



رابطة المراكز العلمية بشمال أفريقيا والشرق الأوسط
North Africa and Middle East Science centers network

**10 Years Anniversary
REPORT (2006–2016)**

SECRETARIAT OFFICE

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MISSION

NAMES aims to democratize science throughout the North Africa and Middle East region by enhancing public understanding and involvement in science among an increasingly diverse public by means of informal education.

VISION

The purpose of creating NAMES is to foster cooperation between member institutions and individuals with the aim of benefiting from, and maximizing upon, the collective available resources and experiences within the region.

Networking and collaboration within the region, and with the rest of the world, enhances the knowledge of the dynamic and ever-changing pace of science and technology necessary for achieving the common goal of science democratization. The network also aims to help establish new science centers and museums, as well as science communication initiatives and projects, in all countries of the region.

OBJECTIVES

Identifying the current situation, means and venues of science communication throughout the region.

Emphasizing and popularizing the cultural and scientific heritage of the region.

Promoting best practices, supporting effective communication, and encouraging excellence and innovation in informal science learning.

Providing professional development for the science communication field in the region, collaborating to enhance the performance of those involved in the field, and making best use of all available resources within the region.

Spreading the message of informal education and strengthening the position of science centers/museums within the community at large.

FOREWORD

by NAMES President: Ms. *Sawsan Dalaa*

I am honored to address you on this special occasion; the 10 years anniversary of the North Africa and Middle East Science centers network (NAMES).

Before our Children’s Museum in Jordan learnt about NAMES, I had always wondered why our region did not have its own network or association to represent it. We have always attended conferences of various international networks and marveled at their ability to bring together expertise, talent, and resources, to raise the bar of services offered by their members.

In our part of the world, this field only emerged in the late 20th century; we are, thus, still struggling to prove our value to our audiences and supporters. Indeed, the North Africa and Middle East region faces many challenges: politically, socially, and economically. Yet, there are many opportunities that are there for grabs to those who see them.

We have children and youth eager for knowledge and development; we have societies that have literally fought and demanded change, and are eager to make an impact. This is where we, as science centers and museums, should come together to respond to those needs.

We need to collaborate to create Arabic content that serves the needs of our audiences; we need to learn from one another’s challenges and successes. Most importantly, we need to be active participants in the

change movement by contributing to research and development, innovation, youth development, and much more in our individual societies. This is what NAMES is all about; it brings us together to become future game changers in our communities.

NAMES has come a long way since it was established and I salute the few members who came together ten years ago to establish it. They worked hard to create the systems, objectives, and most importantly, real and tangible deliverables when many others thought that was impossible.

This report is the story of NAMES, its milestones; and yes, sometimes, its challenges, from the day when the Founding Members came together and set its basis to this day, when we meet at its 5th Conference and General Assembly to celebrate our 10 years anniversary.

I extend my deep gratitude to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina for having had the vision and ambition to start NAMES, and for hosting its Secretariat Office all these years. On behalf of each and every member enjoying NAMES services, I am also grateful to the efforts of the Founding Members who helped the Network become what it is today. Moreover, NAMES has been fortunate to find true friends and allies in sister networks, who also had the vision to support us from day one and actively participate in establishing great joint programs. Thank you!

I hope you enjoy reading this report, and if you are not yet part of our Network, I take this opportunity to invite you to join us and become part of the NAMES story over the next 10 years.

INTRODUCTION

by **NAMES Secretary:** Ms. *Maïssa Azab*

The North Africa and Middle East Science centers network (NAMES) was created in 2006, to bring together entities involved in science communication, especially science centers and museums, within the MENA region. The aim of the network is to foster professional development in the field and strengthen the position of informal science education within the community, through the promotion of best practices and effective communication.

NAMES was initiated during a meeting organized by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) Planetarium Science Center (PSC) on 30 January 2006. On 9–10 November 2006, Tunis Science City hosted NAMES launching meeting, where the five Founding Members signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

NAMES was led during its first two terms, 2006–2010, by Ms. Hoda Elmikaty, BA Deputy Director. During Ms. Elmikaty's Presidency, NAMES Secretariat Office (SO) was established at the BA, where it has been hosted since. In addition to housing, the BA offers NAMES SO legal and technical support. The BA also hosted NAMES first Biennial Conference, NAMES 2008, which marked a milestone of international recognition, participation, and cooperation.

