ISLAMIC ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
Newsletter

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Sarawak to host 13th IAS Conference on *Energy for Sustainable Development* and *Science for the Future of the Islamic World and Humanity*

H E Dr Abdul Taib Mahmud

The Islamic Academy of Sciences (IAS), is one of 90 similar organisations or academies of sciences that work towards the promotion of science and scientific activities, at the national, regional and international levels. The IAS's "catchment" area comprises the 57 member countries of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

For 2003, the Chief Minister of the Malaysian State of Sarawak extended an invitation to the IAS to convene its thirteenth conference in Kuching, Sarawak, during 29 September – 2 October 2003.

The conference will be under the patronage of the Rt. Hon. Chief Minister of Sarawak Dr Abdul Taib Mahmud, Honorary Fellow, IAS.

It will address the themes of *Energy for Sustainable Development* and *Science for the Future of the Islamic World and Humanity*, and forms part of the IAS's efforts to address serious contemporary issues facing OIC and developing countries.

The IAS has long believed that sustainable development provides the only practicable way forward if our world's peoples are to live in harmony with each other. Access to affordable and reliable energy, drawn from environmentally acceptable sources of supply, is an important feature of sustainable development. Renewable energy sources and technologies provide a virtually infinite supply and environmental compatibility with sustainable development.

OIC-member countries naturally vary in their energy and sustainability outlook. Some have developed a vision that interlinks their energy future to their sustainable development outlook. Others, due to the abundance of their natural energy resources, have not given due priority to this issue.

The Islamic Academy of Sciences, cognizant of its policy-making role in trying to bring such problems to the attention of the OIC leaders and decision-makers, and realising the need to address such issues, hopes that this conference would bring back the issue of Energy for Development again to the forefront.

The IAS has moreover long realised that science is a major asset of humanity. An asset that in the 21st century faces new challenges as well as old ones. Challenges related to justice, tolerance, dialogue between civilisations, peace, and sustainable development.

At this conference, the IAS will try to freshly 'take-stock' of how science and scientific activities can and must be viewed in the light of the major international events that have swept through the world since the turn of the millennium. Perhaps it can set the scene for the ensuing dialogue that would follow on the new roles and challenges of knowledge in the global society.

The conference, as with most IAS activities, will primarily be an S&T platform. It will appraise a number of facets of the OIC member countries' energy scene. It will attempt to define the energy priorities for OIC member countries and project energy success stories in the various parts of the world., and study some energy research activities currently undertaken in the various OIC countries.

(Continued on page 2)

H M King Abdullah II

IAS receives Jordan grant

The Islamic Academy of Sciences has recently received the annual grant of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for 2003.

The grant which is allocated to cover the local expenses of the IAS Amman Secretariat, has been provided by Jordan annually ever since the Academy was founded in 1986, and reflects the commitment that His Majesty King Abdullah II (pictured above) and the government of Jordan have to supporting the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and its various off-shoot organisations. This support has often been re-iterated at the various OIC meetings.

It is worth noting that Jordan is one of a number of countries that actually includes international financial contributions in its national budget, thus facilitating the release of grants to recipients once the budget is approved by parliament.

IAS President and IAS Director General of the Academy have communicated their thanks to H E Dr Marwan Mo'asher, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan, and H E Dr Michel Marto, the Minister of Finance, who have instructed the release of the grant.

(Continued from page 1)

The conference will invariably attempt to interlink development in the energy sector to developments in the broader S&T sectors in the various countries.

The 13th IAS Conference is designed to be an open forum that brings together those working in energy policy development, academia, environmental policy, or involved in the political decision-making level, as well as to academics in the various pure science disciplines. It is a platform designed to facilitate the free exchange of views among experts on Energy.

The conference, through encompassing lectures by eminent world scientists including Nobel Laureates, will evolve into lively intellectual exercise and provide a unique opportunity for much needed, genuine debate and lasting interaction among the scientists attending and between them and the world science community.

Around 250-400 participants are expected to attend this international activity including around 100 IAS Fellows and invited speakers from outside Malaysia. Academics, decision-makers, scientists, researchers, and students from Sarawak and Malaysia will also attend.

