

ISLAMIC ACADEMY OF SCIENCES Newsletter

January – March 2000

Volume 14

Number 22



Khatami patronises Ninth Conference *Academy patrons send messages* IAS elects new Council with Majali as President



Under the patronage of His Excellency the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Syed Mohammad Khatami, the Islamic Academy of Sciences has recently concluded its ninth international conference, *Science Education and Technology Management in the Islamic World*.

The conference, which was held at the Iran Centre for International Conferences (ICIC), Tehran, Iran, 26-30 July 1999, was an open activity in which over 100 people representing over 25 countries participated.

The main objectives of the conference were:

- (a) To assess the status of science education in the Islamic World;
- (b) To review a number of concepts that address the Islamic viewpoint on education;
- (c) To appraise a range of national science education policies and identify ways to upgrade any shortcomings in implementation;
- (d) To recommend to governments measures to rejuvenate their educational policies within their national development contexts;
- (e) To define R&D areas and 'generic' technologies of importance for possible inclusion in educational policies;
- (f) To review a number of fresh ideas on Engineering Education, Medical Education and Technology Management;

(g) To develop innovative proposals for future activities in science education;

(h) To identify ways and means through which the output of the educational system can match the needs of industry and other technology-based sectors;

(i) To appraise some contemporary concepts in science education with the aim of incorporating them into national educational policies.

(j) To facilitate the free exchange of views among experts on science education.

In addition to a number of keynote presentations that touched on the general importance of Science and Technology, as an imperative for development, a number of country papers were presented.

Speakers from Indonesia, Pakistan, Egypt, Senegal, Iran, Bangladesh, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan as well as Jordan presented papers in which they evaluated national education policies in their countries.

In order to generate academic interaction among the participants, the conference was mostly divided up into roundtable discussions (four in all), in which short communications were followed by lively discussions on a number of important issues.

The Ninth IAS Conference was organised and sponsored by the following organisations:

- Islamic Academy of Sciences (IAS), Amman, Jordan;
- Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, Tehran, Iran;
- Iranian Research Organisation for Science and Technology (IROST), Tehran, Iran;

(Continued on page 4)



Prof. Abdul Salam Majali FIAS

The term of office for the Islamic Academy of Sciences came to an end in November 1998. An IAS General Assembly session was held in Tehran (July 1999) in which elections for the new Council were held, and indeed a new one was acclaimed into office by the Academy Fellows.

Dr Abdul Salam Majali, a former Prime Minister of Jordan and eminent international figure, was elected President. Dr Majali was born in Karak, Jordan, in 1925. Prof. Majali is married and a father of three children. He received his MD from the Medical College, Syrian University, Damascus, in 1949; Diploma of Laryngology and Otology, Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians London, 1953; Fellowship, American College of Surgeons in 1960; "Doctor Honoris Causa," Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey, 1974; and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London, 1986.

He was Director General and ENT Consultant, the Royal Medical Services, Jordan Armed Forces, Amman, 1960-1969, Minister of Health of Jordan 1969-1971; President of the University of Jordan, Amman, 1971-1976 and 1980-1989, Minister of Education, 1976-1979, Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs 1970-1971, 1976-1979, and Professor of Medicine, University of Jordan, since 1973.

(Continued on page 5)

IAS World Wide Web Site on the Internet

During the nineties, international information flow was streamlined into a new and exciting medium called the Internet. Although the actual concept itself is not modern, the ease and accessibility with which people can use this medium has made it very popular.

The IAS, being ever conscious of such developments, undertook the task of constructing its own web site

(<http://www.ias-worldwide.org>)

which was launched on 15 August 1997. The planning and design for the site was done in-house. The IAS was one of the first OIC-institutions to launch such a site.

The aim of this very important activity is to provide information about the Academy, its Fellows, activities and publications to the scientific communities, scholars and the public at large.

Such a site would enable the Academy to increase its visibility, establish contact with a number of donor agencies and to interact more with Fellows and scientists throughout the world.

Part of the objective of the mission also is to join in the information effort undertaken by the Islamic Development Bank IDB, which has undertaken the task of creating the OICIS-NET.

