



DR. MARWAN KAMAL, PRESIDENT, AEUA

Welcome to the 2011 AEUA University Presidents' meeting! This year ushers in a renewed interest in academic cooperation between Europe and the Arab World and AEUA offers an exciting platform for cooperation, the development of long-lasting partnerships and innovation in higher education and research.

AEUA aims to enhance networking contacts and cooperation between its member universities and its strengths lie in YOU - our member universities across the Arab World and Europe.

Founded in 1999, AEUA was initially established to respond to the growing need for an effective vehicle to link and develop further cooperation between Arab and European universities. AEUA was formally incorporated under Dutch law in 2000 jointly by the Association of Arab Universities based in Jordan and the European University Association based in Brussels and was initiated by the Lutfia Rabbani Foundation.

With this continued support, some 1300 universities are eligible to join a platform to enhance contacts at the institutional, research and educational level.

AEUA enhances and broadens the relations between institutions in both regions including international staff and student exchange, open communication, access and dialogue, sharing of resources, joint research and curriculum development. In addition, where possible, AEUA mediates between member-universities to create and structure activities in such a way that they might be eligible for funding.

This year's AEUA Presidents' Meeting focuses on themes relevant to recent regional developments and our member universities as well as central themes in the relationship between Europe and the Arab World. Aside from AEUA's academic objectives, social objectives also play an important role. It is imperative that we broaden our internationalization efforts to not only increase our academic scope but also to learn from each other in order to enhance integration and cooperation.

If you are not yet a member of AEUA, I encourage you to join. AEUA membership is open to all universities in European and Arab countries, who are either members of the European University Association (EUA) or of the Association of Arab Universities (AARU). Membership is on an institutional basis.

We are honored that the University of Groningen is serving as this year's host University in the beautiful city of Groningen. The University of Groningen is one of the foremost academic institutions in The Netherlands and internationally acclaimed. By hosting this event, it contributes to the promotion and stimulation of cooperation between universities in the two regions.

I wish all University representatives a pleasant stay in Groningen and again, express special thanks to the University and the city of Groningen for its role in realizing the success of this meeting.



university of
 groningen

AEUA Presidents' Meeting Groningen, The Netherlands July 3-6, 2011



The Arab European University Association

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PROF. DR. SIBRANDES POPPEMA, PRESIDENT UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

Hosting the 2011 Arab European University Association Presidents' Meeting is an honor and a privilege for the second oldest university of the Netherlands, the University of Groningen. Since 1614 a strong tradition of research and education is settled in the city of Groningen, which is the cultural, social and economic center of this part of the Netherlands. The first Rector of the University, Ubbo Emmius, being already aware of the importance of ancient linguistic and professional tradition, asked the Dutch scholar Nicolaas Mulerius (1564-1630) to become a professor at the young Academy which is now called: University of Groningen. Mulerius had been a student of Arabic Languages and Theology, and also thanks to his eminent knowledge of ancient sources from different parts of the world became a well known medical doctor in later years. And even in modern times, one of the best kept secrets of our university is the fact that a scholar from Groningen, prof.dr. Fred Leemhuis, is one of the world's most famous translators of the Koran. Leemhuis' Dutch translation of the Holy Book of the Arab and Islamic world is widely acknowledged as brilliant and sincere. So, a long tradition of Arab-Dutch contacts makes Groningen an excellent place to gather, if one counts history and knowledge of each other's culture as important bridges between people.

Groningen is situated in the north of the Netherlands, and the Netherlands are one of the six founding fathers of the European Union. We feel very well connected to Europe, with Brussels within a few hours of travelling from our city. Several alliances, like the membership of the Coimbra Group of forty classical universities all over Europe, make Groningen and its university an outstanding example of a European 'place-to-be'.

A completely different source, and a very good reason for cooperation as well, is the fact that energy plays a main role in both areas: the gas from the province of Groningen acts as the main source of energy in this part of Europe, and the oil, gas and the energy of the sun from Arab countries, especially those around the Gulf, do and still will have a global impact. Since the late fifties of the past century, the natural gas from Groningen has been Holland's most important source of prosperity, besides the agro-industrial production in which our province plays a major role as well. The University of Groningen has a group of specialists in the field of solar collectors, which won several international highly esteemed prizes for its sustainable production and research.

Whereas 5000 out of 27,500 students at our University are from other countries, Arab students started to come in recently too, mainly as students in Medical Sciences and Dentistry. They are part of the international community at the university, which at the moment consists of more than 115 nationalities. During the annual Welcoming Ceremony, all these students gather in our Academy Building, which is one of the main buildings of our city and which hosts your conference as well.

