

ISLAMIC WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Newsletter



September-October 2006

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15th IAS Conference

“Higher Education Excellence for Development in the Islamic World”
to be held in Ankara, 7-10 November 2006

Under the patronage of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, and upon the gracious invitation of Prof. Ihsan Dogramaci, Founder and Chairman of Bilkent University, Ankara (Turkey), the IAS will convene its 15th international conference at Bilkent University from 7-10 November 2006 on the topic of "Higher Education Excellence for Development in the Islamic World."

Mindful of the fact that very few universities in OIC member countries are ranked among the world's top 500 universities (source: Shanghai Jiao Tong University Survey 2005, and the Times Higher Education Supplement 2005), the IAS and Bilkent University have decided to lead an effort to appraise the performance of the higher education sector, particularly in member countries of the OIC but also in a number of other countries.

Apart from the intellectual value of the meeting, a possible plan of action would be drawn up, with the assistance of a number of international organisations, to identify 5-10 potentially leading universities in OIC countries. Contact would then be established with these institutions to identify their difficulties and to develop a workable strategy to get some or all into the top world ranking within a specified period of time.

The IAS Secretariat has been successful in inviting an array of world-class experts to participate in the upcoming conference, including Nobel Laureate (Chemistry) Prof. Richard Ernst (profile p. 5; the participation of whom was facilitated by Prof. N. M. Butt (FIAS Pakistan)), as well as speakers from the French, American, and Malaysian academies of sciences, and the International Conference on Higher Education (ICHE).



His Majesty King Abdullah II

IAS receives annual expenses grant from Jordan

The IAS Secretariat based in Amman (Jordan) recently has received Jordan's annual grant for 2006.

The grant, allocated to cover the local expenses of the Secretariat, has been provided by Jordan each year since the IAS was founded in 1986. It reflects the commitment that King Abdullah II and the government of Jordan have to supporting the OIC and its off-shoot organisations. This support has been reiterated often at various OIC meetings.

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

The IAS Director General has communicated the IAS' appreciation to H E Dr Ziad Fariz, Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and to H E Mr Abdelelah Al-Khatib, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who instructed the release of the grant.

IAS now affiliated formally to the OIC



Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu

Upon a proposal from Jordan and with the support of OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the Islamic Council of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) approved at its June 2006 meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, the formal affiliation of the IAS to the OIC system.

The establishment of the IAS – the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (formerly the Islamic Academy of Sciences) – was approved at the 1984 OIC Summit Conference following a proposal from COMSTECH (the OIC Ministerial Committee on Science and Technology) based in Islamabad, Pakistan. Previously, it was defined as a body within the larger OIC umbrella, but it lacked any further definitive status.

The IAS' newly-acquired formal status will provide it with better access to the OIC Summit and to OIC Heads of State, and will better reflect the now more-global focus of the IAS' activities. The ICFM's decision to grant this status to the IAS has satisfied also a long standing request in this regard from the government of Jordan.



Prof. Zohra Ben Lakhdar (FIAS Tunisia)
2005 L'Oreal UNESCO Laureate
in
Atomic and Molecular Physics

The IAS is proud to announce, after some modest networking by its Secretariat, that eminent FIAS (Tunisia) Prof. (Mrs) Zohra Ben Lakhdar recently was awarded the 2005 L'Oreal UNESCO Award. Prof. Ben Lakhdar received her award from DG-UNESCO Mr Koichiro Matsuura at a prestigious ceremony at UNESCO HQ Paris in March 2005.

Prof. Ben Lakhdar has furthered greatly the development of optics and photonics as a scientific discipline in Tunisia, and indeed in all of Africa. She has made a number of valuable contributions to optical science and its applications in many different areas - from the environment to biotechnology.