The Academy has also been supported in this activity by the UNESCO, which has contributed to the overall budget of Information Technology Programme (ITP) of the Academy.

IAS has gained some considerable experience through the various information technology activities it has undertaken. IAS can contribute to the development of web pages for the various institutions it co-operates with and indeed is capable of contributing to the "OIC Web Park." The IAS at a meeting with the Islamic Development Bank proposed this idea. The IDB has been assigned the construction of the official OIC "skeleton" site.

At any rate, the Academy at present has two undertakings ready within its ITP. The first involves building an experts' database. The second

involves building a technical database of some selected research papers previously published by the Academy.

IAS has submitted a comprehensive proposal on this activity to the IDB, and hopes that the Bank would sponsor this pioneering undertaking. COMSTECH also might be another agency willing to co-finance this Academy mission. IAS strongly believes that IT in general and interest in particular would develop increased importance over the next few years.

Mini data-base on the web

A modest activity was launched by the IAS recently that involves publishing the abridged versions of the CVs of the Fellows of the Islamic Academy of Sciences on the web.

An average CV would include details of the career development of the Fellow, his/her six most important research papers as well as areas of academic interest.

This activity is aimed to be a model for the IAS and for other organizations that might publish such material on the Internet for it is concise, up-to-date, and quite useful for researchers and institutions.

Links Established

The IAS has always been eager to establish academic links with organizations and institutions of similar nature. The IAS believes that active co-operation between organizations is one sure way to implement effective programmes in a number of science and technology fields.

The IAS, in order to inter-link a number of organizations with which it is associated, has dedicated a links page on its web site. This enables visitors to the IAS page to visit a number of sites that could be of interest.

The IAS gradually plans to build up its own web site to include more information about itself, OIC scientists and institutions as well as research papers originating from OIC countries in the various disciplines.



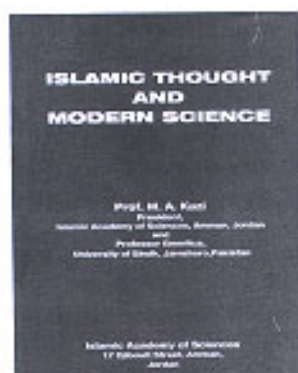
Dr M A Kazi, Founding President of IAS passes away

The Islamic Academy of Sciences had announced the passing away of Dr M A Kazi, who died in Karachi on 25 January 1999. The condolences of the Fellows and Council of the Academy were conveyed to the family of Dr Kazi in Karachi and the scientific community in Pakistan.

Dr Kazi became the first President of the Islamic Academy of Sciences in 1986, and was re-elected in 1990 and 1994. He was co-ordinator General, COMSTECH, until 1996. His tenure at COMSTECH, and as President, IAS, witnessed a surge in collective Islamic action in science and technology which resulted in the establishment of the institutional framework for action, and indeed in the adoption by many countries of S&T policies.

Dr Kazi was born on June 25, 1928. First a lecturer and Professor at Sind Government Science College, Karachi, from 1949 to 1955, he pursued a career as: Professor and Head of the Department of Chemistry, University of Sind (1955-1962); Professor and Director, Institute of Chemistry, University of Sind (1962-1972); Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, University of Sind (1972-1999); Secretary, Department of Education, Islamabad (1977-1980); Chairman, Pakistan Council of Science and Technology, Islamabad (1981-1989); Advisor to the President of Pakistan on Science and Technology (1980-1985); and Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Science and Technology (1985-1989).

He was a member and Vice-Chairman of the Scientific Council, Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD);



a member of the UN Advisory Committee for Science and Technology for Development; Chairman of the Executive Committee of the OIC Standing Committee on scientific and technological co-operation; President of the Pakistan Association of Scientists and Scientific Profession; President of the Pakistan Chemical Society; member of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Fellow of the Royal Chemical Society (London); Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences; Chairman of the Governing Board, Institute of Oceanography in Pakistan; past President of Pakistan Academy of Sciences (1978-1985), and President of the Islamic Academy of Sciences (1986-1999).

