

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF SESAME
Room IV, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 10-12 July 2006

Decisions

The Council of SESAME held its 8th meeting at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 10-12 July 2006.

The Council took the following decisions:

1. Delegates will consult their governmental authorities to see whether they would be prepared to invest in the upgrading of the SESAME machine. This investment could be in cash or in kind. The outcome of their discussions will be discussed at the 9th Council meeting.
2. The decision to endorse Portugal's request to become an Observer of SESAME, which was approved electronically by all seven Members of SESAME in May 2006, is ratified.
3. The decision to replace Professor Ahmed Mahmoud Saleh (Egypt) on the Training Committee by Dr Randa Abdel-Karim (Egypt), which was approved electronically by all seven Members of SESAME in March 2006, is ratified.
4. The project *Structural, Electronic and Magnetic Properties of Transition-Metal Compounds at very High Pressures* elaborated by a research team at Hacettepe University (Turkey) and another at Tel Aviv University (Israel) may be submitted to IBSP¹ if it does not have financial implications for SESAME.
5. Once finalized, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the IAEA will be communicated electronically to delegates of Members and, if they approve it, the Director of SESAME will sign it on behalf of the Centre since there is a need for it to be signed before the November 2006 session of the Board of Governors of IAEA. As there will be a need for SESAME to immediately start executing what is envisaged in the terms of reference of the inter-regional project that it is proposed to set up for cooperation within the MOU, once the project is approved by the Board of Governors of the IAEA, delegates will be consulted electronically to see if they would authorize the Directorate to proceed with the needed actions.
6. The Directorate of SESAME will prepare a document for a forthcoming Council meeting clearly outlining the reasons why the cost of upgrading the machine is to be increased.
7. The current Scientific Director will become special advisor to the Directorate from 1 January 2007. SESAME Council will be open to proposals from Pakistan concerning a possible candidate for the post of Scientific Director.

¹ IBSP is UNESCO's International Basic Sciences Programme.

8. Professor Zahid Hussain (Pakistan working in the USA) will be invited to Chair the Beamlines Committee with effect from 1 January 2007. In order to ensure continuity, Professor Samar Hasnain, the current Chair of the Committee, will continue to serve as a member of the Committee for some time and this practice will be followed in the case of any outgoing Chair of an Advisory Committee
9. A letter will be sent to the Iranian Authorities enquiring on Iran's membership in SESAME. It will be sent when the representatives of Iran indicate that the moment is right for this and they specify to whom it is to be addressed.
10. Henceforth, the proposed or approved annual budget for any given year will consist of two chapters: expenditures of an operational nature and expenditures relating to investments. Extra-budgetary contributions or contributions in kind will be listed in a separate document. Moreover, for the sake of transparency the "Travel and *Training* of SESAME staff" (item A.4 of the proposed 2007 budget) will be referred to as the "Travel and *Missions* of SESAME staff".
11. The minor amendment to paragraph (b) of regulation 3.9 of the Provisional Staff Regulations proposed by the Finance Committee is unanimously approved.
12. The 9th Council meeting will be held in Petra, Jordan, from 6 to 8 December 2006. Participants will spend the night of 5 December in Amman and will visit the SESAME site early on the morning of 6 December. Immediately after this they will be driven to Petra by coach and the Council meeting *per se* will start on the afternoon of 6 December.