

IOR-ARC RCSTT Newsletter

Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation
IOR-ARC Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer



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Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of IOR-ARC RCSTT Newsletter. This will be issued quarterly and will provide updates on IOR-ARC RCSTT's activities as well as covering the latest scientific and technological events occurring in the IOR-ARC region and beyond. The editorial board welcomes contributions and feedback from readers on topics relevant to science and technology transfer particularly in the IOR-ARC region. Please forward your contributions to the Editor-in-Chief at: info@ior-rcstt.org



The official members of the 6th IOR-ARC RCSTT's Advisory Council chaired by H.E. Mr. Srivastava, President of the Council (page 3)

From the Director's Desk

We are truly pleased to see the first issue of IOR-ARC RCSTT's quarterly newsletter published for 2012. IOR-ARC RCSTT is an intergovernmental regional organization with a mission to "promote regional integration and co-operation among the IOR-ARC Member States through supporting applied research, networking, technology transfer and commercialization". And, we see this quarterly as a new communication channel for all those activists and academics in the IOR-ARC region who aspire to disseminate and share their scientific and technological knowledge with IOR-ARC member nations. The prime mission of this IOR-ARC RCSTT's affiliate publication is to reach policy makers, scholars, activists and development experts as well as the wider IOR-ARC public opinion in different areas of science and technology and inform them of the Centre's activities for the purpose of promoting regional integration and co-operation amongst the Member States. The quarterly also aims through its readership to closely connect the network of the IOR-ARC Community and facilitate the exchange of views and experiences on matters of concern.

We hope this publication will continue its successful coverage of the region's scientific and technological events to facilitate the transfer of science and technology in this important region and to promote greater cohesion and co-operation amongst its scientific community.

Obviously, these noble objectives can not be achieved solely by IOR-ARC RCSTT, rather the strong commitment and collective effort of all Member States are required. To this end, we invite the IOR-ARC Member States and all interested activists in the area of science and technology transfer to support this initiative by their intellectual contributions, and regular updates on their activities so as to diffuse them within the IOR-ARC Community through this publication. We are confident that such close co-operation will create a brighter and prosperous future for the peoples of this region.

We also take this opportunity to say thanks for all those who have contributed to launch this initiative and hope that the IOR-ARC RCSTT Newsletter provides a prime outlet for the transfer of science and technology in the IOR-ARC region.

So let us come together, share together, work together and succeed together toward making the IOR-ARC region a better place to live for all its inhabitants because together everyone achieves more.

Dr.Mahmoud Molanejad

The IOR-ARC Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT) is an intergovernmental regional organization established on October 28, 2008, pursuant to the recommendation of the Academic Group of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Co-operation (IOR-ARC),

approved at the 7th Meeting of the IOR-ARC Council of Ministers held on March 7-8, 2007, in Tehran, I. R. Iran. Subsequently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on June 23, 2008, by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the IOR-ARC Secretariat in this regard. IOR-ARC RCSTT is based in Tehran and hosted by the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology. The Centre functions under the authority of the IOR-ARC Secretariat as well as the Council of Ministers and comprises an Advisory Council, a Secretariat as

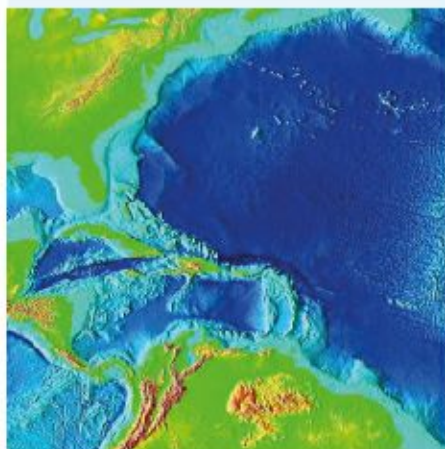
well as a Scientific Advisory Panel. With the missions and privileges equivalent to those of the UN, the Centre's activities shall be in line with the relevant policy decisions set out by the Charter of the IOR-ARC with the aim of supporting applied research, policy and human resource development programmes as well as supporting the development of new technologies, joint co-operation, commercialization and technology transfer among the Member States and

other countries. The centre's main objectives are **to support technology transfer, development and management**; to support the formulation of strategic development plans for technology enhancement; to assist in acquisition, dissemination, and