It is expected that thirty papers will be presented at the conference.

Free-Submission papers and poster presentations are welcome, and will be distributed at the conference. Depending on the availability of time, some papers under this category might be allocated presentation time (10 minutes each), and subsequently included in the Conference Proceedings book.

CONFERENCE TOPICS AND SPEAKERS

- *The Nitric Oxide/Cyclic GMP Pathway: Targets for Drug Development*, Prof. Ferid Murad, **USA.**
- *Wind Energy for the Future*, Prof. Preben Maegaard, **Germany.**
- *Science and the Future of Humanity*, Dr Michael Clegg, **USA.**
- *Sustainable Energy Development in Islamic Countries*, Prof. Naim Afgan FIAS, **Bosnia-Herzegovina.**
- *Sustainable Use of Biomass Energy in Turkey*, Prof. Mehmet Ergin FIAS, Prof. Munir Ozturk FIAS, and Dr Mahir Kucuk, **Turkey.**
- *Sustainable Forest Management: An Update*, Dr Salleh Nor, **Malaysia**.
- *Nuclear Energy for the Future*, Dr Iqbal Hussain Qureshi, **Pakistan.**
- *Nuclear Power and the Environment: Prospects and Challenges*, Dr Samia Rashad, **Egypt.**
- *The Role of Small and Medium Sized Reactors in Developing Countries*, Dr Resat Uzman, **Turkey.**
- *Energy Policy Implications: The Turkish Experience*, Prof. Korkut Ozal FIAS, **Turkey.**
- *Energy Strategies for the Islamic World*, Prof. Ishfaq Ahmad FIAS, **Pakistan.**
- *Development of the Natural Gas Industry in Qatar*, Prof. Ibrahim Al-Naimi FIAS, **Qatar.**
- *Contemporary Problems and Achievements in Desulfurization of Oil, Gas, Petrolum Products and Waste Waters*, Prof. A Mazgarov FIAS, **Russia.**
- *Energy Research for Development: Petroleum Exploration in the Senegal Basin*, Prof. Oussayno U Fall Dia FIAS, **Senegal.**
- *Towards New Energy for Sustainability: The Strategy in Iceland*, Prof. Bragi Arnason and Prof. Thorstein I Sigfusson, **Iceland.**
- *Ecology, Sustainability and Stewardship*, Prof. Munir Ozturk FIAS, Prof. Mehmet Ergin FIAS and Dr Eren Akcicek, **Turkey.**
- *Nematodes as Limiting Factors in Agricultural Productivity*, Prof. Mohammad Shamim Jairajpuri FIAS, **India.**
- *Medicine and the Future of Mankind*, Prof. Ugur Dilmen FIAS, **Turkey.**
- *Ground rules for Gaintful Interaction between Science and (Revealed) Religion for the Future of Humanity*, Prof. Mazhar Mahmood Qurashi FIAS, **Pakistan.**
- *Future Science Needs: A more Comprehensive Framework*, Prof. Mehdi Golshani FIAS, **Iran.**
- *Harnessing Science and Technology for Development in the K-Economy*, Prof. Omar Abdul Rahman FIAS, **Malaysia.**
- *Science Education to Bridge Cultures*, Dr Madame Beatrice Descamps-Latscha, **France.**
- *Science, Technology and Mathematics Education for Human Development, Dr John Webb*, **Australia.**
- *Capacity Building in Science and Technology in the Arab Region*, Prof. Adnan Badran Fias, **Jordan.**
- *Science and Technology Scene in the State of Sarawak, Malaysia*, Dr James D Mamit, **Malaysia.**
- *Science for the Future of the Islamic World and Humanity*, Prof. Ahmad S Islam and Farhan Khan, **USA.**
- *Medical Plants Importance in Health and Economy* Prof. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary FIAS, **Pakistan.**
- *Nobel Laureates' Interaction with the Young Hopefuls: A Unique Annual Event in Lindau*, Prof. Noor Mohammad Butt FIAS, **Pakistan.**

Prof. Mohamed Kamel passes away

It is with a sense of sadness and sorrow that the Secretariat of the IAS in Amman, Jordan, announces the passing away of Prof. Mohamed Kamel Mahmoud, Founding Fellow and former Vice-President of the Islamic Academy of Sciences; former President of the National Research Centre, Egypt; and former President of the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, Cairo, Egypt.

