

INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL OF THE ISLAMIC ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

In the name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate, we start this journal of the Islamic Academy of Sciences (IAS). This is the result of a long effort and the coming true of a dream cherished for many years by Muslim scientists all around the world. In today's Muslim world, divided by borders and petty interests over - shadowing the overall interests of the Ummah, in this Muslim World where priorities are often mixed, in this Muslim World where its constituting parts often confuse between friend and foe, in this divided Muslim World, Muslim scientists refuse to separate. Aware of their responsibilities for the unity in development of the Ummah, Muslim scientists responded with enthusiasm of the request of the OIC Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) to establish the IAS, thus gathering for the first time in modern history.

Indeed, the Third Islamic Summit held in Makkah Al Mukarramah in 1981 established a Ministerial Standing Committee (COMSTECH) and elected H.E President Mohammed Zia-ul Haq, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as its Chairman, COMSTECH met twice in 1982 and elaborated a plan of action which was approved by the Fourth Islamic Summit held in Casablanca (Morocco) in 1984). The plan of action included eight program areas among them a program of cooperation and linkages. In this program, IAS was meant to be one of the main institutions of the COMSTECH plan to encourage cooperation and linkages between top Muslim scientists working in the Muslim World.

There are many eminent scientists and scholars in the Muslim World distributed in different Muslim countries and representing different disciplines. Besides, a large number of expatriate Muslim scientists working in industrialized countries have distinguished themselves in various fields of science and technology. If they could gather in a forum where they can freely interact and communicate between themselves, they could do a great deal for the Ummah. IAS is such a forum.

The main purpose of IAC is to increase interaction among Muslim scientists and facilitate exchange of views and ideas on problems connected with ST development in the OIC member states. Its main objectives are:

- i) To serve as a permanent think tank and brain trust for Muslim Ummah in the field of science and technology and its application.*
- ii) To perform advisory role for all OIC institutions and member states requiring its advice and guidance in matters related to ST.*
- iii) To initiate intellectual activities and academic programs in ST and to promote mutual contact amongst individual research workers and their counterparts in the rest of the world.*
- iv) To encourage research on major problems facing the Muslim countries and to identify future technologies of relevance to OIC member states for possible adaptation and use.*
- v) To formulate standards of scientific excellence and grant awards, prizes, medals and fellowships for outstanding scientific achievements.*
- vi) To recommend scientific and technological programs of common interest to member states of OIC particularly those requiring joint Islamic action for their execution and implementation.*

IAS is an independent, autonomous and self-governing body. It has a general assembly, an executive council and various standing committees. It performs its statutory functions through its president, vice presidents, general secretary and treasurer who were elected by the general body for the prescribed term of office.

*From Secretary General Islamic Academy of Sciences

The actual Founding Conference was held in Amman (Jordan) on 24-25 Safar, 1407 A. H (28-29/10/1986) under the patronage of H.R.H. Crown Prince Al-Hassan. The meeting was prepared in cooperation between the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD) and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). About forty Founding Fellows were present. The meeting approved the IAS charter, elected the Executive Committee and the specialized committees and approved Amman as the site of IAS, thus responding with thanks to the kind offer of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Since the Founding Meeting, the academy's executive council and the various standing committees met several times planning the actions and the work of the Academy. Furthermore, the General Assembly had its second Meeting along with its first seminar on "Food Security in the Muslim World" which had a great impact on the thinking of Muslim countries in ways and means to face this major problem of the Ummah.

In the second meeting of the General Assembly held in December 7-10, 1987 in Amman (Jordan), a decision was taken to start the Journal of the Academy as a means to communicate with the World's scientific community in the field of science and technology.

The purpose of this Journal is to bring together the members of the Academy as well as to present to the scientists of the Muslim World the upto date achievements in science and technology in the Muslim World and the World at large. The IAS journal is also meant to enable IAS to interact with similar academies around the world in various scientific and technological fields. The journal is meant to be of the highest calibre both in content and in presentation.

The Academy's executive council unanimously chose one of the most distinguished IAS Founding Fellows, Prof. Dr. Naci Bor, as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal. Besides the outstanding achievement of Prof. Bor in his field of research, he has also an outstanding experience in editing scientific journals of the highest calibre. It is with the confidence that I share with all my IAS Founding Fellow colleagues that I do pray for a long and prosperous life for the IAS journal born with this first issue.

May Allah guide the scientists of the Ummah to play their role in making life better for Muslims and for the rest of humanity.

Ali, KETTANI*