generation of new technologies; **to promote technology commercialization and competitiveness**; to support technology business missions and to carry out related analytical research on technology policies, marketing opportunities, and possible joint ventures among the member countries. Furthermore, it provides advisory services, **helps to disseminate information** and good practices, **enhances networking and partnership** with the key stakeholders and provides training for senior officials and policy makers. It is noteworthy that IOR-ARC is an international/

diplomatic organization with 19 Member States and 5 Dialogue Partners. The IOR-ARC Member States include namely, Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates as well as Yemen. And, five countries of China, Egypt, France, Japan and United Kingdom have the status of IOR-ARC Dialogue Partners.

About IOR-ARC RCSTT A Brief History, Vision & Mission



Special Feature : IOR-ARC RCSTT Held Its 6th Meeting of Advisory Council

The 6th Meeting of IOR-ARC RCSTT's Advisory Council was held on July 10, 2012, at Cultural Complex of Presidency in Tehran, I.R. of Iran. The Meeting was hosted by H.E. Mr. Esfandiar Mashayee, Iranian President's Chief of Staff and director of the National Centre for Globalization Studies and chaired by H.E. Mr. D. P. Srivastava, the Indian Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran and current president of the IOR-ARC RCSTT's Advisory Council. Present at the Meeting were eminent participants including H.E. Iranian Deputy Minister for Science, Research and Technology, director of the IOR-ARC RCSTT, the ambassadors or their representatives from the IOR-ARC Member States, namely, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Oman, South Africa, Thailand, U.A.E and Yemen as well as the heads or representatives of some international organizations such as ISESCO and UNIDO. The Meeting was opened by H.E. Mr. D. P. Srivastava and subsequently, Dr. M. Molanejad, director of the IOR-ARC RCSTT, was invited to present his report on the annual activities of the Centre and concluded his presentation with laying emphasis on participation of Member States in the Centre's programmes in order to support science and technology development in the IOR-ARC region. Following his report, H.E. Dr. Akbari, Iranian Deputy Minister for Science, Research and Technology made statements expressing support for qualified scholars from the Member States by the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research and Technology through offering them three doctoral and some post doctoral scholarships. The Meeting was concluded with overwhelming remarks by H.E. Mr. Esfandiar Mashayee, host of the Meeting, mainly focusing on closing the existing gap between the human beings in the world through creating opportunities for regional and international joint co-operation. In the end, the Meeting was followed by a formal lunch banquet hosted generously by the National Centre for Globalization Studies.

Council of Ministers Lauds IOR-ARC RCSTT's Activities at Its 11th Meeting



On November 9 – 15, 2011, H.E. Mr. D.P. Srivastava, president of the IOR-ARC RCSTT's Advisory Council as well as Dr.M.Molanejad, director of the IOR-ARC RCSTT, have taken part in the 17th annual Meeting of the Academic Group (IORAG) and the 11th Meeting of IOR-ARC Council of Ministers hosted by the Government of India in Bengaluru, Republic of India. This Meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. S. M. Krishna, the Indian Minister for External Affairs and vice chaired by H.E. Mr. Hon Kevin Rudd, his Australian counterpart. During the Meeting, H.E. Mr. D. P. Srivastava reported on the outcomes of the last meetings as well as the documents of the Centre including amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the Centre's Statute. The highlights of the Meeting were as the following:

- After a brief report presented by H.E. Mr. D. P. Srivastava, the Statute of IOR-ARC RCSTT was approved which the same had also been approved at the 5th Meeting of the Advisory Council. Similarly, the Council of Ministers approved amendments to the MoU which the same had also been approved at the 4th Meeting of the Council.
- Further, the Council approved the Centre's work programmes for the year 2012 which the same had also been approved at the 5th Meeting of the Centre's Advisory Council.
- Based on the Centre's activity report for the year 2011 and its prospective programmes developed for 2012 presented by the director of the Centre to the IOR-ARC Academic Group and the Council of Ministers, various delegates of the Member States as well as the Council of Ministers appreciated the Centre's activities and hence, the Council approved a budget allocation of USD 50,000/- to the Centre for supporting its activities.