Prof. Mahmoud passed away on 17 June 2003 in Cairo, Egypt. He was 77.

He will be greatly missed by all his colleagues and associates in Egypt and the Islamic world.

Ina Lillah Wa Inna Ilaihi Raji'oon.

إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

A Profile of a Noble Laureate: Ferid Murad, Hon. FIAS

Prof. Ferid Murad, born in the US, son of an Albanian Moslem immigrant father and an American Baptist mother, was awarded the Nobel prize in Medicine in 1998. He received his MD Degree in 1965 from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, from which he also received a PhD in Pharmacology that same year. Among other awards/honors that Dr Murad has earned are the Ciba Award - American Heart Assoc. (1988); NIDDK Bd. of Scientific Counselors (1990-1994) (Chairman, 1993-1994); Lasker Award for Basic Research (1996); Member National Academy of Sciences (1997); Member Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences (1998). He is the author/co-author of some 350 medical/scientific publications.

Dr. Ferid Murad, chairman of the department of integrative biology and pharmacology at the University of Texas (Houston) Medical School, had received the Nobel prize along with Robert Furchgott of the State University of New York and Louis Ignarro of the University of Californa at Los Angeles.

All three, working independently have spent decades conducting basic research on nitric oxide (NO). Not only did their discoveries lead to the use of Viagra for treating impotence, they have now found that NO - which in minute quantities acts as the body's most important signaling molecule - is profoundly involved in blood pressure, heart function, infections, lung problems, and the defense of the body against tumors, as well as having the potential to treat disease.

Murad, whose university houses the largest medical research institution in the world, noted that NO has the ability to dilate blood vessels and relax smooth muscle tissue; this led to its application in the anti-impotence pill (Viagra). But he also predicted that NO will be relevant in the fight against cancer, Alzeimer's disease, heart disease and many other conditions.

Although researchers have long known various details about NO, in 1977, Murad discovered that nitroglycarin pills - used by heart patients for a century – work because they release NO. The colorless, odorless gas signals blood vessels to relax, which lowers blood pressure and relieves the pain of angina pectoris. "For years, colleagues said I was crazy to invest so much time and effort in NO," Murad recalled. "But I was certain right from the beginning."

Ironically, Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite (a product in which the explosion-prone nitroglycarin is curbed by being absorbed in a porous soil) became ill with heart disease, and his doctor prescribed nitroglycarin. Nobel refused to take it, knowing that it caused headache and dismissing the possibility that it could eliminate chest pain.

EDITORIAL LETTER

Academy of Sciences: Defining Principles I

What is an academy? Definitions vary widely: from a school devoted to such specialized training as art or music; to an intellectual retreat resonating the ambiance of Plato's ancient garden near Athens; to a non-descript brick grammar school building in Scotland.

Not surprisingly, diverse images of academies are accompanied by varied perceptions of what they represent. In many parts of the developing world, for instance, academies carry a military connotation largely due to the fact that many of the United Kingdom's generals who oversaw the nation's 19th century empire were educated at the Sandhurst Royal Military Academy in England. More recently, the word academy has gained a 'star-struck' Hollywood image due to the Oscars that are awarded by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in the United States each year.

Yet for all the assorted definitions and perceptions of an 'academy,' the one that often draws the most puzzled look is the academy of sciences. Is an academy of sciences a primary or secondary school? A university? A specialized training institute? A policy research centre? A think tank? All of the above? None of the above?

The truth is that even in countries with strong science academies only an enlightened few know what an academy of sciences is and what it does. And, in developing countries, where sciences academies often have much less visibility, the institutions remain virtually unknown.