After her studies at the University of Tunis, she earned a PhD in Atomic Spectroscopy from the University of Paris VI. Although she could have remained in Europe, she chose to return to Tunisia where there were almost no scientific research facilities, and began to focus on purely theoretical research concerning molecular interactions. At the interface between physics and chemistry, atomic and molecular physics represent an essential field, especially for developing countries. One of Prof. Ben Lakhdar's main career objectives has been to carry out applied research to meet national needs in Tunisia. During her scientific career, she has developed advanced *ab initio* theoretical and experimental spectroscopic methods to study the influence of pollutants such as methane and metals on the quality of air, water, and plants. Her studies are important starting points for potential applications in a wide range of fields - from astrophysics to agriculture, medicine, pharmaceuticals, and the chemical industry. Given the absence of any astronomical observatories in Tunisia, theoretical scientific research is conducted on interstellar molecules and stellar plasmas.

At the University of Tunis, where she has been a Professor of Physics since 1978, she has served as Director of the Spectroscopy Laboratory and has supervised graduate and postgraduate students. She is a Founding Member and President of the Tunisian Optical Society. Since 2001, she has been a Senior Associate Member at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP).

Prof. Ben Lakhdar is the author of numerous papers in scientific journals and has contributed to several university textbooks. She has chaired international conferences in her field of specialization (atomic spectroscopy) and has organized many cooperation programmes with European laboratories. Most recently she chaired the Sixth International Workshop on Laser Physics and its Applications, held in Tunis.

She was elected an IAS Fellow in 1994.

IAS Ibrahim Memorial Award Laureate 2006
Dr Mohammad Abdollahi (Iran)



Born in 1965 in Rasht, Iran, Dr Abdollahi obtained his PharmD from the University of Tehran in 1988 and his PhD (Toxicology & Pharmacology) from the Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS) in 1994, and completed a fellowship in Biochemical/Molecular Toxicology from the University of Toronto (Canada) in 2001.

Upon earning his PhD, he joined the Faculty of Pharmacy at TUMS as an Instructor. In 1994 he became Assistant Professor, in 1998 Associate Professor, and in 2003 he became full Professor.

In 1988 Dr Abdollahi commenced research in the field of toxicology/pharmacology, and in his career to date has authored more than 165 papers. His research has focused on toxicity mechanisms at animal/human and in vitro/in vivo levels. He has also been instrumental in broadening access to the results of his research to health professionals and students by writing six practical books. He has supervised more than 100 PharmD students. He was the head of Tehran's Drug & Poison Information Centre from 1997 until 2002, and during this time was involved in establishing Drug & Poison Information Centres throughout Iran.

He has obtained many Iranian national awards for his efforts in education and research in the field of toxicology/pharmacology. Among these honours and awards is "Excellent Researcher" which is awarded by the Iranian President. He is a member of a number of notable professional associations such as the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology, and is on the editorial board of many international journals in his field. An updated biography may be found at the following web address: <http://www.tums.ac.ir/faculty/mohammad>.

The IAS Ibrahim Memorial Award was instituted in memory of one of the IAS' Founding Fellows, the late Prof. Muhammad Ibrahim (1911-1988), an eminent Bangladeshi medical doctor whose efforts in research were of benefit in Bangladesh and internationally. It is awarded each year to an outstanding young scientist/technologist working in the medical field in an IAS member country.

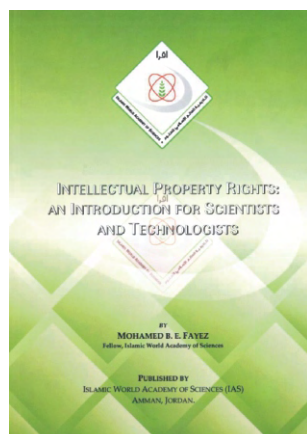


During the last 50 years, man has used twice as much energy than in all prior history of civilization. The Industrial Revolution, and the emergence of the fossil energy economy made available power for the steam engine, which replaced human and animal labour and led to the launch of steam ships and thus the beginning of a global transport system. Steam trains and modern overland transport soon followed. Finally came the large power plants powered by fossil fuels - and later by nuclear energy - that still function according to the principle of the steam engine. Our electricity supplies today remain based on 19th century technology.

