



## International Advisory Board

# Newsletter

No. 1/2007-08

October 15, 2007

### Message from the Rector

I am pleased to introduce this first newsletter of the International Advisory Board (IAB) that will help the University community keep updated on the Board's activities and developments of the University. It is my sincere hope that you will find the information provided both interesting and informative.

The IAB was established for the purpose of providing advice and guidance on issues important to the University and its community. The first meeting of the Board was held in Dhahran on March 10-11, 2007, which provided an opportunity to the members to acquaint themselves with the University, its programs, and activities. This meeting was crowned by a reception given to the Board members by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah ibn Abdulaziz in the Royal Court in Riyadh.

The Board held its second meeting in Boston during August 25-26, 2007 to discuss agenda items on various issues related to faculty, students, teaching and research, and came up with some fruitful recommendations that will pave the way for continued growth and development of our University. A brief report on what transpired in the meeting is presented in this issue.

I would like to express my thanks to the outgoing Secretary General of the Board, Dr. Mohammad Al-Arfaj, for his outstanding contributions, and wish him success and satisfaction in his endeavors. I also take this opportunity to welcome Dr. Khattab Al-Hinai as the new Secretary General of the Board.



Members present in the Boston meeting

Seated from the left: Dr. Henry Rosvosky, Mr. Abdullah Juma'h, Dr. Khaled Al-Sultan, Dr. Martin Jischke, Mr. Mohammad Al-Madi, and Mr. John Rice.  
Standing from left: Dr. Choon Fong Shih, Dr. Kazuo Oike, Mr. Tony Meggs, Dr. Wayne Clough, Mr. David O'Riley, Dr. John Etchemendy, Dr. Hugo Sonnenschein, and Dr. Mohammad Al-Arfaj.

## The Second Meeting of the Board

Those present in the meeting were:

- Dr. Martin Jischke, Chairman of the Board & President Emeritus of Purdue University
- Mr. Abdulla Jum'ah, Deputy Chairman of the Board and President & CEO of Saudi Aramco
- Dr. Wayne Clough, President of Georgia Institute of Technology
- Dr. John Etchemendy, Provost of Stanford University
- Mr. Mohammad Al-Madi, Vice Chairman & CEO of Saudi Basic Industries Corporation
- Mr. Tony Meggs, Group Vice President of Technology, British Petroleum
- Mr. David O'Reilly, Chairman & CEO of Chevron Corporation
- Mr. Kazuo Oike, President of Kyoto University
- Mr. John Rice, Vice Chairman of General Electric & President & CEO of General Electric Infrastructure
- Dr. Henry Rosovsky, Professor Emeritus of Harvard University
- Dr. Choon Fong Shih, President of National University of Singapore
- Dr. Khaled S. Al-Sultan, Rector of KFUPM
- Dr. Hugo Sonnenschein, Former President of the University of Chicago
- Muhammad Al-Arfaj, IAB Secretary-General

Also attending from the University were the following officials:

- Dr. Sahel N. Abduljawwad, Vice-Rector for Applied Research
- Dr. Mohammed Abul Hamayel, Internal Auditor
- Dr. Khattab Al-Hinai, Manager Research & Innovation Support Office, and Incoming Secretary General of the Board

## Note

Should you have any comments or suggestions, please let us know. The contact details are given below.

Dr. Khattab G. Al-Hinai, Secretary-General, International Advisory Board  
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## Presentations

Following a brief introduction and an overview of the developments with regard to higher education that had occurred recently in the Kingdom, a detailed report was presented on the actions and progress made with regard to the following topics discussed in the first meeting of the Board held March 11, 2007:

- basic sciences and general education in the undergraduate curriculum
- issues related to faculty
- emphasis on focused research areas.

The Board then dwelled on the following topics in detail:

1. KFUPM strategy vision and mission
2. Issues related to faculty & students
3. Research direction

## Recommendations

Following detailed discussions, the Board then presented major areas of recommendations with regard to faculty, graduate students, mission and vision statements, administration, research agenda, costs and resources for the new strategy adopted by the University, and enhancement of undergraduate programs.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting of the IAB is scheduled for January 12-13, 2008 in Dhahran, which will include a visit to Saudi Aramco.