Dr Kazi, published more than 60 review papers, scientific and educational publications, popular articles and eight books—including a dictionary of technical terms. He was the Chief-Editor of Pakistan's "Science, Technology and Development" and "Science and Technology in the Muslim World."

Dr Kazi's last two books were "Islamic Thought and Modern Science," and "Qura'nic Concepts and Scientific Theories." Both were published by the Islamic Academy of Sciences and represent the personal appraisal of the author of the relationship between Islam and scientific issues of today's world.

Ninth IAS Conference concluded

The conclusion of the Ninth IAS Conference that was held at Tehran (Iran), marked a first for the Academy in more ways than one.

The conference was the first major activity by the IAS in Iran - the current chair-country of the OIC. It represented a timely opportunity for the hundred or so local and non-local participants to learn about science and technology activities in that country.

It was the first time too that IAS Fellows met the members of both the Iran Academy of Sciences and Iranian Academy of Medical Sciences who were quite active in the activity with a sizable academic contribution.

The meetings of both the Council and General Assembly of the Academy - convened along the conference - were quite successful. In the latter, the election of a new Academy Council took place and a new 11-member Council was acclaimed into office, for a four-year term of office.

Headed by Dr Abdel Salam Majali, who is a former Prime Minister of Jordan and an eminent international personality, the new Council can boast a wealth of experience and a seasoned approach in guiding the Academy over the next four years into maintaining its role as a "Think Tank" of the Ummah.

At the door-step of the new millenium: the facts

The Islamic World today is made up of 56 countries that are member of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), as well as sizable Islamic Communities in Europe and America.

The population of the Islamic World at present exceeds 1.2 billion. The contribution of this population to international material and scientific wealth is negligible.

The last thirty years, since the launch of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in actual fact, a lot has been done to catalyze scientific and technological development in our countries. Standing Committees and institutions were launched, plans developed, etc... Yet, only a few countries have been able to achieve a marked development in their science and technology status. For, although there was some efforts, it was mostly haphazard and ineffective.

We now stand at the door-step of a new century/millenium. We need to review what we have done and plan effectively for the immediate and short-term future, for the time has long gone where time was parameter of secondary importance.

The IAS realizes that there are many hurdles on the way towards OIC countries achieving a reasonable level of advancement in science and technology. The IAS knows that the culture of science cannot be built overnight. But it also knows that academic fora are there to stay and to cultivate and nourish interest in science and technology and to propagate S&T as an effective means for the achievement of socio-economic development.

Senegal Academy of Sciences launched

Senegal has become the latest OIC country to launch a national Academy of Sciences.

The Academy of Sciences and Techniques of Senegal was formally established on 23 November 1999 in an elegant ceremony held at the Palace of Conferences in Dakar (Senegal), and attended by a host of dignitaries including IAS President Majali and the IAS Director General, as well as Dr M H A Hassan FIAS and FTWAS.

The Islamic Academy of Sciences congratulated the scientific community of Senegal on this occasion and extends a note of greetings to Prof. Souleymane Niang FIAS, the Founding President of the Senegal Academy and to Prof. Ibrahim Mar Diop, the Founding Secretary General of that Academy.

IAS President Dr Majali and Council Member Dr Adnan Badran were both honoured at the official dinner held on the occasion and presented with the Order of the Lion, one of Senegal's highest civil awards.

ACADEMY FELLOWS HONOURED



Prof. Ibrahim Diop-Mar receives TWAS Award

IAS Vice-President and former Acting President was recently honoured in his country (Senegal) by the Third World Academy of Sciences.

Prof. Diop, who is a Founding Fellow of the Islamic Academy of Sciences, received the TWAS 1999 prize for outstanding scientific achievement in the field of Medicine.

Dr Diop is one of West Africa's most eminent medical doctors with an outstanding academic contribution to Tropical Medicine, and more than 300 medical publications on a number of topics.



Prof. Mustafa Doruk made Academic Senator

Prof. Mustafa Doruk FIAS, Turkey, has recently (November 1999) been made "Honorary Senator" of the Technical University Darmstadt (TUD), Germany.

