next steps for the organization of the Arab States Roundtable

- timing
- place
- contacting participants
- funding applications
- background materials

10.30 Coffee break

12.30 End of meeting

12.30-12.45 Pick up from AGH to Main Building Cafeteria

13.00 ICTP Lunch (with UN Ambassador delegation)

Final List of Participants

Dr. Sherburne **Abbott**
Chief International Officer
American Association for the Advancement of Science
1200 New York Avenue
NW Washington, DC 20005
USA
Phone: +1 202 3266655
Fax: +1 202 2894958
Email: sabbott@aaas.org

Dr. Eisa M. **Abdellatif**
Chief Technical Advisor
Zayed International Prize for the Environment
PO Box 28399
Dubai
UAE
Phone: +971 4 3326666
Fax: +971 4 3326777
Email: zayedprz@emirates.net.ae

Dr. Meshgan M. **Al Awar**
Member of Higher Committee
Zayed International Prize for the Environment
PO Box 28399
Dubai
UAE
Phone: +971 4 3326666
Fax: +971 4 3326777
Email: zayedprz@emirates.net.ae

Mr. Khalid **Al-Muhailani**
Director, Kuwait Program at Harvard
Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS)
P.O. Box 25263
Safat 13113
Kuwait
Phone: +965 244-4210, 245-4918, 242-5898, 242-5893
Fax: +965 241-5535, 243-4579, 241-5365
Email: kph@kfas.org.kw

Dr. Ali Abdullah **Al-Shamlan**
Director General

Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS)
P.O. Box 25263
Safat 13113
Kuwait
Phone: +965 244-4210, 245-4918, 242-5898, 242-5893
Fax: +965 241-5535, 243-4579, 241-5365
Email: dg@kfas.org.kw

Prof. Dorairaijan **Balasubramanian**
Director of Research
L.V. Prasad Eye Institute
Road N. 2
Banjara Hills
Hyderababab 500034
India
Phone: +91 40 23543652
Fax: +91 40 23548271/71711195
Email: dbala@lvpeye.stph.net, dbala@operamail.com

Prof. Bill **Clark**
Research Professor
Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
Kennedy School of Government
79 JFK Street,
Cambridge, MA 02138
USA
Phone: +1 617 4953981
Fax: +1 617 4958963
Email: william_clark@harvard.edu

Dr. Ghaith **Fariz**
Poverty Alleviation Strategies Specialist
Sub-Regional Resource Facility for the Arab States (SURF -
AS/UNDP)
United Nations House
Riad El-soth Square
Beirut
Lebanon
Phone: +961 1 981301, ext. 1744
Fax: +961 1 981521/522
Email: ghfariz@yahoo.com, ghaith.fariz@undp.org

Prof. Riyad **Hamzah**
Vice President
Arabian Gulf University
PO Box 26671
Adiya
Kingdom of Bahrain

Phone: +973 239701
Fax: +973 27255
Email: riyad@agu.edu.bh

Prof. Mohamed H.A. **Hassan**
Executive Director
Third World Academy of Sciences
c/o ICTP
Strada Costiera 11
34014 Trieste
Italy
Phone: +39 040 2240327
Fax: +39 040 224559
Email: info@twas.org

Dr. Rukhasana M. **Ismail**
Unit of Women's Research & Studies
PO Box 6312
Khormaksar Aden
Yemen
Phone: +967 2 235237
Fax: +967 2 235237/253057
Email: adenuniversity@Y.net.ye, binsanad@y.net.ye,
womancenter@y.net.ye

Dr. Jill **Jäger**
Initiative on Science and Technology for Sustainability
Arbeiterstrandbadstr. 61
A-1210 Vienna
Austria
Phone: +43 1 2632104
Fax: +43 1 2632104
Email: fuj.jaeger@nextra.at

Dr. Diego **Malpede**
ISTS/TWAS Fellow
Third World Academy of Sciences
c/o ICTP
Strada Costiera 11
34014 Trieste
Italy
Phone: +39 040 2240685
Fax: +39 040 2240689
Email: malpede@twas.org

Mr. Najib **Saab**
Publisher/Editor in Chief
Environment & Development Magazine
PO Box 113-5474
Beirut
Lebanon
Phone: +961 1 341323
Fax: +961 1 346465
Email: nsaab@mectat.com.lb

Dr. Daniel **Schaffer**
Public Information Officer
Third World Academy of Sciences
c/o ICTP
Strada Costiera 11
34014 Trieste
Italy
Phone: +39 040 2240538
Fax: +39 040 224559
Email: schaffer@twas.org

Conclusions

- 1) The Roundtable should provide a forum for local and regional discussions on enhancing the contributions of Science and Technology to meet the challenges of Sustainable Development.. Participants would be invited and attend in their personal capacity and not as representatives of organizations, Ministries etc. Participation will be by invitation only.

