

EIAST, Fraunhofer Middle East join hands to further diversify Dubai's energy resources

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The Emirates Institution for Advanced Science & Technology has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Fraunhofer Middle East to initiate projects in the field of alternative energy, water and environment in Dubai.

The MoU emphasizes on several collaborative initiatives including exchange of scientists, researchers and technical specialists; conducting feasibility studies; introducing products and staff training.

As per the MoU, EIAST and Fraunhofer Middle East will pursue joint efforts in areas of mutual interest such as consultancy and services to further strengthen beneficial technology transfer programmes and activities in the UAE.

His Excellency Mr Ahmed Al Mansoori, Director General and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, EIAST, and Dr. Dieter R. Fuchs, General Manager Fraunhofer Middle East and President of the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations (WAITRO), signed the MoU. Officials from EIAST and Fraunhofer Middle East attended the signing ceremony held, recently, at EIAST headquarters.

'At EIAST, we are focused on undertaking scientific research to develop Dubai's energy, water and environment sustainability, and hence become a leader in applying advanced technology while adhering to international quality standards,'

said Mr Al Mansoori.

'The MoU comes in line with the objective of EIAST's energy, water and environment programme, which aims to develop renewable and sustainable energy and water sources for the UAE whilst protecting the environment. Together with Fraunhofer, we will achieve our goal to meet the rapid demand in electricity and diversify energy resources,' he added.

Dr. Dieter Fuchs said: 'The priority areas of EIAST and Fraunhofer complement each other perfectly. Both partners share the vision that capacity building, knowledge-sharing and project cooperation for mutual benefit should guide the future cooperation.'

Al Mansoori observed that through the MoU, EIAST aims to promote a culture of advanced scientific research and technology innovation in the UAE, and also enhance UAE nationals' capacity in technological innovation and attaining leading scientific levels.

Taking the MoU forward, a -top level meeting on solar energy technology will be held on April 5, 2009. Facilitated by Fraunhofer, the Secretary General of the leading European Solar Industry Consortium EPIC, Mr. Thomas Pearsall from Paris/France, will meet with the EIAST Management to discuss options for cooperation with more than 50 European companies in the field of Photonics.

Training and educational aspects will play an important role at the meeting, besides concrete research and technology issues.

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