The Senate of the TUD decided to award Prof. Doruk in recognition of his contribution to the establishment of scientific and institutional collaboration between Middle East Technical University (METU) and the TUD, that had started in 1981 and continued with the active exchange of scientists between the universities.

(Continued from page 1)

- The Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia;
- Organisation of Culture and Islamic Relations, Tehran, Iran;
- Technology Co-operation Office of the Presidency, Tehran, Iran;
- Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation, Tehran, Iran;
- (OIC) Ministerial Committee on Scientific and Technological Co-operation (COMSTECH), Islamabad, Pakistan;
- The World Bank, Washington DC, USA;
- The OPEC Fund for International Development, Vienna, Austria;
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Paris, France;
- Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), Rabat, Morocco;
- The Academy of Sciences, Tehran, Iran; and
- The Academy of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

At the conclusion of the conference, the Islamic Academy of Sciences published the Tehran Declaration on Science Education and Technology Management for Development in the Islamic World.



Dr Hameed A Khan honoured by TWAS

IAS Fellow and Director General of the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology, Dr Hameed Ahmed Khan, has recently received the 1999 TWAS Award for outstanding achievement in the field of Physics.

Dr Khan is a Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences and is a Laureate of Khawarizmi Prize, awarded to him in 1993. He also has more than 450 publications to his credit.



Honorary Doctorate for Prof. Qaim (Germany)

Prof. Dr Syed M Qaim, Head of the Division of "Nuclear Data and Radionuclide Production" in the Institute of Nuclear Chemistry of the Research Centre Julich, and Professor at the University of Koln, Germany, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Kossuth Lajos University, Debrecen, Hungary. The award was made on 3 November 1999 During a celebration which was held in connection with the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Faculty of Natural Sciences:

The declaration re-iterated the IAS's views on the need for countries to develop and upgrade their national science and technology policies, and incorporate science education elements into such policies.

Some specific recommendations concerning Medical Education were included in the final declaration which will be brought to the attention of relevant agencies in the Islamic World.

The declaration also carried the approval of the Academy of the proposal of the host country to establish a technology transfer centre, and a recommendation that such a proposal should be presented to the relevant OIC bodies for further action.

As part of the follow-up action, the Academy will publish the complete proceedings of the conference in a quality volume that will be distributed to the various OIC-countries and internationally.

Through IAS Fellows, personal contact and correspondence, the IAS will try to promote the ideas that were developed at the conference among the decision making circles of the Islamic World, and will provide whatever help it can to get the various recommendations implemented.

(Continued from Page 1)

He was Vice-Chairman, Board of Trustees, University of Jordan, 1980-1985, Chairman, University Council, United Nations University, Tokyo (Japan), 1977-1982, Member of the Executive Board of UNESCO, 1985-1990. He received several Honors and Awards including the Jordan Independence Medal, the Jordan Star Medal, the St. John of Jerusalem Medal, Distinction in Education Medal, etc.

Prof. Majali was appointed advisor to HM the late King of Jordan during the late eighties and served as Prime Minister of Jordan for two terms during 1990s, 1993-1995 and 1997-1998. He is currently a member of the Jordan Senate (1997).

Prof. Majali is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Jordan (1999) and President of the International Affairs Society (Jordan). He is a Founding Fellow of the Islamic Academy of Sciences, and IAS President (1999).

The General Assembly also elected Professors Iba Mar Diop (Senegal), Ali Kettani (Morocco) and MD Shami (Pakistan), as Vice-Presidents. Prof. Mehmet Ergin (Turkey) was elected Secretary General and Prof. Adnan Badran (Jordan) was elected Treasurer. Professors Naci Bor (Turkey), M H A Hassan (Sudan), S Z Haider (Bangladesh), N A Khan (Pakistan) and El-Naggar were the Council Members elected.



TWAS honours Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman (Pakistan)

Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman FIAS was recently honoured at the TWAS Meeting held at Dakar in November 1999, receiving the 1999 TWAS Prize for outstanding achievement in the field of Chemistry. He received his award from H E President Diouf of Senegal.

