



Activity Report
**ISESCO Centre for Promotion
of Scientific Research
(ICPSR)**

January - December 2014

Achievement Record Sector-specific Priority:

Promoting Innovative Scientific Research

Within the “Innovative Scientific Research Promotion” sector-specific priority, nine (9) achievements were accomplished in two main focus areas: namely, **promotion of scientific publications meeting quality standards and valorisation of scientific research results.**

In 2014, ISESCO Centre for Promotion of Scientific Research (ICPSR) accomplished **five (5) achievements** within the **first action line** which largely attained the **expected outcome** thereof. *“ISESCO Journal of Science and Technology”*, published by the ICPSR, featured in its two recent issues high-profile articles authored by researchers and teachers from different Member States. These papers were meant to share and optimise the impact of research papers in fields such as renewable energy, the environment, agriculture, ICT, pharmaceutical industries, biological sciences and mechanical engineering, thereby contributing to the Muslim world’s sustainable development. In this connection, the ICPSR portal (www.icpsr.org.ma) was adjusted to best meet the needs of users.

In addition, in furtherance of its objective of indigenous capacity-building for Member States in science and technology, the Centre **granted seven (7) research scholarships to three (3) young women and four (4) young men to conduct research in priority science areas.** It also paid tribute to twenty-

seven (27) Iranian graduates and awarded six (6) incentive prizes for excellence and innovation in medicine, on the occasion of the **19th Razi Research Festival on Medical Sciences** (Teheran, Iran). Last but not least, **six (6) researchers from Member States won ISESCO’s 2014 prizes for science and technology** during a special ceremony at the **7th Islamic Conference of the Ministers of Higher Education and Scientific Research.**

Under the **second action line**, **four (4) achievements** were successfully reached through **aligning academic research and industry initiatives, conducting awareness-raising workshops on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) along with training workshops on maintenance and repair of scientific labs equipment, at a rate of one workshop each year, with the significant participation of women and the youth.** Also, the Centre participated in the *“2nd Ministerial Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa”*, in a bid to encourage and reward creative solutions with best digital content (namely mobile phones applications) produced by Africans to fulfil Africa’s specific needs. In the same vein, the ICPSR jointly organised with COMSATS and INIT a workshop on *“national systems of innovation and intellectual property”* for the African region. In this activity, convened at ISESCO headquarters

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(Rabat, Morocco), the focus was on boosting interaction between universities, research institutions, companies, and governments, in order to stimulate growth and create wealth while protecting intellectual property.

Being aware that the success of scientific research depends largely on well-maintained equipment, the Centre and COMSATS jointly organised a national workshop on the “*repair and maintenance of engineering equipment in universities, research institutes and small-scale industries*”, which benefited

more than 60 engineers, teachers and technicians from different Iranian cities who were exposed latest advancements in this area.

Furthermore, ISESCO took part in the (WSIS+10) high-level event, held at the ITU headquarters in Geneva to assess the overall implementation of the commitments undertaken by WSIS in 2015. A “WSIS+10 Statement on Implementation of WSIS Results” and the “WSIS+10 Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015” were adopted to **build an inclusive information society**.

Action Line 3.8:

PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

MEETING QUALITY STANDARDS

Expected outcome 3.8.1: Upgrading ISESCO Journal of Science and Technology and adjusting ICPSR website (www.icpsr.or.ma) for Muslim world scientific community

- Publication of “*ISESCO Journal of Science and Technology*” Vol. 10, No. 17, ISESCO headquarters in Rabat, Morocco, May 2014. The Journal was distributed to writers and researchers in Member States’ scientific and technical institutions.
- Publication of “*ISESCO Journal of Science and Technology*” Vol. 10, No. 18, ISESCO headquarters in Rabat, Morocco, May 2014. The Journal was distributed to writers and researchers in member states’ scientific and technical institutions.
- Strengthening and updating the ICPSR website (www.icpsr.org.ma), ISESCO headquarters in Rabat, Morocco, throughout the whole year, for the benefit of universities and national centres of scientific and/or technical research in Member States, in cooperation with the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS).

