

ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Islamic Solidarity Conference in Science and Technology has been held in Riyadh, the Capital of Saudi Arabia on Rabi' al-Awwal 20, 1396 A. H. corresponding March 20, 1976 A.D. His Majesty King Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz inaugurated the opening session.

The basic notion behind the Conference is to review the actual state of learning institutions whether involved in education or research as well as the state of industrial organization in the Islamic World. Briefly, the goal of the Conference is to examine the historical evolution, of these institutions in the hope of detecting the laws governing their evolution and to benefit from the experience of others in this field, while trying to avoid errors and probably orient the course of these institutions as well as commending the basis of future cooperation among Muslim countries. Committees affiliated to the Conference discussed the proposals submitted by the Scientific Committee with the aim of re-

aching suitable recommendations. Some of the issues submitted for examination are being raised for the first time. Other issues have been previously tackled from different angles and with different emphasis.

Special sessions have been designated to discuss industrial policy in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as, industrial development and the five year's plan in the field of education.

In addition to the formal and scientific aspects of the Conference, the social committee performed some social and recreational activities. Participants paid a visit to the landmarks of Riyadh and some of the top officials in Saudi Arabia. The Conference came to end after participants paid a visit to the Prophet's Mosque in Al Madina Al Munawwara and performed an Umra in Mecca.

• It is sufficient to inform Muslims and alert them to the fact that the future of Islam is clo-

sely linked to the revival of faith and belief and to the attainment of physical power.

May Allah bless our common efforts and guide us along the right path.

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About ninety issues were submitted to the Conference dealing with the following main subjects :

- I. Education and Technological Progress.
- II. Industry and its Problems in the Muslim World.
- III. Scientific Research.

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IV. Translation, Writing, and Education in the Native Language.

V. The Scientific and Technological Map of the Muslim World.

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Mr. Abdul-Aziz bin Abdallah, Director of the Coordination of Arabicization Bureau, Rabat, has participated in the Conference with an article that can be summarized in the following lines :

The Arabic language has spread in the world since ancient times. Its spreading in the countries of the East and in Africa, under the banner of Islamic Civilization is well-known since ancient times, to the extent that the Persian, Turkish and Urdu languages have borrowed many words and expressions from the Arabic language and are written in Arabic letters.

But today, with the change of times, scientific and technological progress has made the Arabic language come to a standstill due to the lack of Arabic references, in different sciences sufficient for university education. Besides, the movement of translation and Arabicization in the Arab World is so slow that it cannot keep pace with the quick development of sciences and arts—a matter which always makes the Arabic language in need of many technical and scientific terms. This state of affairs has resulted in

creating differences in scientific terms in the Arabic linguistic and grammar and finally carelessness, on the part of the Arab people, in spreading their language abroad especially in non-Arab Islamic countries.

For this reason, it is necessary to encourage Arabization and translation of scientific university books and references, conducting different researches and writing various works in Arabic publishing scientific and technical dictionaries concerned with scientific terms in different branches of scientific concepts and terms. These tasks should be undertaken by a specialized institution such as the Bureau for Arabicization Coordination in the Arab World, in Rabat. Such an effort would, no doubt, save the Arabic language from being divided, God forbid, into different regional dialects as the case with the Latin language. Thus, literal Arabicization should only be restricted to international terms of scientific concepts while derivation can cover other different fields.

This requires establishing an Arab cultural unity through unifying curricula and academic books as well as scientific terms by convening conferences for this purpose under the auspices of the Arab Organization for Education, Science and Culture supported by other specialized organizations. It is also necessary to publish a

simplified book in Arabic printing, give attention to school books and curricula as well as to methods of teaching Arabic with a view to expanding cultural and emotional perceptibility of the Arab child. Besides, attention should be given to teaching Arabic to foreigners and to spreading it in non-Arab Islamic countries.

Arabic language, in short, is suitable for university education in the field of human sciences as well as modern sciences through seeking the support of a foreign language, at least for the time being and to a limited period of time, and referring to multi-language scientific references. For, while depending on the native language in university education is a national necessity, keeping the human scientific standard requires

accuracy and consolidation of this kind of Arabization with foreign languages and references. The problem is not confined to the Arabic language. For, the new scientific concepts are increasing every day, and there are great nations, like France, which meet many difficulties in this connection, to the extent that France

cannot absorb half of the new scientific concepts introduced every day, inspite of the existence of diverse specialized authorities in that country. However, it is clear that France suffers from an increasing shortage in technical university education without resorting to foreign scientific terms.

