

## UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HRH PRINCE EL-HASSAN BIN TALAL IAS HOLDS ITS 22<sup>ND</sup> CONFERENCE ON *LANDSCAPE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES*



Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal, Founding Patron of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS), the IAS convened its 22nd international science conference virtually via Zoom platform on 1 December 2020. The theme of the conference was ‘Landscape of Science, Technology and Innovation in the Islamic Countries.’

The IAS Conference was an open activity in which over 135 local and international participants over 20 countries. Among the participants were Fellows of the IAS, local scientists from the various universities and institutes.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> IAS Conference was co-sponsored by:

- Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development (AFSED), Kuwait;
- Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS), Kuwait;
- Petra University, Jordan;
- Cairo Amman Bank, Jordan;
- The Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM), Jordan;
- Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST), Jordan; and
- Jordan Islamic Bank, Jordan.

The conference addressed a number of key issues in the domain of Science, Technology and Innovation in the Islamic Countries.

The inaugural ceremony of the conference included an address by HRH Prince El-Hassan bin Talal, Founding Patron of the IAS, the message of the President of Pakistan, IAS Patron which was read by H. E. Prof. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH, and the opening address of H. E. Prof. Abdel Salam Majali, Former Prime Minister of Jordan and IAS President read by H. E. Prof. Adnan Badran and welcome speech by Prof. Abdullah Al-Musa Director General, IAS.



His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan bin Talal, Chairman of the Higher Council for Science and Technology and Founding Patron of the IAS, indicated the importance of building a partnership between science and technology in the field of scientific research, which could generate opportunities for local, national, regional and global participation. H.R.H. called for a re-focus on policies and recognition of science as a tool to push the limits of the human knowledge and to monitor and analyze responses to environmental, social and economic challenges. H.R.H. said that “in our world today as we face environmental, social, climatic and human challenges, the need for science, partnership between institutions, and building a scientific culture has become an urgent need to search for solutions through integration”. H.R.H. noted the importance of science in achieving sustainable development and the well-being of societies, explaining that to achieve this, science must be assigned to human values in line with the reality of human development, and for science to have the flexibility to allow adaptation to the changing and evolving requirements of science, and the requirements of advancing development in a sustainable, economically, environmentally and socially.



The first academic session of the IAS 22<sup>nd</sup> conference included keynote presentations by: Dr. Markku Markkula, First

Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions, Finland, whose presentation was entitled *Identification and Development of STI Policies*; Prof. Adnan Badran FIAS, Former Prime Minister of Jordan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, University of Jordan and Chancellor, University of Petra, Jordan, whose presentation was entitled *Ups and Downs of STI Indicators in Islamic Countries*; Prof. M. Qasim Jan FIAS, President, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Pakistan, his presentation was on *Climate Change and its Impact on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security*; Ms. Amani Albedah, Deputy Director General for Support Programs & Functions, KFAS, Kuwait, presented a paper entitled *Landscape of Science, Technology and Innovation in the Islamic Countries: STI Development, the Centrality of General Education*; and lastly Ms. Aicha Bammoun, Director of Programs, Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), Rabat, Morocco presented a paper entitled *New vision of ICESCO on STI for Islamic World*.



The second working session of the conference included three presentations; Dr. Shaukat Hameed Khan, Fellow, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Pakistan, delivered a presentation under the title *Nurturing the Thinking Mind: The OIC Dilemma in Science, Technology and Innovation*. Prof. Malek Maaza FIAS, UNESCO UNISA Africa Chair in Nanoscience & Nanotechnology, South Africa presented a paper on *SARS-COV2 Pandemic's Effects on the R&D Community in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities* and lastly Prof. Zabta Shinwari FIAS, National Council for Tibb, Islamabad, Pakistan, presented a paper on *Islamic Countries: Open Science; Inclusive Society and Ethics*.



