



SESAME

Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East

Opening of SESAME 16 May 2017

Statement by Director-General Peretz Vazan Head of the Israeli Delegation



Your Royal Highness Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan,
President of the SESAME Council, Sir Chris Llewellyn Smith,
Honourable Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished Scientists,
Dear Guests,

"The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East" – by including these words in its Declaration of Independence, the State of Israel from its very beginning announced its willingness to contribute to this region.

I am glad to prove these words by standing here today with a large delegation of Israeli scientists, including the President of the Israeli Academy of Sciences, Professor Nili Cohen, the Chairperson of the Committee for Planning and Budgeting of the Council of Higher Education, Professor Yaffa Zilbershatz, Professor Eliezer Rabinovici, Vice President of CERN's Council, the Member of Knesset Erel Margalit, and the other scientists from Israel.

Science teaches us that progress is made by establishing strong alliances and exploring opportunities. Accordingly, we are indeed prepared to explore any opportunity, together with our neighbours, to upgrade our region and prepare it for the challenges it faces in the twenty-first century.

We are glad to have such worthy partners in this endeavour.

Through regional cooperation we hope to intensify the relations with our neighbours in a way that scientific cooperation would spill-over to other areas of cooperation, similar to the European model.

Four years ago, Israel joined CERN as a full member. I believe that the CERN DNA was imprinted into SESAME, and that we will see great cooperation and similar success in this facility, right here in the Middle East.

I cannot think of a better way to counter the long-term challenges facing our region than to invest our resources in science and innovation. International cooperation is the

best way to ensure that investment pays off.

Israel is a diverse society, and its success demonstrates how a combination of different backgrounds and experiences can stimulate creativity and ingenuity.

By pooling our resources and our talents together, we can make progress that would be impossible alone.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am standing here today, full of hope and expectations that in this facility, the finest of the state-of-the-art of science and technology shall come to life, for the sake of our countries, for the sake of our region and, of course, for the sake of the world.

Scientific cooperation on the international level, like we see here in SESAME, certainly makes the world a better place, and the State of Israel is proud to be part of this project and vision.

I would like to thank the SESAME Council and its management and all those who worked so hard to organize this wonderful event.

Thank you very much.