Expected outcome 3.8.2: Granting more research scholarships for the youth in priority science areas

- Support was sustained, for the second

consecutive year, for 8 scientific research projects in nanotechnology, agricultural and health biotechnology, engineering sciences, medicinal plants, biological and applied sciences (ISESCO headquarters in Rabat, Morocco), in the interest of 8 young researchers from Azerbaijan, Jordan, Iran, Pakistan, Togo, Tunisia, and Malaysia.

- Support was provided for 1 new scientific project (in modelling and simulation) presented in 2014 by a team of researchers from the Nigerian Mathematics Research Centre, with the aim to control the effects of air and water pollution through mathematic models (impact of pollutants on human health, agriculture, biodiversity, environmental risks and ecosystem imbalances). The support activity took place at ISESCO headquarters in Rabat, Morocco, in cooperation with COMSATS.

Expected outcome 3.8.3: Granting incentive prizes for excellence and innovation in science

- Support for the “*19th Razi Research Festival on Medical Sciences*”, which took place in Shahid Beheshti University, Teheran, Iran, on 13 January 2014, in cooperation with the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education. Twenty-seven (27) specialists and researchers were selected (among 634 candidates) to benefit from the support.

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- Awarding ISESCO Prize for Fundamental Sciences (biology, chemistry, geology, mathematics, physics and technology) to six (6) researchers from: Iran (Dr Seyed Massoud Houshmand), Malaysia (Dr Mahiran Basri), Iraq (Dr Ali Ismail Abdulla Al-Jaboury), Tunisia (Dr Ihsen Yengui), Palestine (Dr Hala Jarallah El-Khozondar) and Egypt (Dr Aboul-Ella Otify Hassanein). The award ceremony was held at ISESCO headquarters, Rabat, Morocco, in November 2014.

Action Line 3.9:

VALORISATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OUTCOME

Expected outcome 3.9.1: Fostering the link between universities and industries

- During the “2nd Ministerial Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa”, held in Rabat, Morocco, on 14-17 October 2014, eight (8) African winners (Uganda, Tunisia, South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt and Morocco) were selected (among 91 candidates) for the social impact of their innovative mobile applications in Africa (e-learning and science, e-culture and tourism, e-media and journalism, and other such fields). The Forum was organised by the African Development Bank in cooperation with many international organisations including ISESCO, and in partnership with the World Summit Award (WSA African content Award 2014).

Expected outcome 3.9.3: Conducting Intellectual Property Right awareness-raising training workshops/meetings

- A three-day regional workshop on “national systems of innovation and intellectual property in the African region” was held at ISESCO headquarters in Rabat, Morocco, on 25-27 November 2014, with the participation of 20 experts, representatives of international organisations and the private sector (Uganda, Benin, Togo, Senegal, Guinea, Côte d’Ivoire, Niger, Tanzania, Ghana, Morocco, Pakistan, China, South

Korea and the United States). It was organised jointly with COMSATS and the Inter-Islamic Network on Information Technologies (INIT) for the benefit of African Member States.

Expected outcome 3.9.4: Organising training workshops on repair and maintenance of scientific lab equipment (one workshop each year) with significant participation of women and young people

- A national workshop on “Repair and maintenance of engineering equipment in universities, research institutes and small-scale industries” was held in Teheran, Iran, from 28 September to 2 October 2014, for the benefit of more than sixty (60) engineers, teachers and technicians from different Iranian institutes. The workshop was supervised by 2 Pakistani experts from the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR, Karachi) and was organised in association with COMSATS and the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST).
- Participation in the (WSIS+10) high-level event, which is an extended version of the WSIS Forum. The event was held at the headquarters of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland, on 10-13 June 2014. More than 1600 participants, including a

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hundred of ministers and leaders from 140 countries, gathered to study, discuss, and coordinate efforts for the implementation of the overall results of WSIS (2003-2005) for beyond 2015, the target date for achieving MDGs. The WSIS+10 was organised and coordinated by the ITU in close partnership with UN agencies, particularly UNESCO, UNCTAD and

UNDP, for the benefit of the peoples of the world.

- Participation in the “Maghreb Digital Learning and Education Innovation Conference”, which was organised by the British Council in Tunis, Tunisia, on 08-10 December 2014, for the benefit of the Maghreb countries (Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, and Morocco).