We use fossil fuels which have an uncertain future. A growing number of scientists claim that the energy system prevailing in the world today no longer has a viable future because reserves are limited, and because we can no longer afford to burn these reserves given that the Earth's ecosphere simply cannot bear it. Nuclear energy, based on exploiting uranium reserves, is also, ultimately, exhaustible. The world therefore cannot afford to wait to change the basis of its energy supply!

This book is intended to provide some background on the energy scene in OIC-member countries and to highlight recent exciting international developments in the field. In addition, it includes a number of interesting general papers by eminent world speakers given at the 13th IAS Conference held in Kuching/Sarawak (Malaysia) in September/October 2003.

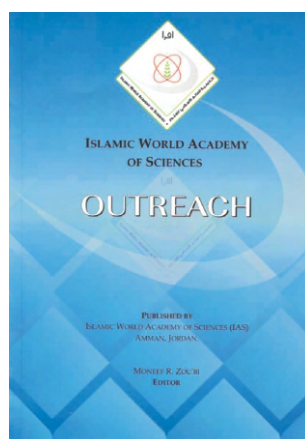
Intellectual Property Rights: An Introduction for Scientists and Technologists



An eminent IAS Fellow and immediate past President of the Egyptian Academy of Sciences, Prof. Mohamed B. E. Fayeze (FIAS), has volunteered to prepare this specialised yet lucid document on the rather complex yet topical issue of Intellectual Property Rights.

This subject has been high on the mind of many within the science community of the OIC, and was discussed extensively at the April 2005 meeting of the Network of Academies of Sciences in Islamic Countries (NASIC), held in Islamabad (Pakistan). There, the IAS and the Egyptian Academy of Sciences decided to publish a booklet on the subject, entitled "Intellectual Property Rights: An Introduction for Scientists and Technologists". The booklet was published in 2006.

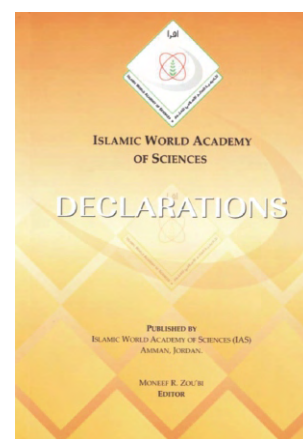
Islamic World Academy of Sciences: Outreach



The IAS organised a seminar in December 2004 in Amman (Jordan) for a specialised audience made up of top decision-makers and diplomats based in Amman. At this seminar, which was organised in collaboration with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), notable speakers addressed the meeting primarily on the importance of science and technology as a means to attain socio-economic development. At the conclusion of the seminar one of the IAS' Founding Patrons presented IAS shields to the ambassadors of countries which have hosted past IAS conferences.

This booklet, which was published in 2005, contains the presentations made at this 'Outreach Seminar.'

Islamic World Academy of Sciences: Declarations



This 2005 publication is a compilation of the various statements (declarations) issued at the conclusion of each IAS conference beginning with the 1987 Conference entitled 'Food Security.'

This booklet reflects the sustained effort expended by the OIC science community over the last 20 years in studying many fundamental topics at the core of socio-economic development, and in providing international and OIC decision-makers with objective realistic recommendations to realise such development through scientific and technological means. It is a reminder both of what has been accomplished so far (i.e. since a general interest in science and technology started to take root in OIC countries during the early 1980s) and of the policy manifestos and aspirations whose implementation remains outstanding.

Prof. İhsan Doğramacı



Prof. Doğramacı was born in Erbil (Northern Iraq). He is President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Bilkent University, Ankara (since 1985), as well as President, International Children's Centre, Ankara (since 1999). He is the Honorary President of both the International Paediatric Association (since 1992) and the Turkish National Committee for UNICEF (since 2003).

