

# First General Assembly Meeting

**NAMES 2008 (2-3 November)**



## RECOMMENDATIONS

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**Host:** The Bibliotheca Alexandrina Planetarium Science Center

**Date:** 2-3 November 2008

**Sponsor:** Middle East Science Fund

### Keynote Speakers:

1. Dr. Ismail Serageldin  
Director, Bibliotheca Alexandrina
2. Dr. Farouk Elbaz  
Director, Center for Remote Sensing, Boston University
3. Prof. Shirley Malcom  
Head, Education and Human Resources Programs,  
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

### Speakers:

1. Mr. Mijbil Almutawa  
Chairman & Managing Director, The Scientific Center of Kuwait, KUWAIT
2. Dr. Mohamed Mamdouh Awny  
Director, Technology Management Programme, College of Graduate Studies,  
Arabian Gulf University (AGU), BAHRAIN
3. Dr. Mohamed Hedi Ben Ismail  
Director General, Tunis Science City, TUNISIA
4. Mr. Bill Booth  
Acting Director of Exhibits Services, Exploratorium, USA
5. Dr. Mike Bruton  
Past-President, Southern African Association of Science and Technology  
Centers (SAASTC), SOUTH AFRICA
6. Dr. Habiba Chaabouni  
Head, Genetic Laboratory, Faculty of Medicine, University of Tunis, TUNISIA
7. Mr. Alan Draeger  
Associate Director, Traveling Programs, American Museum of Natural  
History (AMNH), USA
8. Dr. Hassan Dweik  
Discovery Science Center, Alquds University, PALESTINE
9. Dr. Iman Elkaffass  
Chairperson, "STEP UP" Consultations, Trainings and Educational Services,  
EGYPT
10. Dr. Rana Elkaliouby  
Research Scientist, Media Laboratory, MIT, EGYPT

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11. Ms. Sue Evans  
President, StartREAL Foundation, USA
12. Ms. Catherine Franche  
Executive Director, European Network of Science Centers and Museums (ECSITE), BELGIUM
13. Dr. Fekry Hassan  
Science City Project, EGYPT
14. Dr. Asger Hoeg  
Director, Experimentarium, DENMARK
15. Mr. Serif Kaynar  
President, Turkey Science Centers Foundation
16. Dr. Vincenzo Lipardi  
President, European Network of Science Centers and Museums (ECSITE)
17. Prof. Tom Mason  
President Elect, International Planetarium Society (IPS)
18. Dr. Ingit Mukhopadhyay  
Director General, National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), INDIA
19. Dr. Tengku Nasariah Ibrahim  
President, Asia Pacific Network of Science and Technology Centers (ASPAC)
20. Mr. Hans Nyman  
Vice Chairman, Friends of Alexandria in Sweden, SWEDEN
21. Dr. Per-Edvin Persson  
Director, Heureka – the Finnish Science Center, FINLAND
22. Dr. Walter Staveloz  
Director of International Relations, Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC), USA
23. Dr. Julia Tagüeña Parga  
Former Executive Director, Network for the Popularization of Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (Red-POP), MEXICO

### **Exhibitors:**

1. American Museum of Natural History, USA
2. Kurt Hüttinger GmbH & Co. KG, GERMANY
3. Science Projects Ltd., UNITED KINGDOM
4. MTE Studios, UAE
5. The Field Museum, Chicago, USA
6. Intel Ireland, IRELAND
7. Be Curious!, SWEDEN

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8. Bibliotheca Alexandrina Design & Fabrication Unit, EGYPT
9. Nahdet Masr for Printing, Publishing & Distribution, EGYPT
10. Koosha for Engineering Equipment, EGYPT
11. Voyager Optics Technology, EGYPT
12. Technology and Science Kids Center (TASK), EGYPT
13. TechnoKids, EGYPT

### **Recommendations:**

The theme of NAMES First General Assembly Meeting (NAMES 2008) was the Role of Science Centers in Establishing Knowledge-Based Societies in the Region. The conference covered the issue through two subthemes; Networking and Advocacy, and, Effective and Non-Traditional Methods of Science Communication:

1. NAMES 2008 has been a strong kick-off to the new network, in the area of international collaboration, within the field of science communication. This major step has to be reinforced by further and consistent interaction between regional and international science centers and networks to further empower the public with the language of science as well as sharing experiences and mutual understanding.
2. NAMES 2008 featured three sessions dedicated to the experiences of different science centers in communicating science across the world. Parallel to reinforcing the success of international networking through NAMES, more focus and effort is to be exerted by each member on enhancing the informal science communication on the national level. This could be achieved by, first researching and scouting for effective and innovative methods of science communication, then working on implementing and enhancing these methods throughout the region.
3. NAMES 2008 is to be an incentive for further spreading throughout the region and expanding the network's database of regional science communication entities and supporting them, in addition to encouraging and assisting in the building of new entities dedicated to the popularization of science.
4. NAMES is to get more involved with science communication in Africa, reaching out to African science communication entities and acting as a bridge to the international science communication community.