



SESAME

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

Opening of SESAME 16 May 2017

Statement by HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan Head of the Jordanian Delegation



Professor Sir Chris Llewellyn Smith,
Distinguished Guests,
Dr Khaled Toukan,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured and privileged to welcome you all as Head of the Jordan Delegation. On behalf of our entire Jordanian science family, and particularly on behalf of Jordan's oldest and largest scientific research organization, the Royal Scientific Society, I would like to reaffirm our unswerving dedication to this wonderful project.

We are deeply committed to building a society of equal partners in progress, where individuals, regardless of their backgrounds or occupations, may feel allied in some way to so many of you, the men and women who devote their lives to science.

We want our citizens, young and old, to feel a connection with the platforms, tools and infrastructure that enable scientific enquiry to engage and to flourish. For us to have such a thrilling research facility on our doorstep makes this task so much easier.

We are determined to develop a model for Open Science that suits and supports our nation and our region. Science offers more than answers – it promises a bold and uniting journey to finding innovative solutions to our shared challenges. We hope that we can make much of the research that will be conducted here comprehensible and relevant to a wider audience. For science is humanity's greatest endowment as we strive to manage our challenged resources and to care for, and heal, our threatened environment.

SESAME is a beacon of cooperative science in a region where political collaboration is so often absent or thwarted. But it also has the potential to help shine a light into all our communities, one that will illuminate the vast potential of creative innovation to solve problems, to make life better for all of us, and to teach us so much more about ourselves.

For me personally it has been a privilege to watch over the last few years the development of SESAME and to play a small part in this process. I want to particularly congratulate Professor Sir Chris Llewellyn Smith and Dr Khaled Toukan for their perseverance, but also for their dedication and commitment to making this such a

proud day for all Jordanians.

I am delighted to add that as we celebrate a wonderful year for science in Jordan, and the region, we are privileged to host another example of science diplomacy at the World Science Forum in 2017, at the Dead Sea in November under the banner of science for peace. The practice and policy of science have never been more central to our national and regional conversations. Long may this continue!