One of the most eminent scientists in Pakistan, Dr Rahman who is a UNESCO Science Prize Laureate, is Co-ordinator General COMSTECH, and Director of the famous HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry in Karachi (Pakistan). Rahman has over 450 publications to his credit including many books.



The Islamic Organization for Medical Sciences

Invites nominations for prizes to be awarded by

The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences

The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) has instituted two prizes to be awarded every alternate year to support and promote scientific research in the field of Islamic Medical Science in the following areas:

- 1- Medical Practice, addressing professional and well-documented clinical and laboratory experiments**
- 2- Appropriate documentation of Islamic Medical Heritage including Medical Islamic Jurisprudence.**

Nomination for the prizes are subject to the following:

- 1- Documents submitted to KFAS should be original, published and academically significant in the field of Islamic Medical Sciences.
- 2- Nominations proposed by universities, scientific institutes, international organizations, individuals, past recipients of the prize and academic bodies are invited.
- 3- Closing date for acceptance of Nominations and/or Application including Nominee's Curriculum Vitae and all supportive documentation is Dec. 31, 1999.

Each prize consists of a cash sum of K.D. 6,000/- (U.S.S 20,000/- approx.), a KFAS shield and a certificate of Recognition.

Winners will be invited to receive their prizes at the Prize Awarding Ceremony during the commencement of the Organization's Conference.

Mailing Address:

Director General

Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences

P O Box 25263, Safat - 13113, Kuwait

Tel: +9652429780/ Fax: +965-2403891

Email: prize@kfas.org.kw

Overview 2000 published

The Secretariat of the Islamic Academy of Sciences has recently published the IAS's equivalent of an annual report - the publication called Overview 2000.

This year's edition was published in 150-page medium-sized book which was divided into three parts (Arabic, English and French).

An attempt was made to make the *Overview* as detailed and as comprehensive as possible, in order to make the reader aware of the activities of the Academy as well as its programme of action. Appendixes were added to the latest edition - which was indexed by the Jordan National Library - that included a list of the Patrons, Fellows, Honorary Fellows, Council Members and Executive Staff as well as Standing Committees of the Academy.



Prof. Muhammad Asghar FIAS

Dr Asghar was born on 7 June 1936 in Pakistan. He is married with one child.

Dr Asghar was awarded a BSc (1956) and LLB (1960) degrees from the University of Punjab. He obtained his DPhil from the University of Oxford in 1964. The title of his Doctorate thesis was "Investigation of nuclear energy levels using photo neutrons."

After spending about 3 years at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Nilore (PINSTECH, Pakistan), Harwell (UK), and Saclay (France), Dr Asghar joined the University of Bordeaux (France), as an associate professor (1968-1971).

He worked as a Physicist, Institute Laue-Langevin, Grenoble, France (1971-1978) at CCR Euratom, Ispra, Italy (1978-1980), at CEN, Grenoble, France (1980-1981) and as a Professor of Physics at Houari Boumedienne University in Algiers, Algeria (1981-1994). Since 1994, he has been at the Institute of Nuclear Sciences at Grenoble, France.

Of the responsibilities he undertook was the supervision and installation of experimental set-ups at the Laue-Langevin Institute (ILL), Grenoble, France, and the establishment of the research programme at the CEA, Algiers, Algeria.

As well as directing the thesis work of about 20 PhD students at the University of Bordeaux, Grenoble and Algiers, Dr Asghar authored about 190 research papers.

Prof. Asghar present specific fields of scientific interest are: 1. Low energy nuclear physics; production and study of radioactive nuclei along with radioactive secondary beams; 2. New and safer ways of producing nuclear energy and the treatment of nuclear waste produced by the existing power reactors; 3. Development of new detection systems;



Prof. Farouk El-Baz FIAS

Dr Farouk El-Baz is a Research Professor and Director of the Center for Remote Sensing at Boston University. He received a BSc degree (1958) in chemistry and geology from Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt; an MS degree (1961); and a PhD degree (1964) both in geology and both from the University of Missouri-Rolla. He taught geology at Assiut University, Egypt (1958-1960), and at the University of Heidelberg, Germany (1964-1966). In 1989, he received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the New England College, Henniker, New Hampshire, USA.

