
Editorial

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Saudi Arabia recognises well that nanotechnology is revolutionising the world. Based on that conviction, a very serious commitment to join the global nanotechnology revolution is taken by all levels of decision making in the kingdom. The Custodian of the two holy mosques King Abdul Allah bin Abdul Aziz takes personal interest in promoting nanotechnology in the Kingdom. To that effect The King donated from his own personal funds to establish three nanotechnology centres of excellence in three major universities in the country including KAU. He kindly accepted the honorary Chairmanship of 'The Saudi Society of Nanotechnology'. Saudi Arabia is one of the few courtiers in the Arab world that have a well developed nanotechnology national initiatives.

Saudi Arabia is deeply convinced that nanotechnology will provide opportunities for human kind for a fresh perspective of science and technology and promises previously unthinkable quantum leaps in many fields such as: electronics and computing, regenerative medicine, innovative drug delivery, water purification and/or desalination, materials that enjoy outstanding mechanical and physical properties, molecular and artificial DNA manufacturing, agriculture that may provide for an ever expanding global population and clean renewable energy based on solar cells and fuel cells.

Moreover nanotechnology lends itself perfectly to multidisciplinary approach to science and technology. No more would the scientific communities need to compartmentalise specialisation and isolated research work. Multidisciplinary research teams are needed to carry out complementary work.

Economical impact of nanotechnology is projected to some estimates to be in the trillions within the following decade. Some say though nanotechnology although undeniably an important factor in the 21st century economy these estimates are to say the least exaggerated.

The gap between nanotechnology R&D and the emerging nanotechnology products on the global market is converging at an ever increasing pace. Nanomanufacturing is already recognised as a major mechanism to harvest a fair share of the coming three trillion dollars nanotechnology market by the year 2015. Recognising this, the organisers of the International Conference on Nanotechnology: Opportunities and Challenges ICON008 organised by The Center of Nanotechnology, King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia highlighted nanomanufacturing as one of the main themes of the

conference as possible advancement and potential collaboration among international researchers with sustained development for human kind in mind.

The conference organisers are indebted to the *International Journal of Nanomanufacturing* for devoting this special issue to the accepted papers submitted to the conference on nanomanufacturing. They also extend all thanks for the invaluable scientific contribution of all authors, referees and editorial board for the rigorous efforts.