Indeed, in much of the South, political leaders – the very people needed to ensure the success of sciences academies – often remain unaware of the potential role that these institutions can play in their nations. In fact, the development and success of academies of sciences, particularly youthful academies in developing countries, usually depends on the political support and patronage of high level political officials. History shows that it is often the head of state who determines whether an academy gains stature in the policymaking arena or languishes in obscurity.

Some of the most successful academies in the developing world – for example, in Brazil, and Korea – owe their success to strong and sustained financial support from the government matched by the government's willingness to detach itself from influencing academy affairs. Such a strategy has allowed these academies to enjoy both adequate levels of funding and independence. Academies prosper in such an open environment while governments benefit from the objective and unbiased advice that they receive from expert institutions that they have decided to fund but not control.

Moneef R Zou'bi, Director General, IAS

الأكاديمية الإسلامية للعلوم

الأكاديمية الإسلامية للعلوم مؤسسة مستقلة، غير سياسية، غير حكومية، وغير ربحية، تضم زملاء (أعضاء) مؤسسون ومنتخبون يمثلون المجتمع العلمي الإسلامي المبدع في شتى مناطق ودول العالم. تهدف الأكاديمية إلى الارتقاء بمناخ العلوم والتكنولوجيا المختلفة في العالم الإسلامي.

جاء تأسيس الأكاديمية بناء على توصية تقدمت بها اللجنة الدائمة للتعاون العلمي والتكنولوجي (COMSTECH) إلى مؤتمر القمة الإسلامي الرابع، الذي عقد في الدار البيضاء عام ١٩٨٤، حيث تم إقرار هذه التوصية.

إثر دعوة من حكومة المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية وبرعاية كريمة من صاحب السمو الملكي الأمير الحسن بن طلال، عقد المؤتمر التأسيسي للأكاديمية في شهر تشرين أول (أكتوبر) ١٩٨٦، بمشاركة شخصيات بارزة من دول إسلامية مختلفة تمت دعوتهم من قبل المؤسسات المنظمة للمؤتمر ليكونوا زملاء مؤسسين للأكاديمية.

أما الأهداف الرئيسية للأكاديمية فهي:

- تقديم النصح والمشورة إلى الأمة الإسلامية ومؤسسات الدول الأعضاء في منظمة المؤتمر الإسلامي، حول أمور تتعلق بالعلوم والتكنولوجيا وتطبيقاتها.
- تنفيذ برامج ونشاطات علمية وتكنولوجية، وتشجيع التعاون بين الباحثين في البلدان الإسلامية المختلفة حول مشاريع ذات أهمية مشتركة.
- تشجيع ودعم البحث العلمي حول أهم المشاكل التي تواجه البلدان الإسلامية، وتحديد التكنولوجيات المستقبلية الملائمة لغايات تبنيها واستخدامها.
- صياغة مقاييس للإنجاز والتحصيل العلمي، ومنح الجوائز والأوسمة للإنجازات العلمية المتميزة، بغية تطوير مراكز الإبداع في فروع العلوم المختلفة وتحفيز المبدعين.

نشرة الأكاديمية الإسلامية للعلوم

نشرة دورية تصدرها الأمانة العامة للأكاديمية الإسلامية للعلوم، عمان، الأردن.

رئيس التحرير: المهندس منيف رافع الزعبي، مدير عام الأكاديمية الإسلامية للعلوم.

مساعد التحرير: لينا جلال عارف، مسؤول برامج.

ترحب لجنة التحرير بكل المقالات، وخصوصاً القصيرة منها، وللجنة الحق في تقرير مدى ملائمة المقالات المقدمة للنشر وفقاً لتعليمات الأكاديمية.

العنوان البريدي
الأكاديمية الإسلامية للعلوم
ص. ب. ٨٣٠٠٣٦
عمان ١١١٨٣
المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية.

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الموقع على الإنترنت: http://www.ias-worldwide.org

IAS participates in InterAcademy Panel Seminar and Workshop in Trieste, Italy

The InterAcademy Panel (IAP) organised a workshop on *Capacity Building for Academies with Predominantly Muslim Communities* and a Symposium on *Science, Religion and Values*, during 5-7 March 2003, at the Adriatico Guest House, which is part of the setup of the International Centre of Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy.

