

USLC-IUPAP Resolution on International Science and Technology

Submitted by David Ernst, Vanderbilt University

The US Liaison Committee of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (USL-IUPAP) adopted the statement below on international science and technology. The statement was sent on National Academy stationery to President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, OSTP Director Holdren, and appropriate Congressional leaders. Notice the strong endorsement of the SESAME Project which was previously endorsed by the IUPAP General Assembly in October 2008.

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New International Science and Technology Initiatives Resolution by the U.S. Liaison Committee of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics

We enthusiastically welcome the new international science and technology initiatives announced by President Barack Obama in his address in Cairo on June 4, 2009. As noted by the President, the economic, diplomatic and health drivers for these initiatives are compelling. Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia will provide fertile ground for establishing scientific centers to meet the stated goals, and the U.S.A. should play a significant role in establishing such centers. We strongly encourage the vigorous pursuit of these initiatives through the budgeting and appropriation processes.

We cite the **S**ynchrotron Light for **E**xperimental **S**cience and **A**pplications in the **M**iddle **E**ast (SESAME) project as an initiative that is designed to build bridges between diverse societies and to contribute to the culture of peace through international scientific cooperation. The SESAME project is a major international center for research and advanced technology, currently under construction in Jordan, that will enable world class research by scientists from across the Middle East and is expected to develop into a center of scientific excellence in the region. The International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) emphatically endorsed SESAME at its General Assembly in October 2008. We note that SESAME receives support from many individual countries, as well as from UNESCO and IAEA. We believe that SESAME can serve as a model for the future centers of scientific excellence that President Obama proposed in Cairo.

June 12, 2009

SESAME Travel Award Program

By Amy Flatten, Director, APS International Affairs

The SESAME project--the synchrotron light source in Amman, Jordan, brings together physicists from Arab countries & Israel for international scientific collaboration. One of the challenges for the success of SESAME is building a "user community" by enabling Middle Eastern physicists to avail themselves of training opportunities. While many physicists can find local support at host training institutions, or food and lodging for the "SESAME User's Meetings," they cannot find funds to cover the travel/airfare.

The APS, through the Office of International Affairs, established the SESAME Travel Award Program in partnership with the European Physical Society (EPS), the UK Institute of Physics (IoP), and the German Physical Society (DPG). Here, all four physical societies each provided \$5K for a total of \$20K. The first round of awards were issued in FY09 and will enable Middle East physicists to attend SESAME "User's Meetings" or, other training opportunities. Moreover, it was agreed that all four physical societies will provide \$5K annually for the next three years.