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Scientific Cooperation Agreement
Between
Faculty of Engineering/ Damascus University in Syria
And
The University of Natural Resources
and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna in Austria

Based on the mutual wish of the two universities to further and develop scientific cooperation and academic exchange relations between them, a scientific cooperation and academic exchange agreement is held between Damascus University represented by its President Professor Doctor Wael Mualla and the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna represented by its Rector o.Univ.Prof. Dipl.-Fw. Dr. Hubert DÜRRSTEIN. It includes the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: FIELDS COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT

Integrated Water Management- Water and Environmental Engineering,

The two Universities may add fields not included in the agreement only through formal correspondence between both universities.

ARTICLE 2: VISITS

A - Short-term visits for representatives of the two universities and members of the Teaching Staff (the period shall be agreed in the executive program established according to article 5)

- 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 Staff members (the period shall be agreed in the executive program established according to article 5)

- 1- The two universities will exchange visits for Teaching 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 Staff members with all expenses covered by the home university 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.

ARTICLE 3: SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

- 1 - The two Universities 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 University 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.
- 3 - The two universities 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 two Universities 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 either University to pursue their studies in the other University. The two Universities will take into consideration the provisions of laws in force.
- 5- Each university will provide assistance and counseling with regard to questions of health and social care for the delegates; but it is the responsibility of the individuals travelling to arrange insurance cover.

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

- 1- The two universities will exchange literature, publications and periodicals issued by each University as well as Master dissertations and Doctorate theses.

- 2- The two Universities will exchange syllabi, curricula and regulations regarding scientific administration especially in fields included in the agreement.
- 3- The two Universities will exchange specialized references related to postgraduate curricula.
- 4- The two Universities will encourage the publishing of research and scientific articles issued by either University in periodicals and scientific reviews published by the other University.
- 5- The two Universities 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 two Universities will sign a two-year executive program which includes exact specifications of all details required to execute the agreement such as duration, number and quality of exchanged visits and joint researches and rules and conditions for the selection of candidate-students to be exchanged by the two Universities.

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

ARTICLE 6: JOINT COMMITTEE FOR SUPERVISION AND MONITORING

Each University names a coordinator for supervising the implementation of the present agreement as well as suggesting prospects, methods and means for developing cooperation between the two Universities. For BOKU university, this co-ordinator is going to be Prof. Hans-Peter NACHTNEBEL.

ARTICLE 7: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

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

Each program will be individually discussed financially with the exception 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 two Universities will seek, within their means, necessary funds to execute the cooperation.

ARTICLE 8: EXCHANGING SUPPORT

The two Universities 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 universities 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 universities _ 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 on 01/08/2006 in two original copies in Arabic and in English with equal validity for both.

For Damascus University

Rector

Professor Dr. Wael Mualla

For the University of Natural
Resources and Applied Life
Sciences, Vienna

Rector

o.Univ.Prof. Dipl.-Fw. Dr. Hubert
Dürstein



Summary
(version-01, June 06)

**Scientific Cooperation Agreement among the University of Damascus (UD),
Jordan Institute of Technology (JUST) and University of Applied Life
Sciences (BOKU), Vienna.**

During their meeting between 17th to 19th July 2006 at BOKU Vienna the Rectors of the universities agreed to establish the basis for a scientific collaboration network. The following areas of joint interests have been identified including "Water and Environment":..... This list may be subsequently expanded depending on the interests of the involved partners. The main purpose of the collaboration is to identify the requirements for setting up a PhD Programme for the Middle East Region, starting with UA, JUST and BOKU. If possible this programme should be extended to other universities including also Libanon and Palastine.

It is intended to investigate the options for sandwich programs, Joint and/or Double Degree PhD programs. Based on the experiences gained from the Joint TEMPUS Programme Curricula Development for Integrated Water Resources Management (JEP – 31054 – 2003) a proposal for the upcoming 7th Framework Programme of EU should be jointly elaborated until the end of 2006. Further actions at the national level will be investigated for financing this task.

The scarcity of water resources, the transboundary character of surface and subsurface resources, the environmental problems in the Middle East region will be the starting point for joint activities. If possible, students from different universities should collaborate within their PhD studies to improve the exchange of knowledge and to learn about regional differences in problems, objectives, as well as similarities in methodological approaches and institutional settings. This program should therefore assist in developing joint views on water and environmental tasks.

By July 07 a detailed proposal should be ready including a detailed work plan as well a financial plan for covering the project costs.

Signed on July 18th, 2006

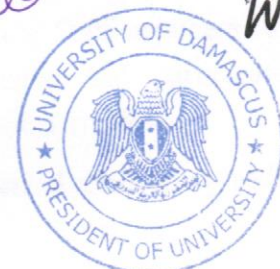
For BOKU University

o.Univ.Prof.Dipl.-Fw.Dr.Hubert DÜRRSTEIN
Rector



For Damascus University

Wael Huallo



For JUST

Wajid