

International Conference on the IAEA Technical
Cooperation Programme: Sixty Years and Beyond —
Contributing to Development

Closing Ceremony

June 1st, 2017

HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan

*Science for Peace: Borderless Innovation for Creative
Change*

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great privilege for me to address you all at the
closing of this wonderful conference to celebrate and

assess 60 years of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme. The incredible contribution of this organisation and its dedicated staff to durable development in our world has been, and continues to be, enormous. Perhaps more importantly, your contribution to the furtherance of peace through science is immeasurable. You have shown that science and innovation positive progress must know no borders and that change may only be built on cooperative creativity.

The technical cooperation programme has been vital to the work of the IAEA since the very beginning. Over the course of six decades, you have shown time and again that technology transfer and capacity building are the greatest gifts that any economy in transition, or any population under stress, can receive. The IAEA's support for projects in areas as diverse as health, food and agriculture, water and the environment, industrial

applications and energy, have proven consistently that the peaceful, innovative and cross-border utilisation of nuclear technology has so much to contribute to sustainable development and to the creative realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The variety of applications for the skills and expertise of the IAEA is truly inspiring. The breath of disciplines that you impact on is indeed impressive. You are an inspiration to all of your affiliates who share your commitment to building a society of equal partners in progress, where individuals, regardless of their backgrounds or occupations, may feel allied in some way to the potential and promise of science and innovation.

For our part, we in Jordan hope that we may all cooperate to help our citizens, young and old, to feel a borderless

connection with the platforms, tools and infrastructure that enable scientific enquiry to engage and to flourish.

In this regard, we were delighted to see the official opening of SESAME, the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East, just two weeks ago. It was our privilege to welcome Mr Amano, the Director-General, and to recognise the invaluable support that the IAEA has given to the project and to Jordan over the years. As I said to Mr Amano on that occasion, we are delighted to have such a cutting-edge research facility on our doorstep so that we may strive to develop a model for Open Science that suits and supports our nation and our region.

For Science offers so much more than answers to our many challenges – it promises a bold and uniting journey towards finding innovative solutions to those shared challenges. We very much hope that we can make much

of the research that will be conducted at SESAME, and elsewhere in Jordan, comprehensible and relevant to a wider audience. Science is, indeed, humanity's greatest endowment as we strive to manage our challenged resources and to care for, and heal, our threatened environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen: SESAME is a beacon of cooperative science in a region where political collaboration is so often absent or thwarted. But it also has the potential to help shine a light into all our communities, one that will illuminate the vast potential of creative innovation to solve problems, to make life better for all of us, and to teach us so much more about ourselves.

But we must also note the place of science in our cultural identities and our tribal memories. For science must be seen as a shared resource, and a common gift, for all our

human family. For all of us, our cultural heritage is a creation of the innovative spirits of many ancestors.

On the evening of the opening of SESAME, I was delighted to host our international and Jordanian guests at the Jordan Museum, so that we could remember that those of us who call ourselves Jordanian today, are descended from so many tribes, races and civilisations, who have been at the centre of timeless conversations on innovation and the application of knowledge for so many thousands of years. We lie at the heart of a region where so many communities and cultures have had to innovate to survive. Today, it is incumbent on all of us to embrace nations where science has lost its place of honour, or where science is seen as alien and unfamiliar. The truth is, science belongs to all humankind and it must bring its creative benefits to all who need them.

In our fractious world, we seem to face new and especially daunting challenges that make science seem like a force for division rather than unity. Yet it should not be so. For so many thousands of generations, creative adaptation and cultural exchange have gone hand in hand in our human story.

SESAME follows in that tradition and the Jordan Museum, of which I have the honour to be Vice-Chairman, reminds us of what we must strive to do for our families and our communities. We occupy our space on this planet for such a short period. What we build and what we leave behind will create our legacy. Our lives and legacies must deserve space in our descendants' halls of history and so we must show them that we were worthy of our human gift of innovation.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I am delighted to celebrate with you this vital anniversary for the IAEA. I am proud to be a

partner with you through my own organisation, the Royal Scientific Society. We greatly value our friendship with you and we share deeply your commitment to science for peace and prosperity. This year, we celebrate a wonderful year for Science in Jordan, and the region, as we are privileged to host World Science Forum 2017 at the Dead Sea in November. Indeed, our theme could not be more agreeable to the mission of the IAEA – We will convene under the banner of ‘Science for Peace’.

I firmly believe that the practice and policy of Science have never been more vital to our regional and global conversations. In Jordan, we are making that conversation central to all our national debates. We look forward to welcoming many of you to World Science Forum 2017, and to learning from the great work that so many of you do for science and for peace. We wish you every success in the future and assure you that we are

your partners on this path to balanced and durable progress.