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

- Doctor of Medicine, Istanbul University (1938)
- Professor of Paediatrics and Director, Institute of Child Health, Ankara University (1955-1967) and Hacettepe University, Ankara (1967-1981)
- Rector of Ankara University (1963-1965)
- President of the Board of Trustees, Middle East Technical University, Ankara (1965-1967)
- Rector of Hacettepe University, Ankara (1967-1975) (In 1975 elected Honorary Rector)
- Visiting Professor of Paediatrics, Université de Paris V (1976-1977)
- Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London (1971)
- President, National Council of Medical and Health Sciences Education (1974-1981)
- President, Council of Higher Education of Turkey (1981-1992)
- Founder Fellow of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, London (Honorary) (1996).

HONORARY DOCTORAL DEGREES

Glasgow (Scotland), Nice (France), Nebraska (USA), Baghdad (Iraq), Guayaquil (Ecuador), Ain ash-Shams (Egypt), Helsinki (Finland), Soka (Japan), Devlet University (Baku, Azerbaijan), Devlet Tip University (Baku, Azerbaijan), De Montfort (UK), Eastern Mediterranean University (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus), Jamia Millia Islamia (India), University of Rome "La Sapienza" (Italy), and eleven Turkish universities including Anadolu, Bogaziçi, Istanbul and Marmara Universities.

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- Académie Nationale de Médecine, Paris (Membre correspondant)
- American Academy of Paediatrics
- Azerbaijan National Academy of Science and Arts
- German "Akademie der Naturforscher, Leopoldina"
- Honorary member, Medical Society of WHO
- Indian National Academy of Medical Sciences.

PUBLICATIONS

Prof. Doğramacı has written over 100 articles in professional periodicals, mainly in the areas of pediatrics, public health and medical education. He has written also three internationally-renowned books.

CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Established Hacettepe Institute of Child Health and Children's Hospital (1958)
- Established the first School of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation in Turkey (1961)
- Established the first School of Nursing at university level in Turkey (1961)
- Established the first School of Dietetics and Nutrition in Turkey (1962)
- Established Hacettepe Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Ankara (1963), introducing an integrated teaching system in medicine
- Contributed to the establishment of a Faculty of Medicine at Atatürk University, Erzurum, and a Faculty of Medicine at Karadeniz University, Trabzon
- Established Hacettepe University, Ankara (1967), one of the leading institutions of higher education in Turkey
- Established Bilkent University, Ankara (1984), the first private university in Turkey
- In the capacity of President of the Council of Higher Education of Turkey (1981-1992), contributed to the establishment of Erciyes University in Kayseri, Ondokuzmayis University in Samsun, Cumhuriyet University in Sivas, and Anadolu University in Eskişehir.

Prof. Doğramacı was awarded IAS Honorary Fellowship in 2006. 7

Sheikh Saleh Abdulla Kamel



Sheikh Kamel is the Chairman, Dallah al-Baraka Holding Group, Jeddah (Saudi Arabia).

He is one of the prominent pioneers of Islamic economics and one of the founders of modern Islamic banking.

At the start of his career, his hopes were to see Islamic financial institutions as strong entities and a tangible reality that would compete with interest-based financial institutions. Rather than mere aspirations of researchers and religious scholars, he wanted to see them as a reality making positive and effective contributions to economic development in the Islamic world. He therefore has dedicated his life to realising this noble mission.

He started his career by establishing a small firm providing postal services. This developed rapidly into the Dallah al-Baraka Group business conglomerate, considered to be one of the leading business conglomerates in the world, comprising over 300 companies specialising in finance, banking, media, agriculture and industry with total assets exceeding US\$12 billion and operations in more than 42 countries. Sheikh Kamel is the Chairman of Dallah al-Baraka Holding Group.

He is also the Chairman of the General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions (GCIBFI), which comprises approximately 200 banks and financial institutions.

Sheikh Kamel has been honoured with many international awards and prizes, including "1996 Banker of the Year Award" presented to him by the Union of Arab Banks, "1997 Annual Award of the Islamic Development Bank", and an honorary PhD in Media presented to him in 2003 by Lakehurst University (USA).

For his efforts in promoting joint Islamic action, Sheikh Kamel was awarded IAS Honorary Fellowship in 2006.

