

5. **Ratification of previous decision: Approval of IAEA/SESAME Memorandum of Cooperation**

The IAEA/SESAME Memorandum of Cooperation (MoU), which was approved electronically by all eight Members of SESAME in October 2006, was ratified.

The MoU was signed during the meeting. It was signed by Ms Ana Maria Cetto, Deputy Director-General and Head of the Department of Technical Co-operation at the International Atomic Energy Agency, and H.E. Professor Khaled Toukan, Director of SESAME. It comes into force on the date of its signature, that is 6 December 2006.

6. **Statement by the Deputy Director-General of IAEA:** Ms A.M. Cetto, Deputy Director-General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation of the IAEA, reminded delegates that it is the goal of promoting regional and international cooperation through the peaceful use of science that SESAME shares in common with the IAEA that prompted the Agency to seek ways of strengthening cooperation with the Centre. She reviewed major milestones in this cooperation, namely the national project in Jordan (JOR/0/007) for human resource capacity building in accelerator physics and synchrotron radiation applications, the 40 persons-months training offered for SESAME fellows during 2006 through the inter-regional project INT/0/081, the drafting of a MoU to set a framework for future cooperation between IAEA and SESAME which may also be regarded as an instrument that demonstrates that the two Organizations are partners in development, and the preparation of an inter-regional project for cooperation with SESAME within the MoU. She considered of utmost significance for the future use of the synchrotron science and applications in the SESAME host country the 1<sup>st</sup> Jordanian National Users Meeting held in September 2006 with support from project JOR/0/007. She announced that the inter-regional project to be implemented in the framework of the MoU, entitled *Support for Human Capacity Building in the Utilization and Operation of the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME)* (INT/1/055), was approved by the Agency's Board of Governors during its November 2006 session and that it will come into effect in January 2007 for a period of 4 years. She indicated that it will have an overall budget of US\$750,000 with the largest portion being dedicated to the training of fellows and the provision of expert advice. She expressed the hope that the leading role being played by Jordan, which has constantly been increasing its financial investment in the project, will motivate other SESAME Members to help ensure the financial resources needed in the years ahead to commission and fully sustain the operation of the SESAME facility. She indicated that the IAEA looked forward to a fully operational SESAME which, after having benefited from the Agency's support, will in turn host fellow scientists from around the world willing to acquire knowledge on the use and applications of synchrotron radiation. She assured SESAME that the IAEA intends to continue helping it to promote regional and international cooperation through the peaceful use of science.

The President of Council thanked the IAEA and Ms Cetto for the very precious help the Agency is providing and stressed that this support has much more than just financial importance, it also has a symbolic value. Indeed, by virtue of the MoU and the inter-regional project created for cooperation with SESAME the IAEA is recognizing the

existence of the Centre and a partnership has been established between the two Organizations.

11. **Report on IAEA/SESAME cooperation:** Mr J-P Cayol, Programme Management Officer of the Division for Asia and the Pacific of IAEA's Department of Technical Cooperation, reviewed the tasks already accomplished in the framework of the national project JOR/0/007. Among them an expert mission to Jordan for the purpose of reviewing SESAME's documentation so that the delivery of a licence for the construction and operation of the accelerator is facilitated; the hiring of 8 experts to help with the 1<sup>st</sup> Jordanian National Users Meeting held in September 2006; and 6 one-month fellowships awarded to Jordanian nationals for training in Switzerland, France, the UK, or the USA. Four of these fellowships were granted in 2005 and 2 in 2006. Two further Jordanians are still to be granted a one-month fellowship, one in January 2007 for training in Italy and the second in March 2007 for training in France. In addition, one Jordanian proposed by the Directorate of SESAME will be receiving a six-month fellowship that is scheduled to start in March 2007. He indicated that the IAEA is waiting for the Jordanian Authorities to submit a request for the additional expertise it had been said would be required for the preparation of the documentation for the commissioning of the machine since this mission is also to be funded from this project. He also gave information on progress in the inter-regional project INT/0/081 through which 5 six-month fellowships are being granted – the fellowships are being granted to an Iranian, 2 Egyptians, a Pakistani and a Turk. He indicated that the IAEA has not yet received the required endorsement of the candidates from the Egyptian Authorities. As from January 2007, this inter-regional project will no longer be used for new SESAME related training needs. Instead, the new inter-regional project specially created for SESAME (INT/1/055) will be used. Funds for this project will be available as from 9 January 2007. He said that there would be need for SESAME to officially nominate a focal point for the project so that this person may be granted e-access to the relevant applications of the IAEA Department of Technical Cooperation. This focal point should thoroughly review the project documents (project description, workplan and logframe) so that early in 2007 actions for the tasks planned may be initiated. At the IAEA, the counterpart for this focal point will be either Mr M.P. Salema, Director of the Division for Asia and Pacific, or he himself. He reminded delegates that SESAME may select institutes to host the fellows and may even formally contact them, however, the IAEA will nonetheless have to approach the national authorities of these institutes for their agreement on the fellow being proposed and these Authorities, in turn, will contact the receiving institute in their country. Moreover, though the selection of candidates to be granted a fellowship is made by SESAME, a staff member of the IAEA has to be present during the selection. He indicated that if one adds together the funds the IAEA is providing from projects JOR/0/007, INT/0/081 and INT/1/055, by the end of the latter in December 2010 the IAEA will have provided SESAME with some US\$978,000. He said that a report on cooperation among Members of SESAME, the complementary support of UNESCO and the IAEA, and the signature of the MoU is shortly to be posted on the Agency's website and he suggested that UNESCO do the same on its site. He ended his report by thanking the delegates of Israel, Jordan and Turkey for the efforts they had made to ensure that their countries spoke up in favour of SESAME at the Agency's 50<sup>th</sup>

General Conference (Vienna, Austria, September 2006) and he urged SESAME to spare no efforts to strengthen its relationship with the IAEA.

Note added after meeting: The IAEA has nominated Mr J-P Cayol project officer responsible for the inter-regional project INT/1/055.

The President of Council thanked Mr Cayol for his untiring efforts to facilitate the provision of support for SESAME and expressed gratitude for the help the IAEA has provided which has allowed people to be trained for the machine and is now making it possible for people to be trained for the beamlines. He also thanked the delegates of those countries that had expressed support for SESAME at the IAEA's 50<sup>th</sup> General Conference. Politically, this was very important and he hoped that in the future other countries would do the same. It was suggested, and agreed, that Mr Yasser Elshayeb, Administrative and Financial Officer of SESAME, will be focal point for interaction with the IAEA in the inter-regional project INT/1/055. He will carry out the tasks related to this assignment in close collaboration with the Scientific and Technical Directors of SESAME and the Centre's Training Committee. Delegates welcomed the information to be posted on the website of the IAEA concerning SESAME, the complementary support of UNESCO and the IAEA, and the MoU, and it was agreed that similar information should also be posted on the website of SESAME.