I sincerely hope that you will not only discover the University during your stay in Groningen, but also the lively and young town - though officially recognized as a city already in the year 1040! - in which we feel firmly settled, and I wish you a very good conference. May the relations between the universities of the Arab world and the University of Groningen, representing the European community, prosper!



University of Groningen, founded 1614

Sunday, July 3 Day of Arrival in Groningen

16:00 WELCOME RECEPTION AT THE ACADEMY BUILDING, BROERSTRAAT 5

This reception is offered to you by the University of Groningen, the Municipality of Groningen and the Province of Groningen.

Monday, July 4 Academy Building, Broerstraat 5

09.00 – 10.00 REGISTRATION

Moderator: Drs. Bert Verveld, Secretary General

10.00 – 11.00

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION,

Prof. Dr. Sibrandes Poppema, President, University of Groningen
Drs. Max van den Berg, Queen's Commissioner in Groningen
Dr. Marwan Kamal, President, The Arab European University Association (AEUA)
Prof. Dr. Sultan Abu Orabi, Secretary General, Association of Arab Universities
Mr. Salim Rabbani, Chairman, Lutfia Rabbani Foundation

11.00 – 12.00

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

H.E. Dr. Khalid Bin Mohammed Al-Angari, Minister of Higher Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

GUEST SPEAKER

Nabil K. Aldabal, Managing Director of Aramco Overseas Company BV The Hague, The Netherlands

12.00 – 13.30

LUNCH

Moderator: Dr. Jan Donner, Founding Board Member, AEUA

13.30 – 15.00

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION

Prof. Dr. Guido Langouche, Vice President of the Netherlands Flemish Accreditation Organisation (NVAO)
Prof. Dr. Saleh Hashem, Former Secretary General, Association of Arab Universities
Prof. Ella Ritchie, Deputy Vice-Chancellor University of Newcastle, United Kingdom
Discussion

15.00 – 15.30

COFFEE/TEA BREAK

15.30 – 17.45

GOVERNANCE

Prof. Kerstin Sahlin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor University Uppsala, Sweden
Dr. Daoud Abdel Malek Haddabi, Former President of the University of Science & Technology, Sanaa
Discussion

18.30 – 21.00

ARAMCO DINNER AT THE "DER AA-KERK", AKERKHOF 2

Tuesday, July 5 Academy Building, Broerstraat 5

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Sultan Abu Orabi, Secretary General, Association of Arab Universities

09.00 – 10.20

INTERNATIONALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Prof. Dr. Frans Zwarts, Former Rector, University of Groningen
Prof. Mohammad Awwad, Vice President, Philadelphia University
Prof. Dr. Paul van Cauwenberge, Rector, Ghent University, Belgium
Dr. Mohamed Loufi, Dean of International Development, University of Wales Institute

10.20 – 10.50

COFFEE/TEA BREAK

10.50 – 12.00

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Peter Hendriks President Science, Technology & Medicine Publishing Springer Science and Business Media BV

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

H.E. Drs. Halbe Zijlstra, Deputy Minister for Higher Education, Culture and Science of The Netherlands

Discussion: sharing experiences

12.00 – 13.30

SPRINGER LUNCH

13.30 – 15.10

HIGHER EDUCATION: LABOR MARKET DRIVEN?

Drs. Gertjan Lankhorst, Chief Executive Officer, GasTerra
Mr. Salim Rabbani, MBA, Chairman, Netherlands-Middle East Business Council
Dr. Uwe Muuss, Director International Office Georg-August University Goettingen, Germany
Dr. Henry Awit, Academic Vice President, Saint Joseph University Beirut

European Programmes (Tempus and Erasmus Mundus)

Piia Heinamaki, Executive Agency European Programmes

15.10 – 15.40

COFFEE/TEA BREAK

15.40 – 17.15

PLENARY SESSION

Moderators:
Prof. Dr. Sibrandes Poppema, President, University of Groningen;
Prof. Dr. Sultan Abu Orabi, Secretary General, Association of Arab Universities and
Dr. Jan Donner, Founding Board Member, AEUA

- + Arab & European universities
- + Where do we go?
- + Joint projects

CLOSING

18.00

DEPARTURE FROM HOTELS FOR DELEGATES ATTENDING THE DINNER

18.30 – 21.00

DINNER BUITENSOCIETEIT PETERSWOLDSEMEER (MEERWEG 227, HAREN)

Wednesday, July 6

08.30

DEPARTURE DELEGATES ATTENDING THE EXCURSION TO AMSTERDAM

11.00

SOCIAL PROGRAMME AT THE ROYAL TROPICAL INSTITUTE IN AMSTERDAM