Prof. Richard Ernst



Richard R. Ernst has been full Professor of Physical Chemistry since 1976. He directed a research group devoted to nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR), and was Director of the Laboratory of Physical Chemistry at the ETH Zurich until his retirement in 1998.

He was born in 1933 in Winterthur (Switzerland). He finished his studies at the ETH Zurich in 1962 with a dissertation on NMR spectroscopy. In the following year, he joined Varian Associates as a scientist and developed Fourier-transform NMR, noise decoupling, and several other techniques. In 1968, he returned to ETH Zurich to become a Lecturer, then in 1970 Assistant Professor, and in 1972 Associate Professor. He became full Professor in 1976. From 1968 until his retirement he was head of a research group concentrating on methodological developments in liquid state and solid state NMR. He developed two-dimensional NMR and many novel pulse techniques. He contributed to the development of medical magnetic resonance tomography, and in collaboration with Professor Kurt Wüthrich, to the development of the NMR structure determination of biopolymers in solution. In the latter part of his tenure he was involved in the study of intramolecular dynamics.

In addition he has been engaged in a number of professional society activities. He was President of the Research Council of ETH Zurich and he is presently, among other duties, a member of the Swiss Science Council, the COST Committee, the Foundation Marcel Benoist, the Hochschulrat of the Technische Universität Munich, and Vice President of the Board of Bruker AG, Fällanden. He is on the editorial board of 10 scientific journals.

He has received numerous distinguished honours, including the Nobel Prize for Chemistry (1991), the Wolf Prize for Chemistry (1991), the Horwitz Prize (1991) and the Marcel Benoist Prize (1986). He has received honorary doctoral degrees from ETH Lausanne, Technische Universität Munich, Universität Zurich, University Antwerpen, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, and University Montpellier. He is a member of the US National Academy of Sciences, the Royal Academy of Sciences London, the Deutsche Akademie Leopoldina, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Korean Academy of Science and Technology, and is an honorary member of many other societies.

Prof. Ernst is an Honorary Fellow of the IAS, and will, insha Allah, participate in the 15th IAS Conference in Ankara (7-10 Nov 2006).

أكاديمية العالم الإسلامي للعلوم

أكاديمية العالم الإسلامي 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.

قررت الهيئة العامة للأكاديمية إعادة إطلاق الأكاديمية تحت اسم أكاديمية العالم الإسلامي للعلوم وذلك خلال اجتماعها في كوالالمبور بماليزيا خلال شهر مارس (آذار) ٢٠٠٥.

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 تبنيتها واستخدامها.
- صياغة مقاييس للإنجاز والتحصيل العلمي، ومنح الجوائز والأوسمة للإنجازات العلمية المتميزة، بغية تطوير مراكز الإبداع في فروع العلوم المختلفة وتحفيز المبدعين.

نشرة أكاديمية العالم الإسلامي للعلوم

نشرة دورية تصدرها الأمانة العامة لأكاديمية العالم الإسلامي للعلوم، عمان، الأردن.

رئيس التحرير: منيف رافع الزعبي، مدير عام أكاديمية العالم الإسلامي للعلوم.

مساعد التحرير: ليننا جلال عارف، مسؤول برامج.

المحرر المشارك: الكسندرا فاوولر.

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

العنوان	العنوان البريدي
١٧ شارع جيبوتي - الدوار السادس أم أذينة - عمان تلفون: ٥٥٢٢١٠٤ (٩٦٢٦) ٥٥٢٣٣٨٥ (٩٦٢٦) فاكس: ٥٥١١٨٠٣ (٩٦٢٦)	أكاديمية العالم الإسلامي للعلوم ص.ب. ٨٣٠٠٣٦ عمان ١١١٨٣ المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية.

البريد الإلكتروني:

secretariat@ias-worldwide.org

ias@go.com.jo

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

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Prof. Saleh Abdul Rahman Al-Athel
(Saudi Arabia)

Prof. Al-Athel was born in Al-Rus, Saudi Arabia, in 1940. He is married with several children.

Prof. Al-Athel received a BSc in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas (USA) in 1965, an MSc in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University in 1968, and a PhD in Applied Mechanics, also from Stanford University, in 1971.

