



With a heavy heart, NAMES Family mourns the loss of Mr. Mijbil Almutawa, Vice-Chairman and CEO of The Scientific Center of Kuwait (TSCK). Mr. Almutawa is one of NAMES Founding Member, NAMES Board Member since 2006, and NAMES Past-President (2010–2014). He was a true source of inspiration and a tremendous support to both his TSCK Team since before the Center opened to the public in the year 2000 and to NAMES Family throughout its 10 years of existence.

In addition to the unequivocal role he played in founding NAMES, his presidency between 2010 and 2014 cemented NAMES position on the international arena, laying the foundation for its significant growth in the ensuing years. His presence in NAMES Executive Team will be profoundly missed and we will be working hard to maintain his legacy.

“The news is very shocking and hard to absorb but I keep reminding myself of all his great achievements and the wonderful spirit he had, which was contagious to anyone around him.

As all of you are aware, Mijbil was with Ms. Hoda Elmikaty one of the founders of NAMES Network and its President for two terms. Those were not easy times for a new network and I was privileged to be elected for the presidency when so much had been accomplished and well established for NAMES by him and Hoda. He was also a wonderful mentor and guide which only reflects what a generous and selfless person he was.

He will be remembered for fascinating conversations where I always learnt something new from him. For his humor and positivity, as well as his hard work. There are not enough words to describe what a unique man he was and how well he represented our part of the world. I pray he rests in peace.”

**Sawsan Dalaq, Children’s Museum Jordan Director and NAMES President**



“It is a great loss.

Mijbil was more than a colleague working in the same field; together we worked on creating NAMES network and we secured a vote on the IPC for the network. It was a long path but I was always sure I could count on Mijbil's dedication, expertise, patience, and excellent communication skills. Mijbil was a charming and witty person and I truly enjoyed working with him over the past 12 years.

Today, I feel I lost a true friend and a firm supporter. It is a great loss and it is with deep sorrow that I write these words today.”

**Hoda Elmikaty, Bibliotheca Alexandrina Deputy Director**

“It is with great sadness that I realize that Mr. Mijbil Almutawa is no longer with us.

It is in moments like these that our memories of beloved friends get surprisingly alive. I can almost hear him now, with his voice, deep smile, and intelligent eyes. Whenever he entered a room one could hardly miss him. This was, I am sure, the effect of a powerful inner strength, the same vigor and energy that he applied to serve the best interests of his country, his region, and the world at large. And I say this because I know Mijbil, and I am proud of being one of his friends. Every time I met him he was building bridges, trying to get people working together for a greater good. And being such a persuasive man, we would all join in and start pioneering projects together.

One of these projects, in which I have the privilege of working with him, is the EMME, the Euro-Mediterranean and Middle East Summer School for Science Communication. This is a project that says everything about the wide vision and strong will of Mijbil Almutawa. In a world where peace and knowledge are our best hopes for the future, Mijbil did all he could to unify efforts between museums and science centers from all over Europe, North Africa and Middle East. NAMES network is representative of his generosity.

He knew that only through solid cooperation would science centers play a decisive role as agents of change, to deliver sustainable and inclusive growth and job creation. This project will outlive him, as one of his greatest gifts to those who shared his vision. He will always live in our memories.”

**Rosalia Vargas, Ciência Viva President**

“Mijbil was a special person for me. I will never forget his piercing glance when he asked me, during the Science Center World Summit in Cape Town in 2011, to build together a place for dialogue between the Arabian and European science communities. The idea of the EMME Summer School was born there, with the aim to build a bridge between close people, unfortunately divided by geographical, political, and religious barriers. The idea was ambitious and its implementation was challenging.

Mijbil, who established one of the best science center at the international level, was convinced of the importance of a real dialogue that could give to NAMES – another of the big challenges he contributed to initiate – the strength to spread science, but also the culture of peace and cooperation in a region where sometimes religious sectarianism, division and unfortunately war are prevailing. For Mijbil, as well as for me, science-based cooperation was a way not only for strengthening the economies of our countries, but first of all to invite people of different cultures, religions, backgrounds to work together: science, in his vision, is a language of peace and for peace.

Mijbil has been for me a friend and a colleague with whom I shared many reflections and visionary thoughts, but also a person with whom talking about amusing things and stories. I will miss Mijbil very much and his leadership will be missed in the international community of science centers. But we will carry on his work. This is our commitment to pursue Mijbil’s dreams in the next future.”

**Vincenzo Lipardi, Città della Scienza CEO**



“I have no words to express the pride I feel for having known Mijbil for many years! Representing a commercial exhibit design and fabrication firm, he has always treated us as partners and colleagues. Unconditional respect for others, along with a tremendous sense of humor – that was him – Mijbil! In deep respect and gratitude, I bow to our friend, who fought for public understanding of science and humanities – and in a long for peace. Mijbil, my team and I will miss you tremendously!”

**Axel E. Hüttinger, Hüttinger Interactive Exhibitions Director**

“Mijbil taught me to walk slowly but surely towards a peaceful direction.

We were working in Cape Town when Mijbil invited Ecsite to develop a collaboration with NAMES, that eventually led to EMME, the Euro-Mediterranean and Middle East summer school. Through that international cooperation, he showed me to be patient, to let time do its work, sometimes healing sometimes building.

I cannot recall Mijbil pronouncing any negative words, never. But I do recall his mischievous eyes and his generous smile, I do recall his warmth and total respect, I do remember how he could understand and integrate different social realities, always finding a solution satisfactory to all parties.

Mijbil was a man of truth and vision, of the kind that our world so much needs. He built long-lasting partnerships for a knowledgeable and peaceful society. He made a difference.”

**Catherine Franche, Ecsite Executive Director**

“It is really sad to get this heart-breaking news. Mijbil had just been with us in Beijing for the ASPAC 2016 conference. Mijbil had contributed much to the science center community. We have lost such a good friend.”

**YIP Chee-kuen, ASPAC Executive Director**

Nothing is sadder than losing an esteemed friend and colleague who has had a significant impact on everybody, and has played a prominent role in his field, serving the Kuwaiti and Arab children and young people. We cannot find words to express our deep sorrow to lose our dear brother and colleague, Mijbil Almutawa. May God bless his soul, and his good memory shall always stay with us and all those who knew him.”

**Ayman Elsayed, Bibliotheca Alexandrina Planetarium Science Center Director**