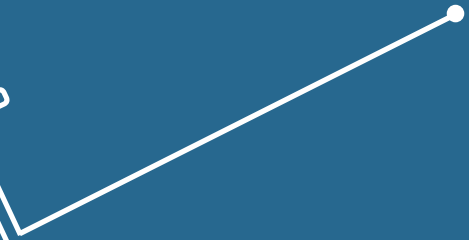
In its second two terms, 2010–2014, NAMES was led by late Mr. Mijbil Almutawa, Vice-Chairman and CEO of The Scientific Center of Kuwait (TSCK). During Mr. Almutawa's Presidency, NAMES co-hosted the 6th Science Centers World Congress, hosted by the sister network SAASTEC in Cape Town, South Africa,

in 2011. In 2012, NAMES also embarked on its first major international collaboration, launching the Euro-Mediterranean and Middle East (EMME) Summer School of Science Communication, in partnership with the sister network Ecsite.

Since 2014, NAMES has witnessed a stable increase in memberships despite political and economic challenges within the region. In 2014, Ms. Sawsan Dalaq, Director of the Children’s Museum Jordan, was elected third President of NAMES. Under Ms. Dalaq’s direction, NAMES Executive Team focuses on consolidating what has been achieved thus far, reinforcing NAMES reach, and expanding collaboration among its members, as well as with international partners. The Team is also currently focusing on enhancing member benefits and services, as well as the inception and development of new initiatives, collaborations, and projects among members.

On the occasion of its 10th Anniversary, this year, NAMES is introducing an updated corporate identity, a revamped website, and a newly launched quarterly e-newsletter entitled ALMANARA.

SNAPSHOT



MILESTONES

**NAMES 1st Biennial Conference,
Alexandria, Egypt**



**6th Science Centers World Congress,
Cape Town, South Africa**



2006

2008

2010

2011



NAMES Initiation and Launch



**NAMES 2nd Biennial Conference,
Kuwait, Kuwait**

2012

**NAMES 3rd Biennial Conference,
Tunis, Tunisia**



2013

**EMME 1st Edition,
Granada, Spain**



2014

**NAMES 4th Biennial Conference,
Bursa, Turkey**



2015

**EMME 2nd Edition,
Alexandria, Egypt**



BENEFITS

Members' involvement in NAMES contributes greatly to the achievement of the mission, vision, and objectives of the Network; it is also a valuable opportunity to broaden members' experience in the science communication field. Becoming part of NAMES means:

1

Being part of a well-established and internationally recognized regional Network;

2

Leaving a legacy and positioning yourself as a leader with a vision, directly and indirectly supporting the growth of the science communication field within the NAMES region;

3

Sharing experiences of relevant educational contents and agendas;

4

Working with colleagues facing similar challenges and opportunities;

5

Participating in and exchanging programs of knowledge and capacity building;

6

Customizing trainings and capacity-building programs at subsidized fees, in collaboration with international networks and experts, such as the biennial Euro-Mediterranean and Middle East (EMME) Summer School for Science Communication;

7

Participating in official Network activities and events, including the Biennial NAMES Conference, at subsidized fees, including the opportunity to exhibit;

8

Receiving periodical information on relevant activities and programs within the region and outside it; and

9

Voting and nomination for the Network's Board of Directors (only Full Members).