The declaration of the conference (approved by the IAS Council members); called upon Islamic countries to uphold the various objectives of the

Organization of Islamic Cooperation specially those related to science, technology and innovation and formulate STI policy that can deliver national STI agenda.

Urged the governments to increase investments in science, technology and innovation and in outreach activities to effect transfer of science and technology to



speed up socioeconomic wellbeing of our countries, and urged OIC countries to enhance networking and cooperation among scientists across the Islamic World and facilitate outreach

activities.

Encouraged OIC countries to implement and articulate a functional STI policy that can identify inter and intrasectional priorities and consolidate human, physical and financial resources within each country's backdrop of social, cultural, political and religious heritage.



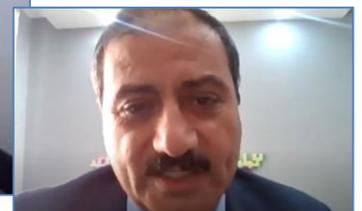
The declaration affirmed that the STI policy shall be inclusive and capable of enabling working ecosystem that insures participation of all stakeholders, and affirmed the importance of governmental commitment towards strengthening national STI capacity and capability that encompass human resources, research and development institutions, science parks and incubators, legislation, incentives, and funding.



The declaration also urged our states to monitor and review periodically their STI policies, STI agenda and action plans at national and regional levels to gain insight and share experience in best practices to set priorities, implement programs and evaluate progress.



The declaration acknowledged that for socio-economic development to be achieved, STI implementation action plan should take into consideration the importance of instilling science and scientific method into the education system and involving the parliaments by establishing parliamentary standing committee on STI.





And urged the OIC countries to adapt initiative of partnership by forming STI consortium among the OIC states to rectify deficiencies and maximize the collective strength of the *Ummah* in science and technology or at least be more conscious about the need for collective cooperation and collaboration amongst scientists in our



countries, and urged the government of OICs to nurture and develop STI ecosystem by providing STI physical and soft infrastructure, encourage and enrich a vibrant ethical scientific community and insure participation of private sector in STI evolution and to designate centers of excellence in disciplinary and interdisciplinary science to form networks that can initiate collective R&D and training for young scientists in priority research areas for development.

Lastly, the IAS through the declaration

expressed its thanks and appreciation to all the organizations and agencies which supported the conference.

The presentations delivered in the conference are published on the IAS YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheIASworld/videos>

and on the IAS Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/iasworld>

## A SERIES OF ONLINE WEBINARS

The Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) and Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East & North Africa (AARINENA) hold a series of webinars on Agriculture Production and Food Security under COVID-19 Pandemic.

First session was on **Challenges and Opportunities for Meeting Food Security in the Islamic World** by **Dr. Mahmud Duwayri**, *Former Minister of Agriculture and Higher Education Government Policy and Agricultural Science expert.*



Full lecture can be found on IAS YouTube Channel on the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pZodSY-k8Y&t=6s>



Second Session was on **The Debate on Future Strategies to cope with Agricultural**

**Water Scarcity & Climate** by **Dr. Theib Oweis**, *Senior Consultant, Water, Land and Ecosystems, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).* Video of the presentation can be found on IAS YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbmSH9CmBaY>

Third session was on **Agriculture Production and Food Security of Turkey & Middle East under COV-**



**19 Pandemic** by **Dr. İbrahim Ortaş**, *full time professor in the University of Cukurova, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition, Adana, Turkey.* Lecture can be found on IAS YouTube Channel on the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjDVFZn1liQ>



Last Session will be on 7 January 2021 by **Dr. Dilfuza Egamberdieva**, *National University of Uzbekistan, Ecobiome R&D, Tashkent, Uzbekistan on Organic Agriculture: The Challenge of Sustaining Food Production in the Era of Covid19.* Full lecture

will be available on IAS YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheIASworld/videos>

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/join/register/tJufuuvr34jE93JVAppW/OasRxsJUe3Qe4IZ>