



Palestine Academy for Science and Technology (PALAST): Profile, achievements and Future actions

Capacity Building Workshop on
Science, Technology and Innovation Observatories in ESCWA Member
Countries

Beirut, 11-12 November 2009



Establishment of PALAST

- 1997 - First established in PA,
- 1998 - Official opening of PALAST Office in Ramallah,
- 2000 - Establishing PALAST office in Gaza,
- 2002 - Working in in Jerusalem under the umbrella of PCH,
- 2004 - Presidential Decree concerning the status and the expected roles of PALAST,
- 2005 - Registering PALAST in East Jerusalem and establishing its Offices.

<http://www.palstineacademy.org>



Presidential Decree # 13 / 2004

Article 1:

i. Considering Palestine Academy for Science and Technology as a non-governmental, and administratively and financially independent institution.

ii. The headquarter of Palestine Academy of Science and Technology is in Jerusalem and it has the right to establish other branches in Palestine.

Role:

- Support scientific research and publications,
- Conduct scientific activities that address national priorities,
- Develop STI databases and networks,
- Act as an advisory institute for governmental institutions and other national institutions.



Hierarchy

- President
- Vice President
- Office Board
 - Secretary General
 - Natural Sciences Coordinator
 - Human Sciences Coordinator
 - Treasurer
 - Public Relations Coordinator
- Academy Fellows (50 from Palestinian Institutions representing Eight Science classes)
- Science Council (Academy Fellows)
- Science Fund (Administered by PALAST and Run by an ad hoc council)
- Honorary Members (14 from Asia, Africa, USA and Europe)



Office

- East Jerusalem – Fadi Alami Street 9, Beit Hanina, Jerusalem
- West Bank – Al-Quds Street 69, Albireh/Ramallah
- Gaza Strip – PRCS Building, Tal-Alhawa, Gaza
- Jericho – Deir Hijleh (Environmental Field Center)



Membership

- Inter Academy Panel on International Issues (IAP)
- Inter Academy Medical Panel Network of Academies of Science and Medicine (IAMP)
- Network of Academies of Science in OIC Members Countries (NASIC)
- International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (HRN)
- Consortium on Science, Technology and Innovation for the South (COSTIS)
- *Mediterranean Inter Academy Network (Recently initiated by the French and Moroccan Academies)*



Achievements (2000 – 2009)

PALAST 1st Strategy and Action (2002 – 2005)

STI Related Activities

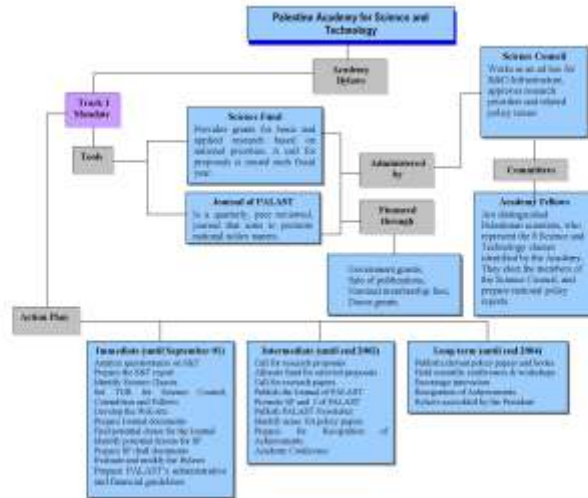
Advising the national Institutions

Infrastructure

Working with Schoolchildren

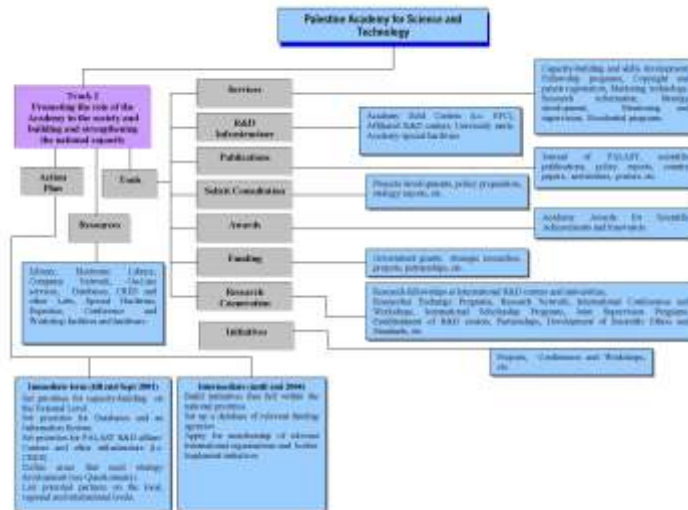


PALAST 1st Strategy and Action (2001 – 2005)





PALAST 1st Strategy and Action (2001 – 2005)



STI Related activities

Scientific Research in Palestine (2002)

- Status
- Obstacles
- Recommended role for Palestine Academy



<http://www.palestineacademy.org/publications/>



STI related activities

ASBIMED (2005 - 2006)

Assessment of the Bilateral Scientific Co-operation between the European Union Member States and the Mediterranean Partner Countries

- Survey Study on research projects funded by FP5 and FP6
- Evaluation and recommendations



<http://www.estimate.ird.fr>



STI related activities

ESTIME (2006 - 08)

Evaluation of Science, Technology & Innovation in the Mediterranean Countries

- Survey Study based on the 2002 Study
- Building the Research Bibliometrics



<http://www.estimate.ird.fr>



STI related activities

MED-IST (2007 - 09)