- 2) The objectives of the Roundtable will be to:
 - Strengthen the contributions of S & T to SD
 - Create and support adequate enabling environments for scientific research.
 - Act as a catalyst for networking and create linkages to share success stories about the role of S&T in meeting the challenges of sustainable development.
 - Identify centers of excellence in the Arab region and mobilize resources from national and international funding sources to them.
 - Strengthen the use of existing scientific knowledge.
 - Enhance education and training.
 - Identify gaps, barriers and institutional arrangements needed to address critical issues.

 - Develop partnerships
 - Increase the support of Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region and encourage the linkages between the international donor community and the S&T community .

 - Support appropriate technology at the local level and encourage partnerships in technology for innovative initiatives.

 - Involve the private sector in the definition of the research agendas and create partnerships for funding purposes and for stimulating the research.

- Work with the private sector in order to increase awareness of the challenges of sustainable development and stimulate their involvement in technological solutions for sustainability.
- Identify mechanisms to increase interaction between the development, scientific and policy communities.

Thematic priorities

- The Roundtable will focus on priorities for sustainable development that are consistent with the UN's Millennium Development Goals: promoting social and economic development while conserving natural resources and the environment. Within that framework, the Roundtable will focus on needs and opportunities of particular relevance to the Arab States, while recognizing that details will differ within the region according to local realities.
- In particular, it will explore how the challenges of accelerating economic growth, relieving poverty, and enhancing human capital [health, education, gender equality] in the region can be met while at the same time relieving environment and resource problems associated with water deficits, desertification, and biodiversity loss. Special attention will be given to the cross-cutting themes of governance and policy for science and technology in addressing these priorities.

3) Proposed format for the Roundtable:

- Three day meeting.
- 30 participants.
- Keynote addresses to raise issues.
- The speakers should provide one to three pages before the meeting and then will act as facilitators of the discussion.
- The discussions should lead to a set of recommendations from the meeting, including recommendations on follow up and indicators of success.
- On the third day in the morning the recommendations will be discussed and finalized. In the afternoon they should be presented to high-level political leaders of the host country. The participants will also be requested to take these recommendations back to their home country and ensure wide distribution. Dissemination to international organizations will also be important.
- Coverage/sponsorship of one of the big TV networks of the region is suggested.

- A distinguished Arab Scientist should be invited to give a public lecture on the day before the Roundtable.
- A well prepared media campaign should be organized.

4) Funding

- An estimated amount of \$200.000 is envisaged.
- Small and Big Private sponsors should be contacted on the basis of draft budget and outlines of the Roundtable.
- Possible funders include Arab Thought Forum, OPEC Fund for International Development, Kuwait Oil Company, Islamic Bank of Development, BP Regional Office....).
- The host institution at the selected venue should be able to provide support for the Roundtable covering local costs, if possible (accommodation and meals); and assistance with the media campaign and the public lecture.
- Possible venues for the meeting include Alexandria Library (offer made by I. Serageldin), Arab Fund, Arabian Gulf University in Bahrein (proposed by Mr. Hamza), Dubai and Beirut (in collaboration with the National Council for Scientific Research; proposed by Mr. Saab). The official invitation to the possible hosts from the co-chairs of the Planning Group will include a draft budget and draft outline of the Roundtable.

5) Timing

- In principle (depending on the results of the funding search and the requirements of the selected venue), the Roundtable could take place in April or May 2004.

6) Criteria for selection of participants.

- There shall be a three-tier representation from the development, S&T and policy-making communities.
- The agreed general selection criteria are based on relevant expertise on the Roundtable themes, balancing natural sciences, social sciences, development, R&D in industry) and country balance, gender balance, age balance, NGO-Civil Society, and, very important, ability and willingness to act.

7) Participants suggested the names of potential participants to the Roundtable listed in the Appendix. Members of the planning group

will send further names in the weeks after this planning meeting. This list should be treated confidentially. The letter of invitation should clear state that participants will not be expected to make statements on behalf of the organizations to which they belong and that the report of the roundtable will not attribute statements to individuals.

- 8) After the planning meeting, the "Planning Group" will continue to provide inputs to the organization of the Roundtable, especially in selecting the venue, organizing and implementing the funding of the roundtable and finalizing the list of participants. ISTS/TWAS will continue to provide Secretariat functions. One committed member from the private sector should be invited to join the Planning Group.

Diego Malpede
Jill Jäger
Trieste, 13 June 2003