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for a Sustainable Future



NAMES EXECUTIVE TEAM

NAMES BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014–2016

Ms. Sawsan Dalaq, NAMES President
(since November 2014)
Director, The Children's Museum, JORDAN

Mr. Ali Çetinkaya, NAMES Vice-President
(since November 2014)
CEO, Konya Science Center, TURKEY

Ms. Hoda Elmikaty, NAMES Treasurer
(since November 2014, Past-President 2010-2014,
President 2006-2010)
Deputy Director, Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA), EGYPT

Mr. Nawaf Alrudaini, NAMES Board Member
(succeeding late Mr. Mijbil Almutawa)
Marketing & Public Relations Manager,
The Scientific Center of Kuwait (TSCK), KUWAIT

Dr. Salah Nasr, NAMES Board Member
(since November 2014)
Director-General, Monastir Science Palace, TUNISIA

Ms. Shereen Husseini, NAMES Board Member
(since November 2014)
Head, Projects and Programs Department,
Al Nayzak for Supportive Education and Scientific
Innovation, PALESTINE

Ms. Lolowa Almarzooqi, NAMES Board Member
(since November 2014)
Senior Manager of Schools & Universities Unit,
Abu Dhabi Technology Development Committee (TDC),
UAE

NAMES SECRETARIAT OFFICE (SO)

Ms. Maissa Azab, NAMES Secretary
(since 2006)

Ms. Rehab Elawamry, NAMES Administrator
(since 2012)

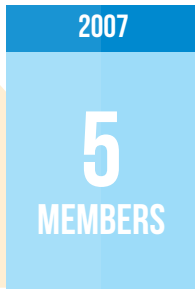


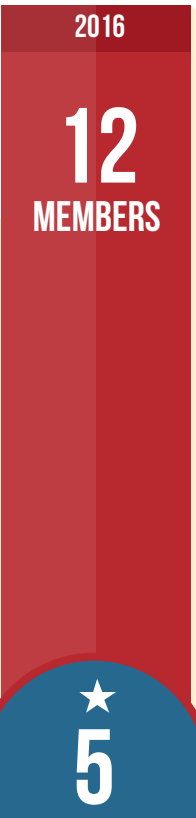
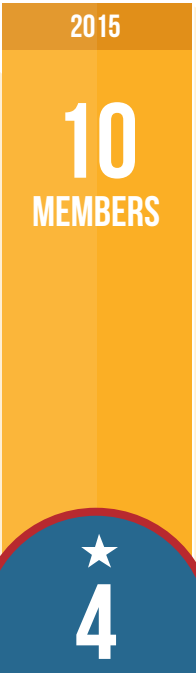
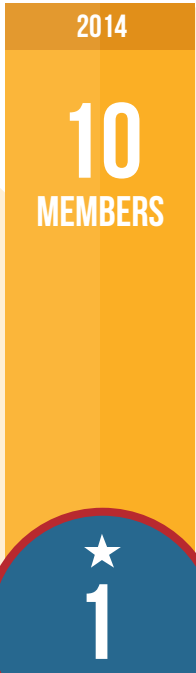
MEMBERS



MEMBERS

FULL MEMBERS





SUSTAINING MEMBERS

MEMBERS

FOUNDING MEMBERS



1

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA) Planetarium Science Center, EGYPT



2

The Scientific Center of Kuwait (TSCK), KUWAIT



3

Tunis Science City, TUNISIA



4

Turkish Science Centers Foundation, TURKEY



5

Sultan Bin AbdulAziz Science and Technology Center (SciTech), KSA

ACTIVE MEMBERS 2016

FULL MEMBERS

- 1 The BA Planetarium Science Center, EGYPT
- 2 The Scientific Center of Kuwait, KUWAIT
- 3 Monastir Science Palace, TUNISIA
- 4 Abu Dhabi Technology Development Committee, UAE
- 5 The Children's Museum Jordan, JORDAN
- 6 Mishkat Interactive Exhibition for Atomic & Renewable Energy, KSA
- 7 AlNayzak Organization For Supportive Education & Scientific Innovation, PALESTINE
- 8 Kayseri Science Center, TURKEY
- 9 Konya Science Center, TURKEY
- 10 The Walid and Helen Kattan Science Education Project (WHKSEP), PALESTINE
- 11 Society of Petroleum Engineers, UAE
- 12 ASAL Bilim, TURKEY

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

- 1 Explora, MALTA
- 2 Techniquest, UK
- 3 Hüttinger Interactive Exhibitions, GERMANY
- 4 TalentS|KCA, UK
- 5 Exploratorium, USA



BIENNIAL
CONFERENCE

2–3
NOVEMBER
2008

NAMES 2008
CONFERENCE

**THE BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA PLANETARIUM SCIENCE CENTER,
EGYPT**

- Under the theme *The Role of Science Centers in Establishing Knowledge-Based Societies in the Region*, the following sub-themes were tackled:
 - Networking and Advocacy;
 - Effective and Non-Traditional Methods of Science Communication.



