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SESAME Light Source: Why in the Middle East?

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SESAME (Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East) is the only Synchrotron light source in the region, based in Jordan. Current Members of the facility are Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Pakistan, the Palestinian Authority and Turkey. Whereas, Brazil, China, the European Union, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States are the Observers.

SESAME is well known as a unique science for peace project modelled on CERN. The necessity of establishing such an emerging infrastructure was highly propagated due to the powerful capabilities of the Synchrotron radiation as a leading edge for a huge number of scientific challenges. In addition to achieving excellency of science, bridging the cultural and the political gaps between its diverse conflicting societies, SESAME does offer other opportunities to the Middle East scientific communities. Difficulties are still there, but with its ongoing progress, the dream of many people is finally turning to a concrete reality.

The presentation will shed a special light on this unique project, its goals, and its promises.

[1] Chris Llewellyn Smith, 2012, Science & Diplomacy, Vol. 1, No. 4.
[2] Chris Llewellyn Smith, 2015, Nature Photonics, 9, 550–552.
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