

HOW ISDB PROMOTES COOPERATION

between Kuwait and Pakistan in Halal Authentication

With a far-reaching vision, Kuwait set out an ambitious program to become a center of excellence for halal authentication.

Prioritizing capacity building as the bedrock of its strategy, Kuwait participated in an experience exchange scheme in partnership with Pakistan's world-renowned International Center of Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS).

This cooperation was promoted by ISDB which substantially contributed to the project funding as part of its multidimensional strategy to support Member Countries.

Such targeted matchmaking was at the very center of the Bank's unique "Reverse Linkage" system – part of its mandate to spur cooperation among its member countries.

The structured skills swap helps the recipient country addressing a development priority, using the provider nation's proven knowledge and expertise.



Expertise

The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) operates more than 120 laboratories and had acquired the equipment to conduct halal authentication testing – but its staff needed a high level of technical training.

The ICCBS has a halal testing laboratory in its Industrial Analytical Center for analysing food, cosmetics and pharmaceutical products for non-halal ingredients such as lard, I, porcine DNA and proteins.

Scientists here have more than 30 years' experience in chemical and biomedical services, obtaining over 120 national and international patents based on their innovation and discoveries.

The facility in Karachi is a global training hub, therefore, in addition to its 450-strong staff there are also 550 academics from more than 20 countries.

Targets

So, the aims of this project, which ran from 2017 to 2019, were to:

1. Establish a dedicated halal authentication laboratory at KISR with state-of-the-art equipment and methods.
2. Build and enhance the skills of scientists and researchers at KISR to carry out halal authentication tests on food and other products.
3. Build a quality management system for the halal testing laboratory.
4. Help KISR to obtain ISO 17025 accreditation for the laboratory.
5. Initiate two joint research projects between ICCBS and KISR in halal research.

The Kuwaiti government provided almost US\$1.3 million of funding for the project, with Pakistan contributing US\$108,000 and the IsDB US\$280,000.



Outcome

At the end of the two-year initiative, the expertise developed at the KISR's halal authentication laboratory would benefit all six Gulf Cooperation Council countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The partnership would further enhance the global reputation of Pakistan's ICCBS.

In addition, any research publications or intellectual property generated from the project would be jointly shared and owned.

Once again, the IsDB played a vital role in bringing together two nations for mutual benefit.

Under its leadership, scientists at two advanced research centres have joined forces to create a remarkable moment in the history of Pakistan and Kuwait.

Their noble efforts further highlight the willingness of the IsDB's member countries to offer a hand of collaboration and mutual assistance.