Highlights of IOR-ARC RCSTT's Activities in 2011-12 Implemented Conferences, Workshops and Exhibitions

One of the significant objectives of IOR-ARC RCSTT is **to plan for human resource development** in the IOR-ARC region. To achieve this goal, IOR-ARC RCSTT has tried to enhance co-operation among the Member States and dialogue partners by **organizing short-term training courses, workshops and conferences** with the aim of improving technological capacities of private and public sectors in areas such as nanotechnology, medicinal plants, microelectronics, renewable energies and biotechnology. In line with this objective, IOR-ARC RCSTT has already managed to contribute to numerous events and tried its best to provide all the necessities and facilities required for inspiring the nominees from the Member States and dialogue partners to take part in the events. In this regard, the center has organized plenty of workshops, meetings and exhibitions in the year 2011-12 which from among, two events have been listed below followed by brief reports on each.

- **The 4th Fajr Regional Innovations and Inventions Exhibition, Tehran, Iran, Feb 4-7, 2012**
- **Workshop/Conference and Exhibition on Desalination of Brackish Seawater and Wastewater Treatment, Tehran, Iran, June 19-21, 2012**



4 th FAJR Regional Innovations and Inventions Exhibition 2012

The 4th FAJR Regional Innovations and Inventions Exhibition 2012 was held in Tehran during February 4-7, 2012, jointly by IOR-ARC RCSTT and National Elites Foundation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The inaugural ceremony of the Exhibition was attended by H.E. President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Vice President for Science and Technology, several ministers, IOR-ARC diplomats in Tehran, and some other high-ranking International and Iranian authorities. More than two thousand Iranian exhibitors and thirty four foreign inventors from IOR-ARC member and dialogue countries as well as the other countries of the world including Italy, India, Vietnam, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mali, Malaysia, Iraq, Oman, Indonesia, Egypt, Cambodia, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Tajikistan participated in the Exhibition. It is notable that all the IOR-ARC participants selected by the screening committee were fully sponsored and provided with free air tickets, local hospitality and exhibition space.

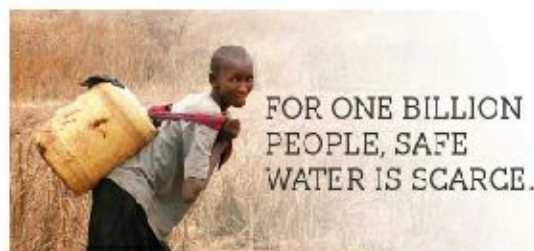


Int'l. Participants of the 4th Fajr Exhibition from Vietnam, Malaysia, Oman and Belarus (from left to right)

And, for the first time, two technology brokers, namely, National Research Development Corporation (from India) and International Network for SMEs (from Italy) participated in this festival. At the end of the exhibition, two hundred and fourteen Inventions were evaluated by the invention jury and the participants from Belarus, Turkey, and Malaysia were announced as international winner participants and received special awards. Also, by virtue of this Exhibition, three new technologies developed by the international participants were commercialized and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed by the foreign participants and their Iranian partners.

Seawater Desalination: The Answer to Survival

We have access to only one percent of the water on the earth as 97 percent **"The Ocean"** is salty and two percent is tied up in icebergs and snow. This is why Seawater Desalination is critical to meeting future water needs. Our resource **"The Ocean"** is beautiful, dangerous and challenging as well as **"The Answer to Survival"** and the solution to the serious water shortages prevailing in many of the IOR-ARC member countries. Therefore, there is a critical need to develop water desalination technologies in many of the member countries in order to overcome future water crisis in this region. To this end, holding regional conferences and workshops on water desalination will offer welcome opportunities to the member countries to enhance their scientific and technological co-operation in the area of water desalination technologies with the aim of promoting sustainable developments, innovations and commercialization of desalination technologies in the IOR-ARC region by knowledge-sharing, capacity building and joint research activities.