The aim of the workshop was to bring together the presidents of sciences academies and decision-makers responsible for science and technology from 15 countries with predominantly Muslim communities to present and discuss the structure and functions of their academies of sciences and the ways and means of developing their capacities to fulfill their basic mission, including the provision of independent advice to governments.

The workshop provided an opportunity for a number of eminent scientists from Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, France, the US, Italy, the Emirates, Kazakhstan as well as Tajikistan; as well representatives of science academies and NGOs to meet and discuss ideas and programmes of general interest.

Dr A S Majali, IAS President, presented a statement at the workshop on the S&T scene in Jordan that underlined the role played by the HCST in streamlining the various S&T efforts taking place in the country. Another statement was presented that described the Islamic S&T scene and highlighted courses of action that could be taken by Islamic and developing countries to enhance S&T utilisation to achieve socio-economic development in their respective catchment areas.

Following extensive consultations with other OIC participants in the workshop, the IAS proposed that the term 'countries of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC)' to be used to describe countries with predominantly Muslim populations, adding that the OIC is a fully fledged international political setup in which 57 countries are member.

During the various discussions, the IAS promoted the idea that academies in OIC countries should further interact with their counter parts in Europe and the US, and not be inward or regional looking in their approach. That point was particularly well received by the presidents or representatives of a number of well-established academies who, during the meeting, presented the structure and functions of their academies and shared their experiences.

The topics of education, science education, and private university education were extensively discussed at various points during the workshop, with participants expressing their admiration of the Jordanian experience in all three spheres.

The workshop was followed by a one-day symposium that examined the intricate relationship between science, religion and values that has always been a driving force both within and among civilizations. The symposium addressed the important role of academies in promoting a culture of excellence in science as an integral part of the cultural values of societies.

The events were organized by the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues (IAP), in collaboration with the US National Academy of Sciences (US NAS), Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Organization of Islamic Conference Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS).

The workshop and the symposium were co-sponsored by US NAS, ISESCO, COMSTECH and TWAS.

Useful Web Sites

Islamic Academy of Sciences	www.ias-worldwide.org
COMSTECH	www.comstech.org.pk
Islamic Development Bank (IDB)	www.isdb.org
Medical Journal of the IAS	www.medicaljournal-ias.org
OICexchange	www.oicexchange.com
SESRTCIC	www.sesrtcic.org
ISESCO	www.isesco.org.ma

IAS Ibrahim Memorial Award 2004

Call for Nominations

The Islamic Academy of Sciences, Amman, Jordan, has instituted an Award in the name of one its Founding Fellows, the late Prof. Muhammad Ibrahim (1911-1988), who was an eminent medical doctor from Bangladesh. Prof. Ibrahim dedicated a great deal of time and effort to medical research that proved to be of benefit and value in his country and internationally.

The purpose of this Award is to promote scientific research in the field of medicine and medical sciences in the various countries that belong to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Faculties and Schools of Medicine at universities, Academies of Sciences and other learned societies as well as private sector institutions are invited to nominate young scientists and technologists working in the medical field, for this Award.

Deadline for receiving nominations is 15 June 2004.

IAS Ibrahim Memorial Award 2004

The Awardee would be invited to the end of year conference of the IAS, where he/she would be presented with a commemorative medal and/or shield, and a compilation of IAS literature.

Travel expenses of Awardee would be covered from the Award Fund and by the Academy.

A token honorarium would be presented to the Awardee.

Contact: IAS Secretariat
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E-mail: ias@go.com.jo

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, 2005.

Each prize consists of a cash sum of K.D. 6,000/-(U.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.

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Prof. Ahmed A Azad
(Australia/South Africa)

Dr Azad obtained his BSc in Biochemistry in 1967; MSc in Biochemistry in 1968, both from Dhaka University. He then did a PhD in Molecular Biology/Biochemistry in 1973 at the University of Toronto. He obtained excellence awards throughout his academic studies.

