



NASIC

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Network of Academies of Science in Countries of the Organization of Islamic Conference

E-NEWSLETTER

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Message from
Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, N.I., H.I., S.I., T.I.,
President, NASIC



The OIC member countries represent 57 countries with a population of about 1.2 billion. The Network of Academies of Sciences in the countries of the Organization of Islamic Conference (NASIC) was established on 17th March 2004. This historic event brought together 15 founder Academies of Sciences. The NASIC has been constituted with the purpose of catalyzing the development of collaborative programs among OIC member countries. Within a month of its establishment, NASIC has succeeded in distributing MIT open course materials to 21 Science Academies of OIC member countries, and within three months of its establishment its first newsletter is being circulated among member academies.

It is also planned to launch a Website of NASIC where information about the activities of member academies will be available. It is hoped that the member academies will regularly provide interesting and important news about the activities of their respective academies as well as about important developments in the field of science and technology in their countries. NASIC will also closely interact with science academies of technologically advanced countries, thereby providing a forum for interaction between science and technology institutions in the Islamic world and counterpart institutions in the West.

Message from
Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan, S.I.,
Secretary General, NASIC



It is a matter of great pleasure that the first monthly issue of NASIC ENewsletter has been launched. This newsletter brings forth the news of establishment of NASIC and contains details of decisions made at the meeting of InterAcademy Panel held in Islamabad in March 2004.

Members academies are requested to communicate news of their present and future scientific activities for dissemination through this Newsletter. Comments on the proposed short term and long term programs of NASIC contained herein and any suggestions for improving the status of science education/research in the OIC member states would be very welcome. It is hoped that the Newsletter will facilitate close interaction among the member Academies.

MIT Open Courseware: *C.D's of MIT Open Courseware has been dispatched to all the members for onward transmission to their respective institutes.*

ESTABLISHMENT OF NASIC

A decision to form a Network of Academies of Science in Countries of the Organization of Islamic Conference (NASIC) was taken at Islamabad, during the InterAcademy Panel Meeting of National Science Academies of OIC Member States (16-17 March, 2004).



The following major decisions regarding the network were taken:

- a) The statutes of the NASIC were discussed, finalized and approved by the participating Academies.
- b) The following Academies agreed to become the Founding Members of NASIC and to constitute the first General Assembly:
 1. Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan (ASA)
 2. Bangladesh Academy of Sciences
 3. Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ANUBiH)
 4. Egyptian Academy of Sciences
 5. Indonesian Academy of Sciences
 6. Academy of Sciences of the Islamic Republic of Iran
 7. Arab Academy of Sciences
 8. Islamic Academy of Sciences (IAS)
 9. National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan
 10. Akademi Sains Malaysia
 11. Nigerian Academy of Sciences
 12. Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS)
 13. Senegalese Academy of Sciences
 14. Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan
 15. The Uganda National Academy of Sciences (UNAS)

- c) The Pakistan Academy of Sciences was selected as the Secretariat of the Network. COMSTECH agreed to provide support to Pakistan Academy of Sciences in tuning the Secretariat.
- d) Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, President of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, was unanimously elected as the President of the Network.
- e) The following were unanimously elected as Vice Presidents of the Network.
 1. Prof. Murat Zhurinov President, National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
 2. Prof. Adnan Badran, President, Arab Academy of Sciences, Jordan.
 3. Dr. Saleh Mohd. Nor, Vice President, Akademi Sains, Malaysia.
 4. Prof. G. Ogunmola, President Nigerian Academy of Sciences
- f) Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan, Secretary General, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, was appointed Secretary General of the Network.

SIGNATORIES

1. Prof. RASHED Abdul Bari, President, Academy of Sciences of Afghanistan.
2. Prof. ISLAM Nurul, Vice President, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences.
3. Prof. LOGA Slobodan, Correspondent Member, Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
4. Prof. FAYEZ Mohamed, President, Egyptian Academy of Sciences.
5. Prof. SUYITNO, B., Secretary General, Indonesian Academy of Sciences
6. Prof. ARDAKANI Shams, Vice President, Academy of Sciences of the Islamic Republic of Iran
7. Prof. BADRAN Adnan President, Arab Academy of Sciences
8. Prof. MAJALI Abdel Salam, President, Islamic Academy of Sciences
9. Prof. ZHURINOV Murat, President, National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan

10. Dr. NOR Salleh Mohd, Vice President, Akademi Sains Malaysia
11. Prof. OGUNMOLA, G.B., President, Nigerian Academy of Sciences
12. Prof. ATTA-UR-RAHMAN, President, Pakistan Academy of Sciences
13. Prof. DAFFE M., Ex-Minister for Science & Technology, Senegal, Senegalese Academy of Sciences
14. Prof. RAJABOV, N., Academic Secretary, Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan
15. Prof. MUGAMBI Paul Edward, President, The Uganda National Academy of Sciences.



FIRST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The First Meeting of NASIC Executive Committee was held in Islamabad in the evening of 17th March, 2004. The following were present.

1. Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, President
2. Prof. G.B. Ogunmola, Nigeria, Vice President
3. Dr. Salleh Mohammad Nor, Malaysia, Vice President
4. Prof. Murat Zhurinov, Kazakhstan, Vice President
5. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan, Secretary General
6. Dr. M. H. A. Hassan, TWAS (by Invitation)

Dr. Adnan Badran could not attend the meeting.

The Committee appreciated the efforts of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences in establishing the network and thanked Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman for his hospitality and generous donation of US\$ 50,000/- for the network on behalf of COMSTECH.

It was decided that for the networking and uplift of science education in the member States, the following short-term and long-term programs may be initiated.

1. A website for the Network may be launched. All member academies will provide information about their infrastructure to the Pakistan Academy of Sciences within the next 6 – 8 weeks. IAP website may also be consulted in this regard .
2. A Network Newsletter on the model of IAP Newsletter will be published electronically.
3. Young scientists of the member academies will be provided Travel grants to attend Seminars/Conferences and Workshops. TWAS will be approached for help through its Travel Grant Program.
4. Remote lectures downloaded by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan will be sent to all the member academies in the form of CDs for duplication and distribution to their members.
5. Possibilities of initiating Distance Learning Program shall be explored. Virtual/Open universities may be established in the member States.
6. Member academies will encourage their members to write books which can be published as e-Books. The Network shall pay honorarium to the authors.
7. Collaborative and bilateral research programs shall be initiated. In this regard, areas of strength and centers of excellence shall be identified and encouraged to start collaborative activities.
8. Visiting Teachers programs shall be initiated with travel grants from the Network/TWAS with provision of and local hospitality by the inviting Academies.
9. The Malaysian Academy of Sciences will help in providing a model for entrepreneurship which can be adopted by the Network members.
10. With the advent of WTO Regime, the Academies should help the OIC countries to prepare for necessary IPR & Patent Laws.

All members of NASIC are requested to send details of current and future activities of their Academies by email for publication in the next NASIC E-Newsletter by the 25th of each month.