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International Conference on

Supporting the Advancement of

Higher Education and Scientific

Research in Iraq

Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, 22 – 24 April 2009

Organised by

- Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, ISESCO**
- United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO**
- Iraq Higher Educational, Scientific and Technological Organisation, **IHESTO****
- Islamic Development Bank, IDB**
- World Renewable Energy Network, WREN**
- Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World, FUIW**

1. Introduction

Iraq Higher education establishments after years of dictatorship, war and sanctions are determined to reclaim the high standards and lead position they deservedly occupied among the best in the developing countries. ISESCO took the initiative to involve the higher education authorities in the Islamic Countries as well as the academic communities in the Islamic World to support higher education, in Iraq.

Higher education and scientific research is extremely important to meet the requirements of sustainable economic development. In many developed countries a high proportion of the population now enters higher education at some time in their lives. It contributes to national economies, both as a significant industry in its own right, and as a source of trained and educated personnel for the rest of the economy.

For the restoration of the higher education system in Iraq to its accustomed high standards, there is an urgent necessity that an appropriate strategy be adopted to address all challenges, as well as to mobilize the participation of local, regional and international actors, in order to strengthen this important sector, so that it can occupy its rightful role as a vital component of the national socio-economic development.

Addressing higher education challenges and providing international support may contribute enormously and possibly more effectively than any other factors, in restoring normalcy in Iraq. Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), Iraq Higher Educational, Scientific and Technological Organisation (IHESTO), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), World Renewable Energy Network (WREN) and Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW), together with UNESCO, have taken up the initiative to launch an effective programme for supporting the Higher Education and Scientific Research in Iraq.

2. Objectives

The main objectives of the conference:

1. To identify the immediate needs and priorities for the sustainable development of higher education system in Iraq.
2. To establish fund for supporting the advancement of higher education in Iraq.
3. To master support and facilitate action among Islamic and International Organizations for strengthening higher education in Iraq.
4. To determine measures, strategies and mechanisms for the advancement of higher education system in Iraq.
5. To engage Iraqi, Islamic and International higher education and research institutions into dynamic and constructive relationships.

3. Sessions

The Conference envisages drafting an international agenda for the developing and strengthening the higher education and scientific research systems in Iraq.

The Conference will include sessions on the following topics:

- **Reviewing the sustainable advancement of higher education system in Iraq**

This session will discuss the needs, potentials and priorities for sustainable development plans of the higher education system in Iraq.

- **International cooperation and collaboration for the advancement of the Scientific Research system in Iraq**

This session will examine the possibilities of international cooperation and collaboration for sustainable development planning of scientific research and the higher education in Iraq.

- **Paradigm for cooperation between Iraqi universities and international and Islamic universities**

This session will build on the earlier discussions for ways and means and mechanisms for effective short and long term action plans of cooperation.

- **The agenda for sustainable development of higher education and scientific research in Iraq**

This session will sum up the discussions of the previous sessions leading to an agenda for Iraq higher education and scientific research development

4. Expected results

1. Programme and action plans responding to the needs for sustainable development of the higher education system in Iraq.
2. Executing a timetable for mutually established actions and relationships for the advancement of higher education in Iraq through, *inter alia*, capacity building, curriculum and teaching methods development, joint research, exchange of information and students and staff, networking.
3. Establishing fund for the execution of mutually agreed programme for supporting the development of higher education in Iraq.

5. Audiences

- **From Islamic countries:** Representatives of ministries of higher education, rectors of universities, senior professors, scientists, educationists and researchers.
- **From Iraq:** Representatives of Iraq Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of the Higher Education, KRG, rectors of universities, senior professors, scientists, educationists and researchers.
- **From International Organisations:** Representatives of UN, the European Union and international organizations working in the field of higher education and scientific research.
- **From Banks and Financial Institutions:** Representatives of International and regional development banks and financial institutions.
- **From Donors Organisations:** Representatives of higher education universities from donor countries for the rebuilding of Iraq (Madrid Camp. 2003).

6. Date and Venue

The International Conference will be held over three days on 22 – 24 April, 2009, at Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco.

7. Language

Language of the Conference will be Arabic and English. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

8. Accommodation

ISESCO will host the Conference at its premises, will provide all secretariat services for the Conference and make necessary boarding and lodging arrangements for the invited participants. Representatives from regional and international organizations will be responsible for their own travel and subsistence expenses.

9. Correspondence

All correspondence to the Conference should be addressed to:

ISESCO

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General Information

Organisers Websites

- ISESCO:** Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<http://www.isesco.org.ma>
- UNESCO:** United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<http://www.unesco.org>
- IHESTO:** Iraq Higher Educational, Scientific and Technological Organisation
<http://www.wmin.ac.uk/iraq-he/>
- IDB:** Islamic Development Bank
<http://www.isdb.org/irj/portal/anonymous>
- WREN:** World Renewable Energy Network
<http://www.wrenuk.co.uk/>
- FUIW:** Federation of Union of Islamic World
<http://www.fuiw.org/default.php>