After studies, he joined King Saud University, Riyadh, where he became Vice-Dean of the College of Engineering (1974-1975), and Dean of the College of Engineering (1975-1976). He was Vice-President for Graduate Studies and Research (1976-1984).

In 1984 Prof. Al-Athel was appointed President of the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), Riyadh, the institution which is the main focal point for science and technology activities in Saudi Arabia.

Prof. Al-Athel is a member of the UN World Commission on Environment and Development, the UN Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development, ICSU/UNESCO distinguished fellowship programs, the Saudi Working Committee for Education Policy and the Scientific Committee of the Pio Manza International Research Centre. He is also a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

He is the author of more than 60 articles on science, engineering and technology, which have been published in various international publications and journals. He has written one book on engineering structures, and translated three others.

Prof. Al-Athel is a Founding Fellow of the IAS and served as its Vice-President (1986-1990).



Prof. Bambang Hidayat
(Indonesia)

Prof. Hidayat was born in 1934 in Kundus, Central Java, Indonesia. He has two children. His wife (passed away in 1995) Estiti, was a Professor of Biology.

He obtained his PhD from the Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland (USA) in 1965 in the field of Astrophysics, where he worked with Professors McCuskey and Blanco.

Prof. Hidayat became Assistant Professor in 1968, Associate Professor in 1974, and a full Professor in 1976. In 1968, he was appointed Director of the Bosscha Observatory, a post he held for over 15 years.

He has been Chairman of the Indonesian-Dutch Astronomy Programme since 1982, Chairman of the Indonesian-Japan Astronomy Programme 1980-1994, and Vice-President of the International Astronomical Union 1994-2000.

Prof. Hidayat is a member of the following bodies:

- American Astronomical Society
- Indonesian Astronomical Society (Founder, 1978)
- Indonesian National Academy of Sciences (1991)
- Indonesian Physics Society (Co-founder)
- International Astronomical Union
- Royal Commission of Ahl Al-Beit University, Mafrq (Jordan) (1993)
- Royal Astronomical Society.

He has more than 50 scientific papers to his credit, as well as a number of textbooks on Astronomy.

Prof. Hidayat was elected as an IAS Fellow in 1992.



Prof. Badri Bin Muhammad
(Malaysia)

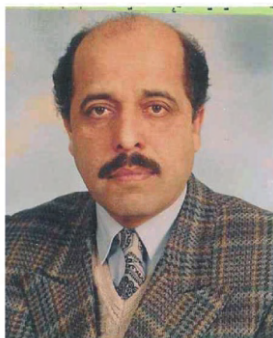
Prof. Muhammad was born in 1943. He earned a BSc (Hons.) from St Francis Xavier University in 1969 and a PhD in Chemistry from Dalhousie University in 1972. He started as a temporary teacher in 1965, then was appointed lecturer at Pertanian Malaysia University (1972-1975), Associate Professor (1976-1984), and Dean and Professor in the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies at the same university since 1984. His teaching experience covers lecture and laboratory supervision in undergraduate courses on Transition Metal Chemistry, Solid State Chemistry, Inorganic Chemistry and Physical Chemistry.

Prof. Muhammad has been a member of several professional bodies and committees, such as:

- The Council of Malaysia Institute of Chemistry 1980-1984
- The National Association of Science and Mathematics Education
- The Malaysian Rubber Producers Council
- SIRIM Technical Committee on Rubber
- FACS Working Group on Environment
- The American Chemical Society (since 1984)
- The Board of the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia
- The Environmental Quality Council, Ministry of Science, Malaysia
- Founding Fellow, Malaysian Academy of Sciences (1996).

He has published a number of research works, and was for some time engaged in research activities on "the physico-chemical measurements of the properties of solids," "the preparation of activated carbon from local materials" (a patent was granted in 1984), "the decolourisation of palm-oil" and "the preparation of supported metal catalysts." He has presented papers on scientific and academic administration topics at several national and international conferences.

Prof. Muhammad is a Founding Fellow of the IAS.