IOR-ARC RCSTT's First Conference on Water Desalination in Tehran

IOR-ARC RCSTT took the initiative and organized the first conference and technology exhibition on "Desalination of Brackish Seawater and Wastewater Treatment" during June 19-21, 2012, in Tehran jointly by Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST) and Shahid Abbaspour University of Technology. The three-day international workshop and conference was well attended by international resource persons, academics and experts in the field of water desalination from different IOR-ARC member and dialogue countries including Australia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, India, Sri Lanka, Seychelles, Singapore and China as well as other non-member countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Sweden and Turkey. During the workshop, some key decisions were made by the participants in order to enhance co-operation among the IOR-ARC Member States in the area of specialized desalination technologies. Accordingly, the proposal for establishing a network of Regional Countries called "Desalination to Face Climate Change" (DFCC) (domain name: <http://www.ior-dfcc.net/>) was endorsed by the participants. The main aim of the network is to promote sustainable development, innovations and technology commercialization. Moreover, in order to further develop the network, the participants unanimously endorsed the proposal for establishment of a regional working committee to be chaired by Singapore and vice chaired by China for the year 2012-13. This committee aims to regularly follow up the ongoing developments and innovations in desalination technologies in the IOR-ARC region.



Participants at the IOR-ARC RCSTT's First Conference on Water Desalination

Further, the Meeting selected the three countries of Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Bangladesh as model countries and agreed that the working committee should present a comprehensive technical plan to these countries in order to support their demands for necessary water technologies and solve their problems with regard to non-conventional wastewater treatment. Finally, the participants resolved to hold "Regular Experts' Meetings Programme" at least annually, each time hosted by one member country. The participants recommended hosting the next activities of IOR-DFCC by China and Singapore in 2013 and 2014 respectively with the joint effort of IOR-ARC RCSTT.

IOR-ARC RCSTT to Establish Specialized Regional Networks

IOR-ARC RCSTT has embarked on establishment of several Specialized Regional Networks for the IOR-ARC region. The initiative was endorsed by the 11th Council of Ministers as part of the IOR-ARC RCSTT's Prospective Activity Programme on November 9-15, 2011, in Bengaluru, Republic of India. It is notable that this initiative was first encouraged by the representatives from several Member States at the previous "Regional Experts Meetings" arranged by IOR-ARC RCSTT. The networks mainly aim to develop public and private sector joint programmes, and promote IOR-ARC regional standards and regulations as well as facilitate technology transfer and commercialization in the region. Accordingly, IOR-ARC RCSTT has managed to establish the following regional networks in co-operation with the regional institutions :

- Traditional Medicine Network (IORTMNet)
- Food Technology Network
- Global Environmental Changes through the Application of Remote Sensing Network
- Technology, Development & Innovation Organization Network

IOR-ARC RCSTT's Traditional Medicine Network

In order to extend co-operation among IOR-ARC Member States and other developing countries with regard to medicinal plants, herbal medicines and products, IOR-ARC RCSTT has managed to establish an IOR-ARC medicinal plants network (IORMPNet). This initiative has been carried out according to the Centre's Activity Programme endorsed by the 11th Council of Ministers on November 9-15, 2011, in Bengaluru and funded by IOR-ARC Special Fund and Iranian National Council for Medicinal Plants. The network will support the following objectives defined at Tehran Declaration 2010 :

- Following a modality similar to the one employed by international networks and mechanisms
- Establishing inter and cross connections among the similar websites of the member countries
- Facilitating the technology transfer among the Member States
- Enhancing co-operation and joint activities among ministries/departments and institutions in the IOR-ARC region via:
 - Developing a regional vision for technology development and commercialization
 - Establishing a web-based network as an inter and cross connection facility
 - Technology transfer activities
 - Technology exhibitions
 - Training programmes



IOR-ARC RCSTT participating in the First National Exhibition & Festival on Herbal Medicine, Tehran (June 10-13, 2012)



Participants at the Regional Experts Meeting on Herbal Medicine, Tehran (June 19-21, 2010)

IOR-ARC RCSTT 's Food Technology Network

IOR-ARC RCSTT has managed to establish a Regional Food Technology Network to facilitate regional co-operation in food technology and knowledge-based products in the IOR-ARC region. This initiative was taken according to the IOR-ARC RCSTT's Activity Programme and endorsed by the 11th Council of Ministers. The network mainly aims to facilitate technology transfer and knowledge sharing among the Member States and provide technical and advisory services for the member countries as well as promote International collaborations through joint activities including research and know-how development. Further, it supports technology development, innovations and commercialization, enhances co-operation among the Member States through developing a knowledge-sharing network for exchanging information and experiences as well as develops cross-border training, education, and technology exhibitions among the IOR-ARC regional countries.