Mediterranean Information Society

- National Scientific Research Agenda in ICT
- National Challenges linked to linked to EU-FP7 Challenges



<http://www.med-ist.eu>



STI related activities

Join-MED (2008 - 11)

Establishing the EU-Mediterranean ICT Research Network

- Directory of ICT R&D institutions and experts
- A harmonized ICT Policy focusing on cooperation among partner countries (Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Syria and Algeria)
- Networking EU-MED institutions and experts



<http://www.join-med.eu>



STI related activities

MED-Ibtikar (2008 - 09)

Assessing Innovation in Industrial Sector

- Cooperation between R&D centers and private sector
- Establishing national Observatory
- Challenges - 2007 – 2013 (linked to EU-FP7)



<http://www.medibtikar.eu>



Advising National Institutions

Ministry of Education and Higher Education

- Participation in drafting the National Policy – Green and White papers (2000 – 2004)
- Scientific Research in Palestine (2002)
- Participation in the Research Council (2002 – 2005)
- PALAST-MEHE Joint Committee – Established in 2008

Palestinian Water Authority –

- Research Priorities in Water and Wastewater (2003)
 - First International Conference on Water: Values and Rights (May 2005)
 - Second International Conference on Water: Values and Rights
- <http://www.waterrightsconference.org> (April 2009)



Ministry of Health

- Food Fortification – Facilitated by the US National Academy of Science (2000 – 2006)
- Ma-Pi diets for preventing Diabetes Type 2 – in cooperation with the Italian UPM organization (2009 – Now)



Advising National Institutions

Ministry of Communication and Information Technology –

- National ICT Research Agenda – (2008 – 2009)
- Harmonized ICT Research Policy – (2009 – Now)

Ministry of Agriculture

- Promoting Bio- and Polyculture Agriculture – (2009 – Now)

Palestinian Water Authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Quality Authority –

- Global Change in Hydrology Cycle in Jordan River Basin (2003 - 2009)
- Water Rights Advisory Committee (Started 2006 – Now)

Red Crescent Society

- Tele-Medicine (2002 – 2004)

Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem

- Establishing the national seed bank (2008 – Now)



Advising National Institutions

Ministry of National Economy –

- Assessing Innovation in Industries Using CSI2006 – (2009 – Now)
- Capacity building in FP7 proposal writing – (2008)

Environmental Quality Authority and the United Nations Development Program

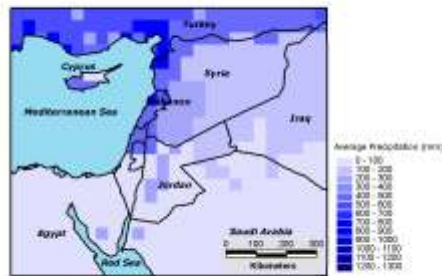
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2009)
- Country paper for Biodiversity (2004) and Water Research Priority (2005)

Advising National Institutions GLOWA – Jordan River Basin I and II

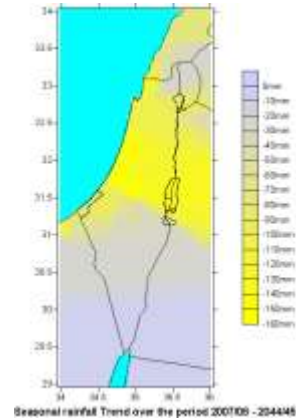


Global Change of Hydrology Cycle in Jordan River basin (2003 – 2008) – funded by the German BMBF

- Trend of Climate Change for the last century
- Climate Change Scenarios 2000 - 2045



<http://www.glowa-jordan-river.de>



Infrastructures

- The Environmental Field Center (EFC)

In Jericho serving the academic institutions, research centers and the community.

<http://www.pal-efc.org>



- The Natural History Corner

Serves as an educational facility for students in Gaza Strip

<http://www.palestineacademy.org>

- The Aquarium corner

Education facility in Gaza





Working with Schoolchildren - Activities



Working with Schoolchildren - Publications





Major Challenges

- ❑ Israeli Occupation and Measures
- ❑ Scarcity of national funds and grants (from 2000 – 2009 only US\$ 200,000)
- ❑ Lack of cooperation with institutions in the Arab Countries



Future Actions – The Science Fund¹

“promoting directive research and Innovation”



Main Objectives

- Activation of the research and innovation process linked to the improvement of the Palestinian society in general and the building of the proper research bases in Palestinian institutions, in particular,
- Linking the private sector with research entities through supporting joint initiatives that address the private sector needs and concerns.
- Networking of scientists and researchers.
- Building the “*culture*” of the scientific research and innovation and stimulating those with no revealed potential.

¹ Main action in the 2nd Strategy (2007 – 2012)

Future Actions – The Science Fund

“promoting directive research and Innovation”



Ad hoc Committee for Administering the Science Fund

Members	Institution
8	Higher Education Institutions (West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem)
4	Associations and Federations
3	Governmental Institutions
3	Non-Governmental Institutions working in STI
1	Palestine Academy for Science and Technology

Progress on Science Fund initiative



2002 – Initiating “Science Fund” by STI Stakeholder

2004 – Recognition of the expected role of PALAST with regard to supporting STI (Presidential Decree 13/2004),

2006 – Assessing the Research in Palestine (ESTIME Project),

2007 – Presenting Science Fund Initiative in the PEACE (Palestinian European Academic Cooperation in Education) Program in the UNESCO/Paris,

2008 – Presenting Science Fund Initiative in the 16th STI Conference of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences in Kazan/Russia

2008 – Ministerial Cabinet support of the initiative and

Thank You