



## Scientific Cooperation Agreement

Between

**Damascus University in The Syrian Arab Republic**

And

**Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia**

Based on the mutual wish of the two universities to further and develop scientific cooperation and academic exchange relations between them, and according to the cultural agreement signed by the two governments concerned on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1997, a scientific cooperation and academic exchange agreement is held between Damascus University represented by its President Professor Doctor M. Issam Awwa and Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra represented by its Rector Professor RNDr. Ing. Daniel Klivanec, CSc. It includes the following articles:

### **ARTICLE 1: FIELDS COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT**

The cooperation will be held between faculties, institutes and departments in the field of humanities, philology, education and sciences.

The contracting parties may add fields not included in the agreement to be agreed upon through formal correspondence between the contracting parties.

### **ARTICLE 2 : VISITS**

A - Short- term visits for representatives of both contracting parties and members of the teaching staff (up to three months) :

- 1- The two Universities will exchange visits for members in charge of scientific administration in the presidency of each University and its Faculties with the aim of exchanging information and expertise in the field of higher education



and scientific research, and to agree upon the conditions of conducting joint scientific research.

- 2- The two universities will exchange visits of teaching staff members to share expertise and research results as well as lecturing and participating in conferences, symposiums, seminars and other scientific activities.

B- Long-term visits for the teaching and scientific staff members (minimum of four months)

- 1- The two universities will exchange visits for teaching and scientific staff members to conduct joint scientific research in subjects of common interest. The expenses will be distributed upon the consent of the two universities in accordance with the conditions stated in the research project.
- 2- The two universities will receive delegated teaching and scientific staff members with all expenses covered by the home university (according to university's inner rules) in order to carry out scientific research missions.
- 3- The two universities will exchange teaching staff members as visiting professors. Expenses are to be considered and organized through formal correspondence in each case individually.

C- Exchange of students:

Both universities will exchange students of all different academic levels for scientific qualification and training in addition to the participation in sport and cultural activities.

### **ARTICLE 3: SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND POSTGRADUATE STUDIES**

- 1 – The contracting parties will implement and develop joint research projects to be agreed upon by the two parties who will exchange project-related information through direct contact between faculties and departments concerned.
- 2 - Each of the contracting parties will express willingness \_ upon a request from the other University \_ to contribute to joint supervision of some of the research theses of postgraduate students within the fields covered by the agreement. The decision



- of nominating the co-supervisor will be reached in accordance with the present higher education regulations in the country of the applicant for joint supervision.
- 3 - The contracting parties will express readiness to participate in the examining boards for the defense of some post-graduate theses. The decision of nominating the co-examiners will be taken in accordance with the higher education regulations in force.
  - 4 - The contracting parties in cooperation with the governmental authorities concerned will organize reciprocal qualification-recognition rules plus the conditions of study stages and scientific degrees to enable students and graduates of contracting parties to pursue their studies in the other University. The contracting parties will take into consideration the provisions of existing laws in force.
  - 5- Each contracting party will provide health and social care for the delegates.

#### **ARTICLE 4: SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AND EXCHANGE OF LITERATURE AND SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTS**

- 1- The contracting parties will exchange literature, publications and periodicals issued by each contracting party as well as Master dissertations and Doctorate theses.
- 2- The contracting parties will exchange syllabi, curricula and scientific administration regulations especially in fields included in the agreement.
- 3- The contracting parties will exchange specialized references related to post graduate curricula.
- 4- The contracting parties will encourage the publishing of research and scientific papers issued by either of the contracting parties in periodicals and scientific reviews published by the other contracting party.
- 5- The contracting parties exchange information and scientific references on different subjects of common interest in the aim of establishing a data bank.

#### **ARTICLE 5: EXECUTIVE PROGRAM**

Upon signing the present agreement, the contracting parties will sign a two-year executive program which includes exact specifications of all details required to



execute the agreement such as duration, number and character of exchanged visits and joint researches and rules and conditions for the selection of candidate-students to be exchanged by the two contracting parties.

Required executive programs are to be organized consecutively during the enforcement of the agreement.

#### **ARTICLE 6: JOINT COMMITTEE FOR SUPERVISION AND MONITORING**

A joint committee from both contracting parties will be formed with the main task of drawing up executive programs and supervising the implementation of the present agreement as well as suggesting prospects, methods and means for developing cooperation between the two contracting parties.

#### **ARTICLE 7: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

No financial commitment is undertaken by the two contracting parties signing this agreement.

Each program will be individually discussed financially except of the following:

A- Short- term visits ( Article 2, A ):

- 1- Home University undertakes to cover travel expenses of its delegates (return ticket).
- 2- Host University covers accommodation expenses.
- 3- Ways of covering costs of invitations to participate in university activities are to be agreed upon by formal correspondence.

B- Long-term visits (Article 2, B ):

Regulations mentioned in (Article 2, B) are considered the rules in force.

The contracting parties will seek, within their means, necessary funds to execute the joint cooperation.



### ARTICLE 8: EXCHANGING SUPPORT

The contracting parties will offer support to participants in the work program. The support will be given through supplying them with information and facilities required by the cooperation in addition to solving other problems related to organization.

### ARTICLE 9: RECOGNITION AND VALIDATION

- 1- This agreement will last for four years to be renewed automatically unless one of the two contracting parties expressed a wish to cancel the agreement through a formal request submitted in writing with at least six months notice.
- 2- New articles can be added \_upon the consent of the two contracting parties \_ to the present agreement while it is still valid.
- 3- This agreement is enforced as from the date of its signing by the Rectors of both Universities.
- 4- Upon cancellation, terms of the present agreement remain valid in case of delegates already dispatched in accordance with the agreement up until the end of their designated term. The same applies for research projects and activities till their completion.
- 5- This agreement is written in Damascus on 16/3/2005 in six original copies in Arabic, Slovak and in English with equal validity for each of them.

Prof. Dr. M. Issam Awwa

Rector

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