Upcoming Events in IOR-ARC Region

IOR-ARC RCSTT & IDIRO to Organize

Regional Senior Officials Meeting in October 2012, Tehran



Regional Senior Officials Meeting on "New Technology, R&D and Commercialization in the IOR-ARC Region" will be jointly organized by IOR-ARC RCSTT and Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) on October 8-10, 2012 in Tehran, I.R. Iran. The Meeting aims to establish regional mechanisms in order to create a continuous process for developing meaningful relations among R&D institutions and ministries in the IOR-ARC region enabling them to exchange technology, and commercialize knowledge-based products, as well as establish joint ventures at the regional level. IDIRO would intend to present to the Meeting a draft of the road mapping of a regional mechanism for coordinating technological co-operation and future plans in order to commercialize innovative products within the Member States. It is noteworthy that IDIRO, the host organization, would offer local hospitality including accommodation, meals and local transportation to two persons (one at deputy minister level and one expert) from each IOR-ARC Member State. In this regard, IOR-ARC RCSTT and IDIRO will work together towards achieving the defined goals and objectives.

For the Meeting brochure and registration form, please visit IOR-ARC RCSTT's website at:

<http://www.ior-rcstt.org>

Organizers



IDIRO



IOR-ARC RCSTT

India to Organize the World SME Partnership Summit in November 2012, Mumbai

The World SME Partnership Summit will be held during November 2-3, 2012, in Mumbai, Republic of India. The Summit will be jointly organized by Small and Medium Business Development Chamber of India (SME Chamber of India), India International Trade Centre (IITC-India) and SME Export Promotion Council with the support of the Government of India. The Summit will provide unique opportunities for the worldwide SMEs in order to establish business contacts and identify emerging business opportunities in this era of economic downturn. In this regard, IOR-ARC RCSTT is also negotiating over the sponsorship of the event and attracting the support of the organizers for providing the IOR-ARC Member States with the necessary facilities to enable at least one applicant from each member country to attend the Summit.

For further details, please visit www.smechamberofindia.com

Clean Energy Expo Asia in September 2012, Thailand

The fourth edition of Clean Energy Expo Asia will be organized by Koelnmesse and in partnership with ADB-Asian Development Bank during September 12-14, 2012, in Bangkok, Thailand. The event continues to be the premier Trade Fair and Conference in the Asia-Pacific region and aims to tap into the latest developments in the clean energy sectors in Asia-Pacific as well as brings together the leading players from the technology, services, finance and government sectors in order to address key issues in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable mobility solutions.

For more information, please log on to <http://www.cleanenergyexpoasia.com>

IOR-ARC RCSTT's News

IOR-ARC RCSTT to Launch an Official Website on Medicinal Plants

IOR-ARC RCSTT has recently launched an official website on global information about medicinal plants entitled "IOR-MPNet" (Indian Ocean Rim Medicinal Plants Network) in order to extend co-operation among IOR-ARC Member States and other developing countries. The website would introduce medicinal plants and herbal products into those Member States with electronic databases for medicinal plants and acts as the gateway to useful information about medicinal plants specific to each Member State.

For further details, please visit the website at: [www.http://www.iior-rcstt.org/iormpnet/](http://www.iior-rcstt.org/iormpnet/)

IOR-ARC RCSTT's Calendar of Scientific Events 2012

October 8-10, 2012 Tehran-Iran	Regional Senior Officials Meeting on New Technology, R&D and Commercialization in the IOR-ARC Region http://www.iior-rcstt.org
Date to be announced Tehran-Iran	Expert Meeting on Interchanging Technological Information and Enhancement of Oceanic Technologies for Improvement of Oceanic SME's Enterprises in the IOR-ARC Region http://www.iior-rcstt.org
Date to be announced Tehran, Iran	Training Course for Accreditation Bodies http://www.iior-rcstt.org

Technology Offers and Requests

IOR-ARC RCSTT wishes to bring to the Member States' kind notice that the Centre would be pleased to assist the search for suitable technology offers or requests for the interested technology seekers or generators in the IOR-ARC region and beyond. Please forward your technology offers or requests to IOR-ARC RCSTT's Secretariat at: info@iior-rcstt.org