

**Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)**

**Arab Forum for Scientific Research And Sustainable Development**



**RASD-2014**

**“Towards a Return to Leadership in Science”**

**The 2nd Session**

**December 2014, Dubai - United Arab Emirates**

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# Introduction to the Forum

Research and development are the most important generators of knowledge, whereas partnerships between universities, research & development institutions, and production activities, are the most important actors in the use of this knowledge. In recent decades, developed countries and major international companies became aware of this fact, and they significantly expanded their expenditures on research and development, at both public and private sector levels. Some developing countries in East and Southeast Asia also became aware of this fact, so they increased their spending on science, technology and innovation, and achieved high growth rates. In the Arab world, however, scientific research activities have emerged and expanded under the pressure of social demand, and their link to the actual economic needs of Arab countries has been, and still is, weak. Therefore, there is an urgent need to increase and strengthen the fruitful partnerships between the sectors of education, research and economy in the Arab world. There is also the need to promote communications with, and to benefit from, global expertise and the Arab Diaspora.

The Arab Forum for scientific research and sustainable development is an effort made by ALECSO to contribute to the building of effective partnerships between the sectors of education, scientific research and other sectors concerned with development and related issues in the Arab world. This annual forum will be an Arabic space that differs in its nature from conventional conferences and meetings. It aims at gathering officials and decision makers in the concerned Arab ministries for education, research, industry, agriculture, planning and economy, together with senior figures and scientists from universities, training & research institutions, companies, production enterprises and service providers in the Arab countries. The forum is a formal, scientific and economic event; it provides an appropriate atmosphere for cooperation and integration between participant organizations. It also enables them to create appropriate mechanisms to link graduate programs and scientific research projects, conducted at universities and research centers, to the needs of Arab communities and related development plans.

The forum also provides space for Arab experts, researchers and specialists, as well as Arab institutions and companies, to communicate with their counterparts at regional and international levels. In addition, it is a focus to attract scientists and Arab experts in the Diaspora, enabling them to contribute to the localization and transfer of technology to Arab countries and to participate actively in the implementation of their development programs.

# References

- Decisions of various Arab summits on the development of higher education and scientific research.

- Action Plan for the development of education in the Arab world.

- The Arab Project for the Advancement of Arabic language towards a knowledge based society.

- Arab Strategy for scientific and technical research and innovation.

# Motives for launching the Forum

* + - While the Arab world converts some of its wealth into knowledge, the utilization of science and technology in the region has not matured into national systems of innovation capable of converting knowledge back into wealth again. This is due to many reasons; the most obvious one is the weakness or the lack of partnerships between the three key blocs to this system (universities - research centers - production and services enterprises), which if activated will be able to convert investment in fixed capital to wealth again.
    - Activities of higher education and research will not contribute to the creation of sustainable development unless their results are invested and utilized in national community services. Achieving this requires strong partnerships between higher education, research and development on the one hand, and production and service sectors on the other. These partnerships need to be set up and activated through some mechanisms. However, such mechanisms are either missing or weak in most of the developing countries, including the Arab countries.

# Objectives of the Forum

The Forum aims to enhance the contribution of universities, research centers, and innovators in Arab developmental arenas through the following:

* 1. Contribute to strengthening cooperation between Arab ministries and agencies concerned with education, training and scientific research. Activation of partnerships between universities, research centers and development institutions on one-hand, and production & service companies on the other.
  2. Encourage Arab researchers and innovators and link them to specialized companies to transform their innovations into products and economic projects. Also to enhance communication with Arab scholars in the Diaspora and to benefit from their expertise in the development of Arab countries.
  3. Contribute to strengthening the role of the private sector in supporting, encouraging and financing scientific research activities in Arab countries, and investing in venture capital.
  4. Contribute to the development of Arab industries for scientific publishing, manufacturing of educational supplies, and digital e-learning content production.
  5. Share Arab and international successful practices and experiences, and enable Arab countries and institutions to take advantage of them.