**Prof. Munir Ozturk
(Turkey)**

Prof Ozturk was born in 1943 in Kashmir. He graduated from Kashmir University specializing in Biology, Physics and Chemistry. He received his MSc from the same university in 1964. He obtained his PhD from Ege University in 1971.

Prof. Ozturk is currently Chairman of Biology and Professor of Ecology, Fatih University, Turkey.

Prof. Ozturk has received the following distinctions:

- Certificates of Honour - Environmental Protection and Research Foundation, Izmir (Turkey) 1991, 1996 and 1997
- Turkish Biological Society 30 years Services Award, Izmir 1993
- Certificates of Honour - in Pollution Control Studies and Biodiversity from the Municipalities of Kusadasi, Söke Izmir and Urfa, 1993, 1995, 1996 and 1997
- Member of Honour, Russian Ecological Academy, Moscow, 1995
- TUBITAK Scientific Publications Awards – 1996, 1997 and 2001
- His name has been given to a newly recorded Turkish plant species by researchers from Erciyes University, Kayseri (*Sideritis Ozturkii*)

He has been a member of the Turkish Biological Society (1973-1998), the Mediterranean Society of Plant Physiologists (MPP) (1974-1981), OPTIMA (1976-1986), [Turkish] National Delegate to the European Federation of Plant Physiologists (1986-1996), the National [Turkish] Committee on Biology (1991-1999), INTECOL (1993-2002), Bryologists Association (1993-2000), Aerobiology (1997-2002), and the World Cultural Council, Albert Einstein Award of Science (1999-onwards).

Prof. Ozturk was elected as a Fellow of the IAS in 2002.

IAS' New Name: A note!

The Islamic Academy of Sciences (IAS) was launched, with the blessings of Jordan and Pakistan, in 1986. At its annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) in 2005, the IAS General Assembly decided to change the name of the IAS to the "Islamic World Academy of Sciences" to better reflect the global nature of the IAS' work (note: the acronym "IAS" remains unchanged).

Since that meeting, the IAS Secretariat has taken all necessary legal and constitutional steps to effect this change, including circulating the decision of the General Assembly to all relevant agencies in Jordan and abroad.

The renaming of the IAS also involved a number of other procedures, including the design of a new logo and stationary. The new logo, which has been approved by the IAS Council, is a derivative of the former one but with a more contemporary look.

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

The government of Jordan hosts the IAS at Amman, where the Secretariat started functioning in 1987.

The IAS General Assembly decided to rename the IAS as the "Islamic World Academy of Sciences" in March 2005.

The main objectives of the IAS are:

- *To serve as a consultative organisation for the Ummah and for institutions in the field of science and technology;*
- *To initiate science and technology programmes of benefit to the development of Islamic countries;*
- *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 achievement to centres of excellence in all science and technology disciplines.*

IAS Newsletter

Published in English by the IAS Secretariat approximately three times per year.

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

Editorial Assistant: Lina Jalal, Programme Officer.

Associate Editor: Alexandra Fowler.

The Secretariat welcomes the submission of any articles for publication in the newsletter (publication to be at the Secretariat's discretion).

Postal Address:

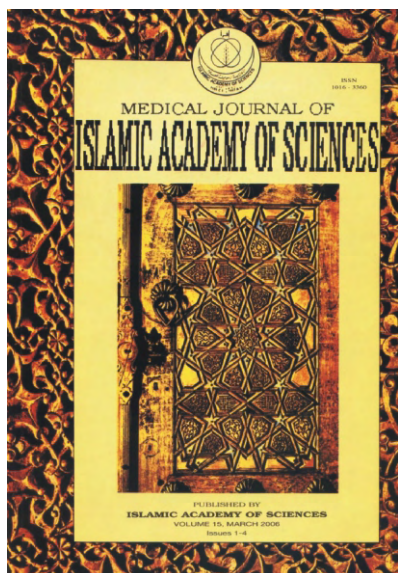
Islamic World Academy of Sciences
PO Box 830036 Zahran
Amman 11183 Jordan

Street Address

17 Djibouti Street, Sixth Circle,
Amman,
Jordan
Telephone: +962-6-552 2104/3385
Fax: +962-6-551 1803

**E-mail: ias@go.com.jo secretariat@ias-worldwide.org
<http://www.ias-worldwide.org>**

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New issue of IAS Medical Journal on the web

The IAS Medical Journal is the IAS' main regular publication. Originally launched as a general science journal in 1988, it was re-launched as a specialised refereed medical publication in 2000.

