MIDDLE EAST & NO. AFRICA STRATEGY GROUP REPORT YEAR 2

Membership
Asad Dalia  Assistant Professor of Clinical Rehabilitation Sciences
Angel Elvin  Assistant Director of International Admissions
Elizabeth Frierson  Associate Professor of History
Kevin Grace  Senior Librarian, Archives & Rare Books Library
Awatif Hamed  Professor of Aerospace Engineering
Holly Johnson  Associate Dean for Innovation & Opportunity, College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services
Gila Safran Naveh  Head and Professor of Judaic Studies
Hazem Said  Associate Professor of Information Technology
Robert Stevie  Treasurer, Cincinnati U.S.A. Sister City Association
James Tenney  Assistant Director, International Services

Related Local Organization
Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati
Jewish Federation of Cincinnati

Activities of Focus for the Next Few Years
- Work with Islamic Center and Jewish Federation to conduct events such as roundtables, events, panel discussions on campus
- Develop critical response program that can address issues common to instances of disaster and human displacement such as that occurring in the refugee camps in Jordan
- Continue to work on partnership with Future University in Egypt
- Get agreement with Saudi Aramco signed
- Follow up with Saudi contacts to continue identification of Saudi partner
2013-14 Middle East & No. Africa Strategy Group Summary

After much discussion, and weighing the issue of safety in the Middle East & No. Africa region, the strategy group will be focusing their energies next year on Saudi Arabia and Jordan, while continuing to nurture existing relationships in Egypt and Turkey.

Egypt
This year ushered in the fulfillment of our agreement with the Future University in Egypt and the first payment to the University of Cincinnati under the terms of that agreement.

Future University in Egypt (FUE)
Under the terms of this agreement, four engineering programs at FUE have been reviewed and revised as necessary by UC engineering faculty to assure that the curriculum at FUE meets the requirements for ABET accreditation. FUE has a limited licensing agreement to use our name in connection with these four degree programs and pays us a licensing fee for that based on the number of students enrolled.

Jordan
When searching for a meaningful connection in the region, members of the strategy group came up with the concept of a regional project that could lead to collaboration with several entities. The Refugee Critical Response Project will bring together faculty and staff from numerous units across UC’s campus to produce an academic certificate/Minor in critical response to refugee situations. Addressing situations in which medical personnel along with those with knowledge of resourcing for basic needs, working with other aid agencies and facilities along with educational and counseling personnel, this series of courses would produce dedicated individuals ready to respond to situations created by war, natural disaster, or political unrest.

American University of Madaba
The Jordan refugee situation would be a collaborative effort between UC and the American University—Madaba to work together on a pilot study that would assess, discover, and engage in solutions that have the potential to transform the lives of Syrian refugees currently residing in Jordan. Knowledge gained from this project will be applicable to refugee situations across the world.

Saudi Arabia
There has been a great deal of communication and connection this year with several institutions in Saudi Arabia including King Faisal, King Fahd, Princess Nora Universities along with the Saudi Aramco Fire Protection Department and Prince Mohammed Medical Center. We are gaining market awareness in the area and will continue to work next year to establish ourselves more fully in Saudi.

King Faisal University (KFU)
This year we signed an agreement with King Faisal University. This is similar to our agreement with FUE wherein UC faculty from four engineering programs will review the curriculum and course content of comparable programs at KFU to determine if they are sufficient to achieve the learning outcomes required for ABET accreditation.

Turkey
The University of Cincinnati has had agreements for some time with Istanbul Technical University as well as Koç University. We have recently signed an MOU with Atilim University and are in the process of resigning our agreement with Koç.

Atilim University
A private institution, founded in 1996, the majority of classes at Atilim are taught in English which makes it a good candidate for semester exchange of students. Though small, it is reasonably comprehensive with faculties in engineering, management, arts & sciences, law, and art, design and architecture.