Keynote Speakers were:

- Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Director of Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt;
 - Dr. Farouk Elbaz, Director, Center for Remote Sensing, Boston University, Boston, MA, USA, Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Science, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt;
 - Dr. Shirley Malcom, Head of the Education and Human Resources Programs at AAAS, USA.
- NAMES 2008 featured 23 Session Speakers from 17 different countries, 13 Exhibitors, and 950 Participants.

16–17
OCTOBER
2010

NAMES 2010 CONFERENCE

THE SCIENTIFIC CENTER OF KUWAIT, KUWAIT

- Under the theme *Science for Knowledge and Prosperity*, the following sub-themes were tackled:
 - New Technologies;
 - Sustainable Development;
 - Life Sciences.



Keynote Speakers were:

- Prof. Mostafa Elsayed, Director of Laser Dynamics Laboratory, USA;
 - Dr. Hoda Baraka, First Deputy to Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt;
 - Dr. Mahmoud Abdul Raheem, Director of Research Directorate, The Kuwait Foundation for The Advancement of Sciences, Kuwait;
 - Dr. Fatma Al-Awadhi, Research Directorate, The Kuwait Foundation for The Advancement of Sciences, Kuwait;
 - Dr. Kazem Behbehani, Director-General, Dasman Diabetes Institute, Kuwait.
- NAMES 2010 featured 21 Session Speakers, 6 Exhibitors, and 150 Participants from more than 22 countries.

5-6
DECEMBER
2012

NAMES 2012 CONFERENCE

TUNIS SCIENCE CITY, TUNISIA

- Under the theme *Science for Sustainable Development in the Region*, the following sub-themes were tackled:
 - Sustainable Development in Science Centers' Strategic Planning & Management;
 - Going Green in the NAMES Region;
 - Science as an Enabler of Democracy.



Keynote Speakers were:

- Dr. Rashid Ahmed Bin Fahad, Minister of Environment and Water;
 - Prof. Mohamed Larbi Bouguerra, Consultant at the World Health Organization and UNESCO;
 - Mr. José Maria Figueres, Chairman of the Carbon War Room.
- NAMES 2012 featured 32 Session Speakers and 88 Participants.

7-9
NOVEMBER
2014

NAMES 2014
CONFERENCE

BURSA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER, TURKEY

- Under the theme Innovation: Revisiting your Mind, the following sub-themes were tackled were:
 - Innovate to Educate;
 - Innovate to Reach;
 - Science Behind Innovation;
 - Innovation and Society.



Keynote Speakers were:

- Dr. Essam Heggy, PhD, California Institute of Technology, Geophysical and Planetary Sciences Diversity;
 - Mr. Mehmet Arik, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Director for EVATEG Center, Ozyegin University.
- NAMES 2014 featured 47 Session Speakers, 13 Exhibitors, and 304 Participants.



PROJECTS,
PROGRAMS
& COLLABORATIONS



Science Centers World Congress/Summit

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE (IPC)

- In 2005, Ms. Hoda. Elmikaty was invited to represent the region in the International Program Committee (IPC) of the Science Centers World Congress (SCWC), later named the Science Centers World Summit (SCWS).
- In 2008, Ms. Hoda Elmikaty nominated Mr. Mijbil Almutawa to represent NAMES on the IPC. With Mr. Mijbil's active contribution to the IPC, NAMES was recognized as co-host of the 6th SCWC together with SAASTEC.