He participated in the Apollo program from 1967 to 1972 as Supervisor of Lunar Science and of Lunar Exploration at Bellcomm Inc., Bell Laboratories, Washington DC. During these six years, he was secretary of the site selection committee for NASA's Apollo lunar landings, chairman of the astronaut training group, and principal investigator for visual observations and photography, 1973-1983. He established and directed the Center for Earth and Planetary Studies at the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC.

Dr El-Baz has received many honors and awards including: NASA's Apollo Achievement Award, Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal and Special Recognition Award; the Certificate of Merit of the World Aerospace Education Organization; and the Arab Republic of Egypt Order of Merit - First Class. He also received the 1992 Award for Public Understanding of Science and Technology of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr Farouk El-Baz was elected a Fellow of the IAS in 1998.



Prof. Anwar Nasim FIAS

Prof. Nasim was born on 7 December 1935. He was elected to the Fellowship of the Islamic Academy of Sciences in 1998.

Prof. Nasim obtained his MSc in Botany from the University of Punjab, Pakistan, 1957, and his PhD in Biochemical Genetics from the University of Edinburgh, UK, in 1966.

He was appointed Advisor (Science), COMSTECH, in August 1996, after working for two years as Executive Secretary, Pakistan Academy of Sciences (1994-1996).

Prior to that, Prof. Nasim was Principal Scientist and Head, Molecular Genetics Group, Biology and Medical Research Department, King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (1989-1993), and Senior Research Officer, National Research Council of Canada (1973-1989).

Prof. Nasim's teaching experience includes a tenure as a Lecturer, Government College, Multan and Lahore (1957-1962), Adjunct Professor, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada (1984-1989), and University of Ottawa, Canada (1983-1989).

Prof. Nasim has more than one hundred scientific papers to his credit, and is the awardee of the Civil Award "Pride of Performance" in Molecular Genetics (1995) by the President of Pakistan, and the award for outstanding service (1995) of the Overseas Pakistanis Institute.

He is a Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences (1987), and Foreign Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (1988).



Prof. Faramaz Maksudov FIAS

Prof. Faramaz Gazanfaroglu Maksudov was born on March 20, 1930 in Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan.

In 1949 he joined the physico-mathematical faculty of Azerbaijan State University which is named after Kirov and graduated in 1954. In 1954 he was admitted to the post-graduate course at the Institute of Physics and Mathematics, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences. In the same year, he started working at the Institute of Physics and Mathematics as a junior research worker. In 1959 he defended a thesis for a candidate's degree. In 1960 he was selected to the post of senior research worker in the department of Functional Analysis, Institute of Mathematics and Mechanics of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences. From September 1964 he held the post of assistant director.

In April 1974 he defended a thesis for a Doctor's degree. From March 1974 he held a post of director, Institute of Mathematics and Mechanics of Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences. In 1976 he became a full professor and was selected as a corresponding member of Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences and in 1980, he was selected Member of Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences.

Prof. Maksudov was elected to parliament in Azerbaijan in 1995, and in 1997 he became President of the Azerbaijan Republic Academy of Sciences. In February 1998 he was declared one of the winners of the 1997 Islamic Academy of Sciences Fellowship Elections. In 1998 he was also selected as a vice-chairman of the Azerbaijan-American Educational, Cultural and Economical Center.

Prof. Maksudov has over 200 papers to his credit, 12 books and 10 monographs, and 17 of his works were patented outside Azerbaijan.

The Islamic Academy of Sciences (IAS)

The IAS is an independent, non-political, non-government and non-profit making organization of distinguished scientists and technologists dedicated to the promotion of all aspects of science and technology in the Islamic World.

The establishment of the Islamic Academy of Sciences IAS was recommended by the Organization of Islamic Conference; OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Co-operation COMSTECH, and subsequently approved by the Fourth Islamic Summit held at Casablanca in 1984. The Founding Conference of the Academy was held in Jordan in October 1986.

The government of Jordan graciously hosts the IAS at Amman where the headquarters of the Academy started functioning in April 1987.