His areas of expertise include all aspects of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering including Nucleic Acid and Protein Biochemistry; Molecular Biology; Recombinant DNA Technology; Structural Biology; Vaccine Development; Discovery and Rational Design of Drugs.

Dr Azad has 30 years of research experience in theoretical and applied biotechnology and in the biomedical applications of biochemistry and molecular biology. This has resulted in an extensive list of publications. The research projects he has been involved in include the role of ribosomal RNAs in protein synthesis, yeast and plant molecular genetics, and molecular studies of viruses such as influenza virus. This has been recognised by the award of the CSIRO Chairman's Gold Medal for Exceptional Achievement in 1997. Work in his laboratory on HIV pathogenesis has resulted in an understanding of the role of the viral accessory proteins in progression to AIDS.

He has over 120 publications in peer reviewed international journals and 7 Patent Applications of which 5 have already been granted.

Dr Azad played a major role in the introduction recombinant DNA technology and biotechnology to the Parkville laboratory of the CSIRO, and in infrastructure development, training of existing staff and recruitment of key staff.

Prof. Ahmed Azad was elected a Fellow of the Islamic Academy of Sciences in 2000.

Prof. Ibrahim Gamil Badran
(Egypt)

Prof. Ibrahim Badran was born in 1924, in Egypt.

He had his MBChB from Cairo University, Faculty of Medicine in 1947, and his MCh & MD from Cairo University in 1951.

Prof. Badran is one of the leading and eminent surgeons and he is known as the father of surgery in Egypt. He has been a University Professor and Chairman of Surgery Department, Cairo University since 1966, President of the University, 1978-1980.

He served as the Egyptian Minister of Health (1976-1978).

He was the President of the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (1980-1984), Chairman of the Specialized Research Council of Medical Sciences since 1984, Chairman of National Social Services Council since 1996, member of Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs, member of Islamic Research Organisation, Al-Azhar, since 1995, Medical Consultant of WHO, member of the board of governors of the Islamic Medicine Organisation, Fellow of Royal Society of Medicine, Chairman of the Specialized National Council for Medicine in Egypt.

He were awarded the Republic Order, First Grade, Egypt, 1983; Honourable Order, France, 1983. Order of Recognition, First Grade, Egypt 1985.

Prof. Badran was awarded Honorary Doctorates from Menoufia University, 1983; Honorary Doctorate from American University in Cairo, 1988; and became Honorary Fellow of the World Surgeons Faculty, 1990.

He is author of 7 books dealing with health policy in Egypt, future of scientific research, development of university education and development of human resources.

Prof. Badran has 120 scientific papers in surgery and articles in different medical and social disciplines.

Prof. Badran was elected as a Fellow of the IAS in 2001.

Prof. Syed Muhammed Qaim
(Germany)

Prof. Qaim was elected to the Fellowship of the IAS in 1994. He is married with one son. He is a German National of Pakistani origin.

Dr Qaim obtained his BSc from Punjab University in Lahore (1958), MSc from the same university (1961), PhD from Liverpool University (1964), DSc in Applied Nuclear Chemistry from Birmingham University (1977) and a Habilitation Certificate from Koln University (1993).

Dr Qaim has been working at the Research Centre, Julich, Germany, since 1970, successively holding the following positions: Scientist (1970-1975), Group Leader (1975-1985), Division Leader (1985-todate).

He was also selected as "Privatdozent" of Nuclear Chemistry at Koln University in 1993, and was awarded his professorship in 1997.

Prof. Qaim has over 240 research and review articles to his credit as well as several reports and books. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, London (1974) as well as being a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Physics, London (1974). He was elected a Foreign Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (1990) and undertook missions to Pakistan as a TOKTEN consultant in 1983, 1988 and 1994 and 1998. He is also Co-ordinating Editor of the international journal "Radiochimia Acta."

Moreover, Dr Qaim is the awardee of the *Romand Etovos* Medal of the Hungarian Physical Society (1988), and the Pergamon Press JARI Award (1990). He was made honorary citizen of the Kossuth University, Debreen, Hungary (1995).