The Euro-Mediterranean and Middle East (EMME)

SUMMER SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

- Initiated by *Città della Scienza* (Naples, Italy), EMME Summer School has been established to reinforce a stronger partnership between the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean and Middle East and to support democratic transformation and institution-building, with the aim of delivering sustainable and inclusive growth and job creation.
- The Initial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed during the Ecsite Annual Conference 2012 in Toulouse, France; it was signed by Ecsite and NAMES Networks as Promoting Partners, with the following eight institutions as Active Partners:
 - The Bibliotheca Alexandrina Planetarium Science Centre (Alexandria, Egypt)
 - The Scientific Centre of Kuwait (Kuwait)

- *Città della Scienza* (Naples, Italy)
- *Universcience* (Paris, France)
- *Universcience Partenaires* (Paris, France)
- *MUSE - Museo delle Scienze* (Trento, Italy)
- *Parque de las Ciencias* (Granada, Spain)
- Natural History Museum (London, UK)

- The EMME Summer School takes place every other year in September for a duration of one week (five days); it represents both a place of debate where professionals meet to discuss common challenges, as well as a “starting event” for planning programs at the beginning of the new scholar/academic year.
- The EMME Summer School is addressed to middle profile staff of existing science centers/museums and to newcomers from other organizations—universities, local authorities, associations, etc.—who want to establish new activities in the field of science communication or to develop new science centers.
- The 1st edition, EMME 2013, was supposed to be hosted by *Città della Scienza*, Naples, Italy; however, due to a massive fire that destroyed the Center, the 1st EMME edition was hosted by *Parque de las Ciencias*, Granada, Spain, 22–27 September 2013.
 - 25 Participants attended EMME 2013 from Algeria (2), Egypt (3), Italy (1), Kuwait (4), Palestine (2), Portugal (1), Spain (1), Tunisia (1), Turkey (6), United Arab Emirates (2), and United Kingdom (1).
- Following the successful results of the 1st edition, the 2nd edition, EMME 2015, was hosted by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Planetarium Science Center, Alexandria, Egypt, 5–10 September 2015.
 - 15 Participants attended EMME 2015 from Bahrain (1), Egypt (3), Jordan (3), Kuwait (3), Palestine (2), Saudi Arabia (1), Tunisia (1), and United Arab Emirates (1).

- In light of the success of the first two editions, a new four-year Partnership Agreement was signed during the Ecsite Annual Conference 2016 in Graz, Austria, with nine institutions as Active Partners:
 - The Bibliotheca Alexandrina Planetarium Science Center (Alexandria, Egypt)
 - The Scientific Center of Kuwait (Kuwait)
 - *Città della Scienza* (Naples, Italy)
 - *Universcience* (Paris, France)
 - *Universcience Partenaires* (Paris, France)
 - *MUSE - Museo delle Scienze* (Trento, Italy)
 - *Parque de las Ciencias* (Granada, Spain)
 - *Ciencia Viva - Pavilhão do Conhecimento* (Lisbon, Portugal)
 - The Children's Museum Jordan (Amman, Jordan)
- The 3rd edition, EMME 2017, is scheduled to be hosted by *Città della Scienza*, Naples, Italy, 10–15 September 2017.

International Day (ID) of Science Centers 2016

- Established by UNESCO in 2001, the World Science Day for Peace and Development is celebrated annually worldwide on 10 November. It offers an opportunity to demonstrate to the wider public why science is relevant to their daily lives and to engage them in debates on related issues.
- The 2016 World Science Day for Peace and Development will be dedicated to the International Day of Science Centers. It will be a global initiative, supported by UNESCO, to raise awareness of the role

that Science Centers and Museums play in increasing scientific awareness, engagement and participation among people in promoting sustainable development, and in providing solutions to global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity innovation, renewable energies, water shortages and human health (HIV/AIDS).

● ID16 Principal Outcomes are to:

- 1 Illustrate the role that science centers can play to educate the public about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the organization of ad-hoc events involving new partners on local, regional, and international level;
- 2 Develop new concepts on communicating SDGs to diverse audiences;
- 3 Prepare a document for use by the science center field and UNESCO in order to inform and train science communicators and professionals of science popularization about the best practices and recommended programs and strategies to communicate to and engage the public with SDGs.

