

ARAB INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE “STEPS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT”

6-8 MAY 2018
Cairo, Egypt

ESCWA Technology Center (ETC) co-organized the Arab International Industrial Conference "Steps towards sustainable innovative development" and its concomitant exhibition with the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining (AIDMO), the National Center for Egyptian Research (NCE), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The conference was held in Cairo under the Patronage of Dr. Khaled Atef Abdel Ghaffar, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Egypt, from 6 to 8 May 2018.



It was attended by 450 participants from 14 Arab countries (Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Oman, Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Yemen) representing public and private sectors, Arab regional and international organizations, as well as number of experts, and researchers from the academia and research institutes.

The participants discussed major economic, environmental and industrial obstacles and barriers facing the achievement of the sustainable development goals, indicating the importance of industrialization and its role in accelerating Arab sustainable development and confrontation of the global challenges such as eradicating poverty, changing production and consumption patterns and preserving natural resources in Arab countries. Moreover, reality and prospects of the Arab industry, future industries, R & D applications, role of standards and specifications in scientific progress and industrial and technological development, green industries, and environmentally friendly industrial products and their engineering applications, were also discussed during the conference sessions.

On the second day of the conference, the ESCWA Technology Center and the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining (AIDMO) organized a workshop entitled "Promoting Outputs of the Studies and Technical Researches in Selected areas". It aimed to discuss the solutions to the problems facing the Arab industry in light of the challenges facing scientific research especially in the areas of energy, water and food, which suffers from difficulties in securing funds for such researches, as well as from the poor interaction of the private sector and investors , and to bridge the gap between industry, scientific research and the private sector.

Ms. Reem Al-Najdawi, ETC Executive Director delivered a presentation on the industry and technology challenges, discussed the role of ESCWA and its contribution in the development of knowledge materials and tools, and building capacities to design policies that promote the use of green and appropriate technologies that support sustainable development plans and goals. ETC consultant, Mr. Ayoub Ghrair, presented and discussed number of projects of nanotechnology applications in the field of water desalination and solar energy.

The main recommendations emanated from the conference were

1. Emphasize the importance of changing unsustainable industrial production policies and patterns and work towards integrating sustainable development goals 2030 into industrial programs, plans and strategies in Arab countries.
2. To give greater attention to the issue of interdependence between the Arab industrial sectors and the global industries in their various stages of research, development, marketing and transfer of technology as development mechanisms to assist entrepreneurs to achieve research and industrial projects that can be implemented.
3. Pay attention to scientific competencies and entrepreneurs, innovation, capacity building and skills development, and to promote the establishment of industrial and technological incubators as development mechanisms to assist entrepreneurs in carrying out sustainable research and industrial projects.
4. The establishment of an appropriate environment for entering the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the interest in the studies of technological foresight and artificial intelligence, enhancing the opportunities for innovation and knowledge production, and supporting the Arab program for the development of nanoscience and technology and related technologies in the priority areas (water, energy and food).