The journal, which is edited and published by Prof. Naci Bor (FIAS, Turkey) receives medical articles from many OIC countries as well as from scientists based in the West. The journal is published in both paper and electronic formats and has built up a wide readership since its establishment.

The current issue of the Journal appearing on the web is Vol.16 No.1. It carries six major articles; a Cardiology article (M. S. Akhtar, S. M. Ansar, N. Abbas and N. Ahmad), a Pharmacology article (A. Ayob, S. Hashim, Z. Azdan and T. A. Razak), a Bacteriology article (N. Mojgani, M. P. Ashtiani and S. E. Khanian), an Infectious Diseases article (M. Rizk, T. A. Fayed, M. Badawy and N. Sabaa El-Regal), an Ophthalmology article (M. R. Shoja and M. R. Behsharaty), and an Endocrinology article (A. A. Osinubi, O. G. Ajayi and A. E. Adesiyun).

The Journal's web address is www.medicaljournal-ias.org. The Journal's web page can also be viewed through a hyper-link via the IAS' 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 AL-IDRISSI (1099-1166AD; 520-587H)



Abu Abdullah Muhammad Ibn Muhammad Ibn Idriss al-Qurtubi al-Hassani, was born in Ceuta, Spain (then Muslim Andalus) in 1099AD (520H). He was educated in Cordoba. Later, he travelled far and wide in connection with his studies and flourished at the Norman court in Palermo. The date of his death remains a source of controversy, being either 1166 or 1180AD (587 or 601H).

Biographical notes on him are rarely found which, according to F. Pons Boigues, is because Arab biographers considered al-Idrissi to be a renegade given his association with the court of a Christian king (Roger II) and his writings in praise of that king in his work. The circumstances

which led him to settle in Sicily at the court of Roger II are not on record.

His major contribution lies in medicinal plants, as was presented in several of his books especially *Kitab al-Jami-li-Sifat Ashtat al-Nabatat*. During his life he studied and reviewed all then existing literature on the subject of medicinal plants and formed the opinion that very little original material had been added to this branch of knowledge since early Greek times. He therefore collected plants and data not recorded before and added this new data to the subject of botany, with special reference to medicinal plants. Thus, knowledge of a large number of new drugs plants became available to medical practitioners. He instituted names for the drugs in six languages: Syriac, Greek, Persian, Hindi, Latin and Berber.

In addition to the above, he made original contributions to geography (especially as related to economics), physical factors and cultural aspects. He made a silver globe weighing around 400 kilograms for King Roger II. He described the world in *Al-Kitab al-Rujari* (Roger's Book), also entitled *Nuzhat al-Mushtaq fi Ikhtiraq al-Afaq* (The Delight of Him who Desires to Journey through the Climates). This amounted, essentially, to a geographical encyclopaedia of the time, containing information not only on Asia and Africa but also Western countries.

Later, al-Idrissi compiled another geographical encyclopaedia larger than the former entitled *Rawd-Unnas wa-Nuzhat al-Nafs* (The Pleasure of Men and Delight of Souls) also known as *Kitab al-Mamalik wa al-Masalik*.

Apart from botany and geography, al-Idrissi also wrote on fauna and zoology and their therapeutical aspects.

His works were translated into Latin and his books on geography in particular remained popular both in the Islamic World and in the West for several centuries after his death.

(Taken from: "Personalities Noble", National Science Council of Pakistan, ed. Hakim Mohammad Said; 2nd Revised Edition (English and Arabic) publ. Islamic World Academy of Sciences 2000).