

## Developing the capacities of Academies of Sciences

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The Academies of sciences have an essential role to play for the development of Science and Technology worldwide. This is true, in particular, in the Arab World.

The importance of the Academies proceeds from their triple character : 1/ they are prestigious, due to the scientific *excellence* which they reveal in a country ; 2/ they have (or should have), from history, a complete *independance* vis à vis the various powers (political, economical, religious...) in presence ; 3/ they enjoy a *stability*, in time, which most institutions (parliaments, boards of directors...) do not have.

An increasing international networking of Academies still reinforces their potential power. It is to be hoped that they play fully the role in question, overcoming their frequent timidity and lack of self-confidence. Cases will be presented where Academies of sciences have had a definite influence on the scientific policy or on the development of human resources of their country.