



International Advisory Board

Newsletter

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From the Secretary-General

It is my pleasure to present the second newsletter of this series, which highlights recent developments and plans for the Dhahran meeting in January 2008.

The IAB has adopted a biannual meeting schedule, with meetings alternating between the Dhahran campus of KFUPM and sites outside of the Kingdom. The first meeting was held in Dhahran and the next was in Boston, USA. The upcoming third meeting will be held again on campus. Meetings held on campus are intended to allow fact finding activities and to familiarize the IAB with the KFUPM community. The meetings in January 2008 are

expected to present an opportunity for the IAB to gather information from interactions with KFUPM faculty members and students.

The IAB fills very important advisory functions concerning the University's internal planning, and its outreach to its peer institutions for new innovations and developments in research and curriculum, academic administration, and providing service to the community.

I hope you will find this issue interesting and informative.

Dr. Khattab G. Al-Hinai

NEWS ITEMS

King Abdullah University for Science & Technology (KAUST)

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, **King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz**, presided over a groundbreaking ceremony on October 22, 2007 for a world-class coeducational research university, on the Red Sea north of Jeddah. Speaking at the ceremony, the King said that KAUST will act as a scientific base as well as a driving force for the national economy. As a new "Bayt al-Hekma" (House of Wisdom), KAUST will be a beacon of hope and reconciliation and will serve the people of the Kingdom and benefit all the peoples of the world in keeping with the teachings of the Holy Qur'an, which explains that God created mankind in order for us to come to know each other.

In a symposium organized concurrently with the ceremony, **H.E. Dr. Khaled Al-Sultan**, among other distinguished speakers, gave an invited talk on research universities, which was very well received.

Opening in September 2009, the University is designed to become an international institution for research in the region and the world.

Global Energy Leaders: Who's Who

Mr. Abdullah Juma'h, Deputy Chairman of the IAB, has topped the list of "Who's who: Ten top powers to be reckoned with," published in Financial Times. The article by reporter Ed Crooks states that "If there is one man on whom the future of global prosperity rests, it is Abdallah Juma'h. As chief executive of Saudi Arabia's national oil company, he is responsible for delivering the planned increase in the country's oil produc-

tion that consuming countries hope will make the most important contribution to meeting their growing needs. Saudi Aramco has embarked on the biggest capital investment program in its history, and is working on projects that are supposed to add an extra 3m barrels a day of potential output, taking its total capacity to 12m b/d. If it fails, the world is likely to run short of oil.”

We are proud of our close association with Mr. Jum’ah and extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes to him for continued success.

Appointment of Rectors of New Universities

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, **King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz** through a Royal Decree appointed six rectors of the newly established universities in the Kingdom. Our Vice-Rector for Scientific Research & Graduate Studies, **Dr. Mohammad O. Budair**, has been appointed Rector of the University of Al-Jouf. Our warmest congratulations to H.E. Dr. Budair on this recognition of his fine abilities, and we hope that under his leadership the new university will make outstanding achievements and receive laurels. He has our best wishes for success and satisfaction in this position.

DEVELOPMENTS

OPEC Research Fund

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, **King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz**, in a recently concluded OPEC meeting, announced an initiative to support an international program for studies on energy, climate change, and the protection of the environment. The program is a reflection of the Kingdom’s strong commitment to protect the global environment. He has graciously announced from Saudi Arabia a major contribution (US\$ 300 million) to this fund to support research in these areas.

KFUPM, based on its scientific capabilities and resources, is uniquely placed to address the need for efficient petroleum technologies for the protection of the local, regional, and global environment, and is cognizant of the importance of the development of technologies

that address climate change, such as carbon capture and storage.

Research Continuum at KFUPM

With a view to reexamine the role and scope of research at KFUPM, the University has requested a consulting group in Washington, DC to conduct an assessment of its ongoing research activities and how effectively to integrate them for better efficiency and high performance. The full research continuum from basic bench/laboratory research to translational research to applied research to technology transfer and business incubation is represented within KFUPM. An assessment of current activities will help develop an aggregate picture of research at KFUPM across the whole research continuum to establish a baseline.

THIRD MEETING OF THE IAB

Task Groups

H.E. the Rector has appointed four task groups to address the following recommendations of the IAB made in its second meeting:

1. Explain the distinctiveness and critical importance of KFUPM’s mission.
2. Enhance the undergraduate experience.
3. Strengthen the quality of the faculty and its contributions.
4. Develop a financial plan to achieve the strategic goals of the University.

The work of the task forces is progressing well and they expect to submit their reports in the first week of December.

Agenda

The agenda for the third meeting, among others, will discuss several wide-ranging issues such as strategy, thrust on selected research programs, regional competition, administration, and issues related to faculty and students, in addition to an update on the progress made on previous recommendations.

We hope this meeting to be equally successful as the first two meetings were.

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