The main objectives of the Academy are:

- *To serve as a consultative organizations of the Islamic Ummah and institutions in the field of science and technology;*
- *To initiate science and technology programmes and formulate standards of scientific performance;*
- *To promote research on major problems facing the Islamic countries and to identify future technologies of relevance for possible adoption and utilization; and*
- *To formulate standards of scientific performance and attainment, and to award prizes and honours for outstanding scientific achievements to centres of excellence in all science and technology disciplines.*

IAS Newsletter

Published in English by the Islamic Academy of Sciences.

Chief Editor: Moneef R Zou'bi

Editorial Assistant: Najwa F Daghestani

The Editorial Board welcomes all articles, particularly short ones, and would consider the appropriateness of any material submitted for publication in accordance with IAS's own regulations.

Correspondence:

Islamic Academy of Sciences

PO Box 830036 Zahran

Amman 11183 - Jordan.

الأكاديمية الإسلامية للعلوم

ص. ب ٨٣٠٠٣٦

عمان ١١١٨٣، المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية.

Djibouti Street- Sixth Circle
Telephone: 5522104, 5523385
Fax: 962-6-5511803

E-mail: ias@go.com.jo

secretariat@ias-worldwide.org

<http://www.ias-worldwide.org>

Copyright © IAS, 2000, All rights reserved.

IAS-N22-00



Academy Journal on the Web

The Journal of the Islamic Academy of Sciences is its main regular publication. It provides a medium through which OIC scientists can get their research papers published.

The Journal was originally launched as a general science journal catering for scientists and researchers throughout the Islamic World. Over the years, it was noted that the number of medical papers submitted to the Journal far exceeded the number of papers in any other discipline. That encouraged the Council of the Academy to re-launch the Journal as a specialised medical publication.

The Journal is supported by Dr Enver Oren, Hon. FIAS, who offered to have the Journal printed at his company's printing press and provide the paper.

The Council of the Academy, at its Twenty-Fourth meeting, approved the re-launching the Journal as a specialized medical one. The Chief Editor has taken steps over the last few months to achieve this objective.

Since that meeting too, the Chief Editor has launched the Internet-based version of the Journal under the Internet Address of (<http://www.islamicmedicine.com>).

The site is both elegant and informative, and its presence on the Internet represents a qualitative leap forward for the Academy, and its Journal.

Starting 1 October 1999, an Internet link was established between the Web site of the Academy and that of the Journal, to enable visitors to the Academy's web page to review the articles published in the Journal.

The latest issue of the Journal to be published was a double-issue encompassing Volume 9 Numbers 1-4 and Volume 10 Numbers 1-4.



Abdul Rahman Ibn Khaldun (1332-1395 CE)

Abdul Rahman Ibn Mohammad is generally known as Ibn Khaldun after a remote ancestor. He was born in Tunisia in 1332 AD, where he received his early education.

Ibn Khaldun's chief contribution lies in the philosophy of history and sociology. He sought to write a world history preambled by a first volume that aimed at an analysis of historical events. This volume later became to be known "Al-Muqaddimah" or "Prolegomena," which was considered by the Plough and Kolosis as superior in scholarship to Machiavelli's "The Prince."

The chief concern of this monumental work was to identify psychological, economic, environmental and social facts that contribute to the advancement of human civilisation and the currents of history. In this context, Ibn Khaldun analysed the dynamics of group relationships and showed how group feelings, *al-'Asabiyya* give rise to the ascent of a new civilisation and political power and how, later on, its diffusion into a more general civilisation invites the advent of a still new *'Asabiyya* in its pristine form. He identified an almost rhythmic repetition of rise and fall in human civilisation, and analysed factors contributing to it. His contribution to history is marked by the fact that, unlike almost all earlier writers interpreting history largely in a political context, he emphasised environmental, sociological, psychological and economic factors governing the apparent events. This revolutionised the science of history and also laid the foundation of *Umraniyyat* (Sociology).

(Taken from: Personalities Noble, National Science Council of Pakistan, edited by Hakim Mohammad Said).