Prof. Qaim was recently awarded with the high civil award of "Sitara-i-Imtiaz, " which was conferred on him by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (1999).

Prof. Muthana Shanshal
(Iraq)

Prof. Muthana Abdul-Jabbar Shanshal was born in Baghdad (Iraq), in 1943.

He commenced his university studies in Stuttgart (Germany) in 1960, and was awarded a doctorate in 1967. After some time in Austin (Texas), he returned to Stuttgart and was awarded a "Dr Habil" from his university.

He started lecturing at Baghdad University in 1973, and became a full professor in 1977, Head of the Chemistry Department in 1981, and Dean of College of Sciences in 1985. In 1988, he was appointed president of Saddam University of Science and Technology. A post he held until 1994, when he returned to the University of Baghdad.

Prof. Shanshal is member of international bodies including the International Academy of Theoretical Organic Chemistry in Toronto (Canada), since 1986.

He has been awarded at the national and international levels, receiving the "Prime Professor" award of the University of Baghdad.

Prof. Shanshal has edited books and participated in over 60 scientific conferences. He has supervised around 60 PhD and MSc students and published over 150 papers in international and national journals.

Dr Shanshal was elected a Fellow of the IAS in 2001.

Islamic Academy of Sciences (IAS)

The IAS is an independent, non-political, non-government and non-profit making organisation 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 was recommended by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference 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 hosts the IAS at Amman where the headquarters of the Academy started functioning in 1987.

The main objectives of the Academy are:

- *To serve as a consultative organisations 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 Islamic countries and to identify future technologies of relevance for possible adoption and utilisation; 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

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Chief Editor: Moneef R Zou'bi, Director General, IAS.

Editorial Assistant: Lina Jalal, Programme Officer, IAS.

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.

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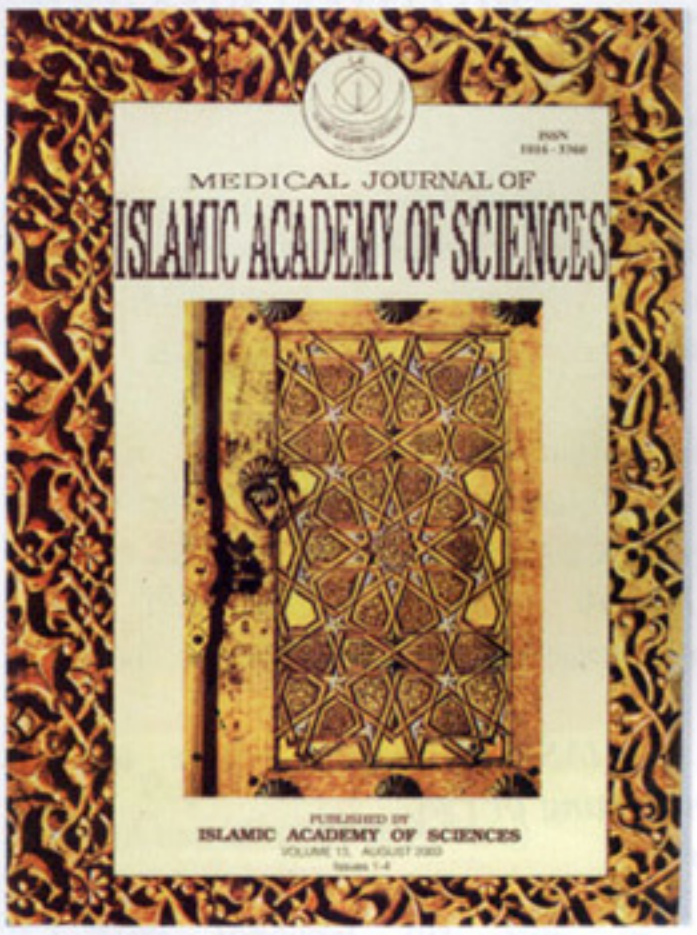

New issue of IAS Journal on the web

The Medical Journal of the Islamic Academy of Sciences is one of the IAS's main publications. Originally launched as a general science journal, it was recently re-launched as a specialised refereed medical publication.