● All networks, including NAMES, have launched an invitation to their members to organize or label activities related to SDGs on 10 November 2016.



THE NEXT CHAPTER

Ten years have passed since the establishment of NAMES, during which great strides have been taken towards reinforcing the Network's position internationally, expanding its reach across the region, and establishing valuable collaborations.

NAMES now turns a new leaf, where it aspires to consolidate what has been achieved through several short- and long-term actions:

- Better visibility and services through the following means:
 - An updated corporate identity;
 - A revamped website;
 - An automated quarterly e-newsletter;
 - An annual report;
 - Arabized content of relevant publications.
 - Online databases and resources, featuring information on:
 - * Development and fabrication of exhibits and exhibitions,
 - * Specialized courses and trainings,
 - * Consultants,
 - * Publications,
 - * How-to guides.

- Development of collaborative, cross-border programs and projects amongst members, as well as with external partners:
 - Tailored Training Programs;
 - Exchange Programs;
 - Travelling Exhibitions.

IN MEMORIAM

It was with a heavy heart that NAMES Executive Team received and disseminated the devastating news of the passing away of Mr. Mijbil Almutawa, Vice-Chairman and CEO of The Scientific Center of Kuwait (TSCK), on 27 July 2016. Mr. Almutawa was an unequivocal source of inspiration and a tremendous support to both his TSCK Team even before the Center opened to the public in 2000, as well as to NAMES Executive Team throughout its ten years of existence. His presence in NAMES Executive Team will be forever profoundly missed; yet, his legacy will persevere.

Mr. Almutawa was one of the five founding members of NAMES whose conviction and commitment was the force behind establishing and launching NAMES in 2006. Not only that, throughout NAMES ten years of existence, he was one of the constant pillars supporting NAMES from infancy to maturity, reinforcing NAMES position on the international arena, and expanding NAMES reach within the MENA region and beyond.



“

Mijbil was more than a colleague working in the same field; together we worked on creating NAMES. It was a long path, but I was always sure I could count on Mijbil's dedication, expertise, patience, and excellent communication skills. He was a charming and witty person, and I truly enjoyed working with him over the past twelve years. Today, I feel I lost a true friend and a firm supporter.

- Ms. Hoda Elmikaty, Deputy Director of Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and NAMES Former President (2006-10)

”

“

I will never forget Mijbil's piercing glance when he asked me to build together a place for dialogue between the Arab world and Europe. Mijbil was convinced of the importance of a real dialogue that could give to NAMES the strength to spread science, but also the culture of peace and cooperation. I will miss Mijbil very much and his leadership will be missed in the international movement of science centers.

- Vincenzo Lipardi, CEO of Città della Scienza, Naples, Italy

”

“

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. I was privileged to be elected for presidency when so much had been accomplished and well established for NAMES by Mijbil and Hoda. He was a wonderful mentor and guide, which only reflects what a generous and selfless person he was.

- Ms. Sawsan Dalaq, Director of the Children's Museum Jordan, and NAMES President

”

“ Every time I met Mijbil, he was building bridges, trying to get people working together for a greater good; being such a persuasive man, we would all join in and start pioneering projects together. One of these projects is E.M.M.B.; a project that says everything about Mijbil's wide vision and strong will. This project will outlive him, as one of his greatest gifts to those who shared his vision.

– Rosalia Vargas, President of the Portuguese Ciência Viva network ”

“ Mijbil taught me to walk slowly but surely towards a peaceful direction. I cannot recall Mijbil pronouncing any negative words. 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, Executive Director of Ecsite ”

“ I have no words to express the pride I feel for having known Mijbil for many years! Unconditional respect for others, along with a tremendous sense of humor, that was Mijbil! In deep respect and gratitude, I bow to our friend, who fought for public understanding of science and humanities. Mijbil, my team and I will miss you tremendously!

– Axel E. Hüttinger, Director of Hüttinger Interactive Exhibitions and NAMES Sustaining Member ”

WORK TEAM

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Director, Children's Museum Jordan
NAMES President

Maissa Azab

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NAMES Secretary

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