# Committees of the Forum

Outcomes of the first session of the Forum, which took place in Tunis during the period 20-22 of December 2013, included the recommendation to hold the second session during the month of December 2014, in the United Arab Emirates. They also included a recommendation to form a steering committee of the Forum consisting of:

## Permanent Members:

* Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science (ALECSO): president
* Intelligence in Science Foundation (ISC).
* Arab Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF).
* Zewail City of Science and Technology (ZCST).
* Association of Arab Universities (AAU).
* Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils (FASRC).
* Members of Arab Parliaments.
* Members of the European Parliament.

## Non-Permanent Members:

* Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, in the host country.
* The Ministry of Education, in the host country.
* The Ministry of Industry, in the host country.
* Ministry of Planning, in the host country.
* Arab Production and industrial enterprises and services.
* Global Productivity and Industrial enterprises and services.

As stated in the outcomes of last year’s Forum, with regard to ensuring this event’s continuity and increase its influence, there is a need for a concerted effort to mobilize material and human resources through extending the membership of the organizing and scientific committees of the forum. ALECSO, has therefore, adopted the following arrangements:

# Chief Supervisor

Prof. Dr. Abdullah Hamad Muhareb,

Director General of ALECSO.

# General Supervisor

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abdulbari Al-Qadasi,

Assistant Director-General of ALECSO.

Preparatory and Scientific Committee

1. Prof. Dr. Abulgasem Hassan El-Badri, Director of the Department of Science and Scientific Research, ALECSO, Chairman of the Committee.
2. Prof. Dr. Ghada Mohamed Amer, vice president of the ASTF, Sharjah - United Arab Emirates.
3. Mr. Declan Kieran, Executive Director of ISC, Brussels - Belgium.
4. Prof. Dr. Fathi Mansouri, Assistant Secretary-General of FASRC, Khartoum - Sudan.
5. Prof. Dr. Najwa Al-Badri, head of the Department of Biomedical Sciences Zewail City of Science and Technology, Egypt.
6. Mrs. Gajmoula Minat Abbe, Chairperson of the Commission of Higher Education and Culture and Communication, Moroccan House of Representatives, Rabat - Morocco.
7. Mrs. Magda Zaki, Director of the Department of Education and Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Secretariat of the League of Arab States, Cairo - Arab Republic of Egypt.
8. Mr. Thabet Al-Taher, Assistant Secretary-General of the Union of Arab business-men, Jordan.
9. Mr. Saleh Al-Kilani, Executive Vice President Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jordan.
10. Mrs. Salwa Siniora Baasiri, Director General of Rafik Hariri Foundation, Lebanon.
11. Professor Ahmed Obaid Hassan, Education, training and development Advisor for Kenana Sugar Company, Sudan.
12. Mrs. Mohra Hilal Al Mutaiwee, Director of the Regional Centre for Educational Planning, Ministry of Education, United Arab Emirates.
13. Prof. Dr. Hossam Al-Ulamaa Sultan, director of the National Authority for Scientific Research, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, United Arab Emirates.
14. Mr. Ismail Mohammed Alnaisr, Director of Organizations and International Relations office at the National Committee for Education, Culture and Science, United Arab Emirates.
15. Mrs. Fathia Mohammed Ibrahim Obaidli, Head of Public Relations, Ministry of Education, United Arab Emirates.
16. Dr. Moayed Wahib, Head of Media Department, General Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, United Arab Emirates.

The Committee also includes members representing the following organizations:

1. The Federal National Council, United Arab Emirates.
2. The European Parliament (two members).
3. The Association of Arab Universities.
4. The Expatriates and Immigration Department, General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.
5. The Intellectual Property Department, General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.
6. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).
7. The General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries.
8. The Union of Arab Publishers.

# Entities involved in the Forum

## Ministries and government agencies:

* Ministry of Education, United Arab Emirates.
* Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, United Arab Emirates.
* National Authority for Scientific Research, United Arab Emirates.
* National Committee for Education, Culture and Science, United Arab Emirates.
* Moroccan House of Representatives, Rabat - Morocco.
* European Parliament - Brussels.



## Organizations:

* Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO).
* Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO).
* Arab scientific community Organization, Qatar.
* Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).
* Department of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research - General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.
* The Expatriates and Immigration Department, General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.
* The Intellectual Property Department, General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.
* The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Germany.

 

## Unions:

* Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils, Khartoum - Sudan.
* Union of Arab businessmen, Jordan.
* General Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, United Arab Emirates.
* General Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries.
* Association of Arab Universities.
* Union of Arab Publishers.