The journal, which is edited and published by Prof. Naci Bor - IAS Fellow from Turkey - receives medical articles from many OIC countries as well as from scientists who are based in Europe and America.

The journal is published in both paper and electronic formats and has built up a wide readership since it was established in 1987.

Four issues of the Medical Journal of the IAS appear on the Internet; namely Volume 13, Number 1-4.

Volume 13 Number 4 carries five articles; a Biochemistry paper by Al-Ani, al-Samaraee, and Abdul-Razzak; a Pediatrics paper by Ghorashi, Ahari, Montazeri and Rad; a Proctology paper by Gupta; an Endocrinology paper by Javed, Almas, Cheema and Zahoor; and a Pharmacology paper by Al-Okabi, Ammar, Soroor and Mohammed.

The Journal's web address is www.medicaljournal-ias.org

The Journal's web page can also be viewed through a hyper-link through the Academy's web page.

The Journal's chief editor can be reached at the following address:

Prof. Naci Bor, Mithatpasa Caddesi 66/5, 06420 Yenisehir, Ankara, Turkey.

Muslim Scholars

JALAL AL-DIN RUMI
(1207-1273 AD)

Jalal al-Din Mohammad Ibn Mohammad Ibn Mohammad Ibn Hussain al-Rumi was born in 604 AH (1207/8 AD) at Balkh (now Afghanistan). His father was a renowned religious scholar. Under his patronage, Rumi received his early education from Syed Burhan-al-Din. When his age was about 18 years, the family settled at Konya (Turkey). At the age of 25, Rumi was sent to Aleppo for advanced education and later to Damascus. Rumi continued with his education till he was 40 years old, although on his father's death Rumi succeeded him as a professor in the famous *Madrasa* at Konya at the age of about 24. He received his mystical training first at the hands of Syed Burhan al-Din and later he was trained by Shams al-Din Tabrizi. He became famous for his mystical insight, his religious knowledge and as a Persian poet. He used to teach a large number of pupils at his *Madrasa* and also founded the famous Mawlawi Order in *Tasawwuf*. He died in 672 AH (1273 AD) at Konya, which subsequently became a sacred place for dancing dervishes of the Mawlawi Order.

His major contribution lies in Islamic philosophy and *Tasawwuf*. This was embodied largely in poetry, especially through his famous *Mathnawi*. This book, the largest mystical exposition in verse, discusses and offers solutions to many complicated problems in metaphysics, religion, ethics, mysticism, etc. Fundamentally, the *Mathnawi* highlights the various hidden aspects of Sufism and their relationship with the worldly life. For this, Rumi draws on a variety of subjects and derives numerous examples from everyday life. His main subject is the relationship between man and God on the one hand, and between man and man, on the other.

Apart from the *Mathnawi*, he also wrote his *Diwan* (collection of poems) and *Fih-Ma-Fih* (a collection of mystical sayings). However, it is the *Mathnawi* itself that has largely transmitted Rumi's message. Soon after its completion, other scholars started writing detailed commentaries on it, in order to interpret its rich propositions on *Tasawwuf*, metaphysics and ethics. Several commentaries in different languages have been written since then.

His impact on philosophy, literature, mysticism and culture, has been so deep throughout Central Asia and most Islamic countries that almost all religious scholars, mystics, philosophers, sociologists and others have referred to his verses during all these centuries since his death. Most difficult problems in these areas seemed to have inspired most of the intellectuals in Central Asia and adjoining areas since his time. Scholars like Iqbal have further developed Rumi's concepts. The *Mathnawi* became known as the interpretation of the Qur'an in the Pahlawi language. He is one of the few intellectuals and mystics whose views have so profoundly affected the world-view in its higher perspective in large parts of the Islamic World.

(Taken from: Personalities Noble, National Science Council of Pakistan, edited by Hakim Mohammad Said).
Second Revised Edition (English and Arabic). Published by the Islamic Academy of Sciences (2000).