

Report on the WEF in Dalian September 2013
By Dr. Ghada Bassioni

With the topic of “Meeting the Innovation Imperative”, the 2013 Annual Meeting of the New Champions was a “pool of thinkers” on the global economic arena. The World Economic Forum was such an inspiring event. It was motivating to get to know so many talented and bright colleagues, especially from the Young Scientists Community. Even though the time in Dalian was short, we have been closely bonded with each other. We have seen how Dalian enjoyed strong research capabilities and innovation potential by visiting Dalian’s University of Technology and other leading scientific institutions. For the first time I saw the world from another non-academic perspective related to business strategies and plans. The experience gained by this exercise was tremendous and cannot be captured in few words.

It has been three month since the successful conclusion of the 2013 Annual Meeting of the New Champions in Dalian and I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to IAP for giving me the opportunity to participate and get involved in the Meeting by financially supporting my travel from Cairo to Dalian.

Report on the WEF in Dalian, September 2013
By Dr. Fuat Balci (Turkey)

Before beginning my report, I would first like to express my sincere appreciation for partially supporting my trip to Dalian China to attend the Annual Meeting of New Champions 2013, World Economic Forum. I attended this meeting as part of the Young Scientist Programme. This experience has provided me with a unique opportunity to meet and share ideas with other scientists, managers, and decision-makers from government, civil society, and academia. Thank you.

During the meeting I attended the debates and joined the discussions in IdeasLabs. These forums have given me better insight and a much deeper understanding of how different interest groups view the same global issues and risks of our modern world, and their approaches to possible solutions. In the long run, this very understanding will help me to better shape my interaction with different groups (e.g., decision-makers). It will also optimize my contribution to the solution of global issues, and their national manifestations that require the engagement of multiple interest groups and parties.

I was especially impressed to see that scientists, managers, and decision-makers could have very productive and creative discussions in search of innovative solutions to the global problems faced by humans. Hearing different perspectives on the nature and possible sources of these issues help capture their very complexity, which is necessary for reaching all-encompassing solutions to fundamental global issues and risks. A shared and constructive language between different parties

quickly emerged when we all strived for finding ways to improve the state of the world. Briefly, this meeting overall strengthened my belief in that improving the state of the world requires a collaborative and multi-disciplinary approach, and these efforts are necessary to satisfy our goals and common interests.

I especially enjoyed the discussions regarding the need for innovation and the necessary constituents of an innovative approach in different fields (e.g., business, society, science, technology development). The need for innovative solutions brought together individuals from different fields first to define, and then discuss the ideal conditions under which innovative solutions can be achieved. During these discussions, young scientists took the opportunity to convey the importance of basic research and research funding for sustainable innovation efforts. In addition, scientists from developing countries expressed the problems faced regarding research infrastructure, research funding, and sociological factors that slow down the actualization of true scientific potential in these countries and their contribution to innovation. Young Scientists also argued for the need for global scientific funding opportunities.

The commitment of the attendants to improve the state of the world was encouraging for us as young scientists, and has further motivated me/us to find innovative applications of our basic research to better serve the needs of humans and the world. Young scientists in general expressed a genuine and renewed interest in seeking out ways to better interact with "non-scientific" communities, and become more involved in contributing to solutions to global issues.