## Institutions and companies:

* Arab Science and Technology Foundation, Sharjah - United Arab Emirates.
* Zewail City of Science and Technology, Egypt.
* Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jordan.
* Rafik Hariri Foundation, Lebanon.
* Kenana Sugar Company, Sudan.
* Intelligence in Science, Brussels - Belgium.
* Elghazala Techno-Pole for communications technology, Tunisia.
* Global Thinkers Forum, Britain.



## Expected Local Participants:

The following ministries and organizations, from the host country are expected to participate:

* Federal National Council, United Arab Emirates.
* Ministry of Industry.
* Ministry of Agriculture.
* Ministry of Health.
* Ministry of Planning.
* Ministry of Commerce.
* Any other local organizations interested in participating.

Any other entities or organizations interested in joining are welcome, as long as their role enriches and adds up to the success of the Forum.

# Themes of the second session of the Forum

## Theme I: The launch of Arab dialogue on issues of international conventions related to research, development and innovation

This theme aims to open a dialogue between Arab countries in order to reach a collective bargaining position to maximize the benefits to the Arab countries, and reduce the consequences and the risks that they may be exposed to when implementing agreements and international obligations on individual basis.

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| **Plenary session** | **Nature of the Theme** |
| ALECSO | Coordinator |
| General Secretariat of the League of Arab States | Collaborators |

## Theme II: Establishment of Arab Enterprises for developing and commercializing Educational Equipment and supplies

There is an urgent need to revive Arab enterprises (on national or regional levels within the Arab world) for the production of educational equipment, supplies and tools, of high quality and stemming from the Arab environment and culture, to satisfy the needs of schools and universities. These enterprises could also work on localizing and marketing similar products developed by international companies.

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| **Specialized session** | **Nature of the Theme** |
| Union of Arab businessmen | Coordinator |
| ASTF, Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation | Collaborators |

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## Theme III: Establishment of the Supreme Council for Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation

This theme aims to discuss the Establishment of an Arab Supreme Council devoted to the advancement of scientific research and its contribution in solving development related problems in the Arab world. Among the responsibilities of this Council will be; developing and proposing new legislation and structures; promoting and developing research and innovation networks; stimulating partnerships among Arab research institutions and encouraging joint research projects in priority areas. It can also propose the development of Arab institutions specializing in marketing novel research ideas, and launching networks for the creation and development of educational content and tutorials in Arabic.

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| **Specialized session** | **Nature of the Theme** |
| Ministry of Higher Education, UAE | Coordinator |
| ALECSO | Collaborators |

(An exhibition for educational supplies will be held on the sidelines of this theme).

## Theme IV: Arab development indicators

Development indicators help in assessing the current situation and facilitate planning for the future. However, indicators used by international institutions do not usually take into account many of the specifics of the Arab region, and tend to make unfair comparisons between Arab institutions and their international counterparts. This can lead in many cases, in education as an example, to the discouragement and reduction in confidence of students, graduates and administrators alike. This Theme will discuss the issue of formulating Arab development indicators which can help Arab decision-makers in the planning of various development issues.

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| **Specialized session** | **Nature of the Theme** |
| ESCWA | Coordinator |
| Rafik Hariri Foundation, Kenana Sugar Company, Union of Arab businessmen | Collaborators |

## Theme V: Arabic success stories

There are many successful Arab experiences and stories in the field of scientific research and development, which if publicized and promoted, can strengthen the confidence of Arab researchers and scientists in themselves and their capabilities. This Theme will focus on some of the most important of these success stories, and will try to identify ways of ensuring that they are spread across the Arab countries.

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| **Plenary session** | **Nature of the Theme** |
| ASTF | Coordinator |
| Rafik Hariri Foundation, Kenana Sugar Company | Collaborators |

## Theme VI: scientific research for sustainable development

This theme will review Arab and international successful experiences and initiatives for human and sustainable development in areas of priority to the region, such as education and literacy, helping people with special needs, new and renewable energies, water, nutrition, health, desertification and climate change ... and other areas.

