

Final Statement of the 9th STEP



The 5th Mustafa^(pbuh) Prize Week, held from 29th Sep. to 3rd Oc., 2023 pivoting on Mustafa^(pbuh) Prize Award Ceremony alongside the 9th Science & Technology Exchange Program (STEP) with the approach of science collaboration and technology development, was jointly organized by Mustafa^(pbuh) Science and Technology Foundation (MSTF) with the pivotal accompaniment of Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy, Pardis Technology Park, D8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network, Center for Progress and Development, Iran Academy of Sciences, COMSTECH Inter-Islamic Network on Virtual Universities, Sharif University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Pasture Institute of Iran, Tehran Book Garden, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan Elite Foundation, Avicenna Center of Excellence, University of Isfahan, Isfahan University of Technology, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Royan Institute, and Isfahan Refinery.

The Mustafa^(pbuh) Prize Week hosted by Iran was participated by 135 delegates representing 28 countries including Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Canada, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, UK, USA, and Uzbekistan, and many students and researchers participated in this event in-person and virtually. The program opened a window for multilateral collaboration in the form of MoUs, as well as joint programs.

During the 9th STEP, 11 panels were organized including “STI Ecosystem Panel Discussion focused on Networking, Highlights, and Technology Development”, “Cancer and Precision Medicine”, “Medical Education and Management”, “Cancer and Targeted Therapy”, “Microbiology and



Vaccination”, “Prospect of Science and Technology”, “Collaboration of Muslim Scientists”, “Publish in Value-added International Books and Journals”, and “Bridging between Real-world Problems and Academic Research”. Also, working groups focused on “Environment”, “Aging”, as well as “Cancer Management” were shaped with the presence of the relevant experts. Besides, more than 60 specialized lectures were given in 15 scientific and technological centers.

Based on the extensive discussions by participants during the week, the following recommendations are offered in order to further developing STI Ecosystem in Islamic countries and beyond likewise:

- ❖ Utilizing capacities of elites at different levels of society;
- ❖ Recognizing leading researchers of the Islamic countries in different levels;
- ❖ Paying special attention to the education sector;
- ❖ Strengthening science communication in Islamic countries;
- ❖ Providing solutions to global challenges by STI-based methods;
- ❖ Connecting the academic world to industries through translational research;
- ❖ Trying to promote political will to support emerging technologies, sustainable funding, and public acceptance;
- ❖ Paying special attention to ethical work culture among scientists;
- ❖ Developing freedom of speech for scientists and trying to reduce political interference;
- ❖ Discussing multifaceted aspects of aging and challenges faced in Islamic nations;
- ❖ Developing cooperation at levels of scientists, institutions, and countries;
- ❖ Sharing the valuable achievements of scientists in the Islamic world and collaborating in the development of science and technology;
- ❖ Paying special attention to the young generation, adolescents and children, and investing in them;
- ❖ Developing mechanisms to orient and attract public resources to support the advancement of science and technology in the Islamic societies;
- ❖ Strengthening the role of MSTF Advisory Board in order to lead and implement the MSTF's mission in Islamic countries.

