The Regional forum on Science & Technology Diplomacy: Towards Transformative and Inclusive Partnerships for a Sustainable Future
1-2 December 2015

Recommendations and Next Steps

General Observations drawn from Speakers:

1. Science diplomacy must be based on good science.

2. Science diplomacy should focus on cooperation among Arab countries.

3. Science diplomacy benefits from the involvement of multiple stakeholders including government, industry, universities and civil society and from both top-down and bottom-up approaches.

4. Science diplomacy can play a role in advancing interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral approaches to solving shared challenges.

5. Stakeholders should recognize linkages between science diplomacy and cultural heritage.

Recommendations

1. Build an environment conducive for Science/Policy Interaction, including cross-sensitization of scientists & politicians and recruiting science advisors to work with policymakers;

2. Foster a culture of science communication, including building the capacity of competent science communicators; science/research administrators & managers;
and S&T policy experts, and establishing public engagement units in universities & research institutions. Work with media sources that can support science communication.

3. Capitalize on Youth and Diasporas as potential champions of science diplomacy. Explore the feasibility of establishing programmes for brain circulation and youth academic mobility and exchanges in the region. Explore EU programs and approaches including the Scientific Visa package which facilitates researcher mobility.

4. Link existing diaspora networks and initiatives from the region with those outside of the region.

5. Develop a regional charter for best practices and ethics in research; technology transfer; and for science diplomacy.

6. Organize workshops/trainings on science communication – how to communicate science and the impacts of science to policymakers.

7. Develop specific science diplomacy projects related to water-food-energy nexus. Possible topics include soil salinity; solar energy; waste water management; energy efficiency, etc. Project should involve multiple Arab countries and include an outreach strategy that defines the statement of need and a plan for communicating the results and impact of the project to policymakers.

8. Assess existing networks of scientists and take advantage of established or new networking mechanisms and efforts such as the Technology Bank and IP Bank. Create platforms, such as a database of scientists and research, for information and knowledge sharing in the region.

9. Articulate a vision for science diplomacy in the region that includes a clear definition of science diplomacy. Develop and begin implementing a roadmap.

10. Recognize the 2017 World Science Forum in Jordan as an important channel for science diplomacy, and support cooperation before and during the forum.

**NEXT STEPS**

1. The Jordan Institute for Diplomacy will introduce science diplomacy training for new diplomats in Jordan.
2. The Forum partners will continue to identify specific themes for upcoming events and to explore potential projects where science diplomacy could be pivotal to its success.
3. The Forum organizers will circulate the following to all participants:
   a. The Terms of Reference for Science Diplomat position.
   b. The Forum presentations and participant contact information.
   c. The summary recommendations and next steps document.