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| **Specialized session** | **Nature of the Theme** |
| Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation | Coordinator |
| Rafik Hariri Foundation, Zewail City for Science and Technology, Union of Arab businessmen | Collaborators |

## Theme VII: the advancement of the Arabic language

Many studies have confirmed the impossibility of transition to a knowledge based society without the use of the national language in education. The Theme aims to discuss this issue and propose effective ways that can be adopted to stimulate scientific and educational practices in the Arab world in Arabic.

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| **Plenary session** | **Nature of the Theme** |
| Ministry of Education, UAE | Coordinator |
| ALECSO, General Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UAE, Union of Arab businessmen | Collaborators |

(A Book fair will be held on the sidelines of this theme).

## Theme VIII : intellectual property issues and scientific publishing

This theme will view and discuss issues related to intellectual property and scientific publishing in Arab countries, including ways to overcome the obstacles and difficulties that hinder the development of these important and vital areas.

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| **Specialized session** | **Nature of the Theme** |
| Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils | Coordinator |
| National Authority for Scientific Research-UAE, General Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UAE, The Intellectual Property Department, General Secretariat of LAS. | Collaborators |

## Theme IX: Launching an Arab network of Arab expertise in the Diaspora

To confront the difficulties and challenges encountered at various levels of economic, social and cultural development, Arab countries need to utilize all human resources available both inside and outside the Arab world. This theme aims to discuss practical measures to revive an Arab network for Arab Emigrant scientific expertise, and investigate ways of harnessing their potential contribution to development in the Arab world.

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| **Specialized session** | **Nature of the Theme** |
| Zewail City of Science and Technology | Coordinator |
| Rafik Hariri Foundation, The Expatriates and Immigration Department, General Secretariat of the LAS. | Collaborators |

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## Theme X: Arab - International Cooperation

This Theme will cover existing and future activities concerning cooperation between the Arab side, represented by the League of Arab states and Arab specialized organizations, and other international communities and organizations.

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| **Plenary session** | **Nature of the Theme** |
| General Secretariat of the League of Arab States | Coordinator |
| ALECSO, Union of Arab businessmen, National Authority for Scientific Research-UAE, Rafik Hariri Foundation, ISESCO, Moroccan House of Representatives. | Collaborators |

This theme is divided into the following sub-themes:

## 1: Arab-South American researchers, academics and educators Joint Forum

The framework for this sub-theme is setup by the following:

* Projects and activities stated in the Kuwait Action Plan (KAP) for educational cooperation between Arab and South American countries. KAP gave ALECSO the responsibility of developing mechanisms for its implementation in coordination with the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States.
* The statement and operational mechanism issued by the second meeting of Ministers of Education in Arab and South American countries held in Lima - Peru during the period October 2 to 4, 2013.
* Recommendation of the meeting of senior officials in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Arab and South American countries held on 26.02.2014, on the organization of a joint annual forum that brings together researchers, academics and educators from the two regions.

Officials and decision-makers, researchers and academics in the two regions will be invited to discuss the following topics:

* A comparative study between development indicators in the Arab countries, and in South American countries.
* A comparative study of information systems and databases in both regions.
* Exchange of experiences and best practices in the fields of education and research.
* Exhibit productions of institutions and centers working on ICT.
* Organizing exhibitions of new ICT applications in educational and research institutions.
* Honoring innovators (in the field of ICT employment in education and training).

## 2: Arab - Chinese cooperation:

In a memorandum of understanding signed between the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the People's Republic of China, both parties agreed upon the start of a new era of fruitful cooperation in the fields of science and scientific research, development and innovation. This sub-theme will examine the following related topics:

* The establishment of the Arab-Chinese Academy of Science and scientific research.
* The launch of an Arab-Chinese funded project for the exploitation of new and renewable energies in the Arab world. The aim of this project will be expanding Arab countries investment in renewable energy sources for exploitation for economic purposes.
* Exchange scholarships between Arab countries and China, especially in the fields of medicine, science and modern technology, the environment, water, languages ​​and religious studies and sciences.

