SESAME - Science for Peace

CHAIR:
Fernando Ferroni, President of INFN

SPEACHES:
Chris Llewellyn Smith, Director of Energy Research Oxford University,
President of the SESAME Council
Giorgio Paolucci, SESAME Scientific Director

SESAME (Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East), a “third-generation”
synchrotron light source in Allan (Jordan) is a cooperative venture by scientists and governments of the region
and collect Iran, Bahrain, Egypt, Pakistan, Jordan, Israel, Palestinian Authority, Cyprus and Turkey.
SESAME will foster scientific and technological excellence in the Middle East and neighbouring countries
enabling world-class scientific research in subjects ranging from biology, archaeology and medical sciences
through basic properties of materials science, physics, chemistry, and life sciences; and build scientific
and cultural bridges between diverse societies, and contribute to a culture of peace
through international cooperation in science.

Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 11.00am
Aula Amaldi - Department of Physics (Marconi building)
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The SESAME Story

Chris Llewellyn Smith, Director of Energy Research Oxford University, President of the SESAME Council

SESAME (Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East) is an intergovernmental facility under construction near Amman (Jordan). It will not only be the first light-source in the Middle East, but also the region’s first true international centre of excellence.

The members of SESAME are currently Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Pakistan, the Palestinian Authority and Turkey. China, the EU, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA are Observers.

I will describe the origins of SESAME and its dual aims of:

i) fostering scientific and technological capacities and excellence in the Middle East and the neighbouring regions by enabling excellent research (in subjects ranging from biology and medical sciences through materials science, physics and chemistry to archaeology), and

ii) building scientific links and fostering better understanding through collaboration between peoples with different creeds and political systems. Despite many challenges, SESAME is progressing from a dream to a reality.

Commissioning will begin in the middle of next year with the first experiments following soon after. Meanwhile SESAME’s extensive training programme is building scientific and technical capacity in the region.

SESAME: science for intercultural dialogue

Giorgio Paolucci, SESAME Scientific Director

The SESAME laboratory is based on a synchrotron radiation source and will allow scientists from the Middle East to access a world-class research infrastructure to boost their research and scientific knowledge. SESAME will allow scientists with different cultures, different religions and different experiences to interact with each other. It is an excellent opportunity for the Regional development.

The talk will introduce synchrotron radiation as a method to study matter, with examples in various disciplines, ranging from physics to life sciences. The SESAME research plans were developed in close consultation with the perspective user community and will be described in detail during the talk.