

First Call for Papers

Many nations around the world have been seeking to keep up-to-date with international happenings and challenges and to continually reform to better serving the needs of their constituents and the communities involved. To realize these goals, the Association of Arab Universities (AARU) together with the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA) and some regional/international partners are setting out to strengthen their multi-stakeholder capacity on research and innovation for development. The new strategy on towards 2030 focuses on reforming and strengthening industrial research and innovation systems, enhancing multi-lateral collaboration, and influencing development in the NENA region.

One of the challenges that the region is experiencing includes the huge knowledge losses. Emanating from this, the knowledge produced locally is often times not of a level to be turned into innovations on towards the betterment of the wellbeing of the nations involved. Commensurate with this, the new Strategy draws on the joint role AARU and AARINENA share in facilitating and mobilizing dialogue and engaging collective actions among partners to overcome the main challenges of the NENA region. These include lack of expertise in areas related to innovative research, undernourishment, gender inequalities, water scarcity, lack of understanding or realizing the impact of value-added work products along the ways of achieving economic prosperity and further growth, low agricultural productivity under scarce natural resources and food import dependencies. In order to alleviate such adversities, the strategies for both AARU and AARINENA identify innovation as the process, and way to go, which it will communicate, adapt, and adopt during the upcoming period.

The conference brings together academic institutions (public and private), NGOs, government agencies, and private industries from diverse fields, including environment and agriculture, energy, industrial innovations, and Fintech (financial technology) Solutions. This will inherently target participants from around the AARU and NENA geographic spans in a way that would harness innovative thinking, leverage collaboration amongst member nations, and target the furthering of the wellbeing of citizens of the Arab and NENA spheres.

Consequently, AARU and AARINENA strive to host the first international conference titled, "Innovation and Entrepreneurship" with its motto set as "Gearing up for the 4th Industrial Revolution."

Innovation Centers around NENA Region

- Success stories to date
- Fostered start-ups

Innovation Platforms

- Platform development
- Platform engagement
- Platform management

Innovation-related Legislations & Policy

- Incubator-supporting policies
- Bylaws and regulations
- IP registration & process

Transformative Learning/Teaching in Higher Education

- Ongoing projects in transformative education (teaching vs. learning)
- Institutional commitments to change; visions, experiences and lessons learned
- Community engagement
- Global network & partnership opportunities

Innovation in Higher Education

- Technology Transfer offices
- Innovation processes for researchers

Technological Incubators

- Building incubators
- Incubator readiness to foster projects

Industrial Innovation for the 4th Industrial Age

- Linkages between academia and industry
- Research commercialization

Emerging Innovations

- Innovations for Financial Applications (Fintech solutions)
- Blockchain cryptocurrency applications
- Innovations in mobile applications
- Identity recognition for security-oriented applications

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