## 3: Arab-Japanese cooperation:

This sup-theme discusses the implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed between the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States and the Government of Japan, and builds upon the outcomes of joint meetings held between the two sides. For exploring new horizons of cooperation in various fields, a Japanese team based in Cairo is invited to participate in the second session of the Arab Forum for scientific research and sustainable development. Discussions will cover new proposals and implementing activities and projects proposed during the meeting of the two sides, namely:

* Exchange programs for students and researchers between Arab countries and Japan.
* Scholarship programs and the implementation of joint scientific research.
* Linguistic exchanges between the two sides (to encourage the teaching of Arabic in Japan and encourage the teaching of the Japanese language in Arab countries).
* Organizing training courses and capacity-building programs for Arab youth in Japan.
* Establishment of Arab-Japanese cooperation’s follow-up committee.
* Japan's contribution in ALECSO’s Young Innovators Annual Prize.

## 4: Arab-North American cooperation:

The General Secretariat of the League of Arab States, and the American State Department signed a framework agreement for the cooperation between the Arab world and USA. This agreement paves the ground for Arab-American partnership in several areas in the scientific, cultural, social and economic domains. ALECSO was nominated to lead the Arab Team in implementing the Open Educational Resources’ (OER) initiative manifested in the “Open Book” Project. This sub-theme will make use of the presence of Arab decision-makers, policy-makers, academics and researchers in the forum, by informing and introducing to them this project, including:

* The project work plan.
* Components of the project, its objectives, and mechanisms for implementation.

## 5: Arab-European cooperation:

The outcomes of the first session of the Arab Forum for scientific research and sustainable development included some recommendations related to Arab-European cooperation. This sub-theme will report on, and explore the following issues:

* The recommended memorandum of understanding between ALECSO and the European Union on the advancement of scientific research in Arab countries and its contribution to sustainable development in the region and the world in general.
* Follow-up on the recommendation to declare the year 2015 as the year of Arab-European cooperation in scientific research and sustainable development.
* Discuss ways of benefiting from the European program "Horizon-2020", and explore its support mechanisms to assist the scientific communities in Arab countries, and support the development of scientific progress in the framework of the Arab world context, and expand the circle of cooperation in the light of global challenges.

## 6 - Arab parliamentarians meeting:

This sub-theme falls within cooperation programs implemented by ALECSO and ISESCO. The aim of this activity is to gather Arab parliamentarians interested in science and scientific research in their countries in order to debate, dialogue and identify mechanisms for joint actions to promote the role of scientific research in creating and sustaining development in the Arab countries.

# Venue and Time

The second session of the Arab Forum for scientific research and sustainable development, with God's help, will be held in the city of Dubai in the UAE, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President of the UAE, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. The Preparatory Committee of the Forum, during its first meeting in Dubai on 11 -12 June 2014, has identified the venue and proposed two possible dates for the event as stated below:

Venue: Al Bustan Rotana Hotel - Dubai, UAE.

Date: To ensure the synchronization between the session and the celebrations of the International Arabic language’s Day (18 December), two possible dates were proposed:

* First date: from 16 to 18 December 2014, or
* Second date: from 19 to 21 December 2014.

The choice of the proper date was left to consultation between ALECSO and the Office of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, patron of the second session of the Forum.

# Forum Sponsorship and support

In addition to the Organizations participating in the forum, which will provide some financial support to the forum, ALECSO will seek funds through approaching several funds, institutions, Organizations, and enterprises at both regional and international levels. Extra funds are expected through participations in exhibitions and book fairs launched on the sidelines of the Forum. ALECSO offers several options for sponsorships and taking part in the exhibitions, and interested sponsors and exhibitors are kindly referred to the following table:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Participation** | **Benefits** | **Amount of Fund** |
| **Gold Sponsor** | * Advertise sponsor's logo on all Forum’s documents * Advertise sponsor's logo on all posters and banners * Advertise sponsor's logo on ALECSO’s website for 1 month * Allocate free exhibition space (3m x 4m) | **$30,000** |
| **Silver Sponsor** | * Advertise sponsor's logo on all Forum’s documents * Advertise sponsor's logo on ALECSO’s website for 1 month * Allocate free exhibition space (2m x 3m) | **$20,000** |
| **Bronze Sponsor** | * Advertise sponsor's logo on ALECSO’s website for 1 month * Allocate free exhibition space (2m x 3m) | **$10,000** |
| **Exhibitor only** | * Allocate free exhibition space (2m x 3m) | **$5,000** |

**To submit offers for Sponsorship or Exhibitions, please contact:**

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