

Africa, Near East, and South Asia
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd., Room 921
Arlington, VA 22230

RE: In support of Dr. Sharif's NSF IRES Proposal Application

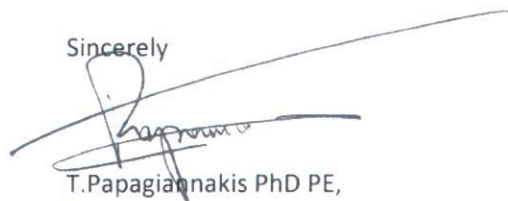
Dear Dr. Prentice:

This letter is in support of Dr. Sharif's NSF IRES proposal entitled " "International: A US-Saudi Arabia Collaboration on Hydrometeorological Analysis and Modeling in Complex Terrain"" in collaboration with Dr. Al-Zahrani of King Fahd University of Petroleum and Mining (KFUPM). Dr. Sharif is one of the very promising assistant professors we were successful in attracting to UTSA. Since his recruitment in 2005, he has been very successful in attracting external funding, including a prestigious award from the NOAA for a project entitled "Enhanced short-term Hydrometeorological Forecasting", and two projects from Texas Department of transportation. Another NOAA proposal was recommended for funding but is pending due to budget shortage. In developing these proposals, Dr. Sharif has shown a special interest in collaborating with other agencies such as the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, CO and the regional office of the National Weather Service.

Dr. Sharif has also proven to be an excellent teacher, well liked by graduates and undergraduates, some of whom are actively involved in his research. In addition, he has a strong passion for education and outreach programs. He mentored graduate, undergraduate, and K-12 student through various programs. He recently organized and led a week-long field trip for engineering and science students. Dr. Sharif is a member of the Doctoral Studies Committee of the recently established PhD program in Environmental Sciences and Engineering that is administered by the College of Engineering. He has taught several courses for this program with very good student evaluations. The Department has assigned to him a lower than normal teaching load, to allow him to build on his research success to date. A senior faculty member and I have been mentoring him in his research and educational activities. Through Dr. Sharif's efforts, as outlined in his research and educational plans, we hope to attract a larger number of minority graduate students to the program and contribute towards the tier-I research university goal.

The department fully supports this proposal and will make sure that Dr. Sharif and his students succeed in this high-quality research endeavor and the initiation of long-term research collaboration with KFUPM. Please extend to his proposal your full consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (210) 458-7517. Thank you

Sincerely



T. Papagiannakis PhD PE,
Dept. Chair

Ministry of Higher Education

King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING SCIENCES

CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT



وزارة التعليم العالي

جامعة الملك فهد للبترول والمعادن

كلية العلوم الهندسية

قسم الهندسة المدنية

15/09/2008

Program Officer

Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE)

National Science Foundation

4201 Wilson Boulevard

Arlington, Virginia 22230, USA

It is my pleasure to express my support and endorsement of the NSF proposal entitled "**A US-Saudi Arabia Collaboration on Hydrometeorological Analysis and Modeling for Water Sustainability in Arid and Semi-arid Environments**" to be submitted by Hatim Sharif (PI) of the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) to the "Developing Global Scientists and Engineers" program. The proposal provides a unique international research and education experience for students from the two countries.

Our institution, King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals, is one of the top research universities in the whole Middle East and takes pride in its fine teaching and its reputation for encouraging student research. Our collaboration with UTSA comes at an exciting time when UTSA is on the verge of becoming the second flagship of the University of Texas system. Both institutions are interested in programs and activities that foster international collaborations. We both encourage international educational and research experiences that will be made available to students from both the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. The region selected for this project is particularly interesting to our hydrology and water resources program as it is the most humid region of the country and among the very few places where students can observe, measure, and study all processes of the hydrologic cycle at multiple scales.

I would like to express our commitment to collaborate on this project and provide as much help as possible to ensure complete success of the project. I and my students will be involved in this project from the start and coordinate trips to perform the experiments and all activities leading to achievements of the stated research. We will also help in collecting additional data to perform the modeling studies. As the project progresses, my student and myself will participate in disseminating research results via public presentations and publications.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me email or phone.

Sincerely

Dr. Muhammad A. Al-Zahrani

Associate Professor

Civil Engineering Department

KFUPM

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Ministry of Higher Education

King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals

Vice Rector for Applied Research



وزارة التعليم العالي

جامعة الملك فهد للبترول والمعادن

وكيل الجامعة للدراسات والأبحاث التطبيقية

VRAR/3065/30
March 24, 2009

National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230
USA

Dear Sir:

Dr. Hatim Sharif from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, The University of Texas at San Antonio and Dr. Muhammad Al-Zahrani from the Civil Engineering Department, King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals have submitted to NSF a joint proposal entitled "A US-Saudi Arabia Collaboration on Hydrometeorological Analysis and Modeling in Complex Terrain." This research project will contribute to water resources sustainability in Asir region of Saudi Arabia.

I would like to affirm that our University encourages the two professors and the students to perform the research and bring the project to its successful completion. We also understand that all research expenses, including those of the Saudi team, are to be provided by the NSF.

Sincerely yours,

Sahel N. Abduljawad
Vice Rector for Applied Research

cc: Chairman, Civil Engineering Department, KFUPM
Dr. Muhammad Al-Zahrani