

ALLADI'S WORK ON MATH PROGRAMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Since 2007, on a regular basis, I have been involved in the accreditation and/or evaluation of undergraduate and graduate mathematics programs in the Middle East, namely in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia. Thus I provided service in the effort to produce more mathematics (undergraduate) majors, and qualified Masters students, to address the needs of the education and industry sectors in that part of the world.

Both the UAE and Saudi Arabia have become extremely prosperous due to oil money. Hence the petroleum industry is the dominant sector in their economies. Owing to this, engineering graduates are much sought after. Thus the universities in the UAE and Saudi Arabia focussed on producing students majoring in engineering, and mathematics departments in their universities mainly provided service by way of teaching mathematics courses needed by the students in engineering.

In the last quarter century, the UAE has diversified its interests by expanding considerably in the spheres of tourism, banking, and aviation. Thus, the UAE realized that students with a mathematics degree would be needed in the diversified and significantly broadened job market. Some mathematics majors would also become high school teachers and having qualified high school math teachers is also crucial. In creating new BS Math Major or Masters in Mathematics programs, the UAE sought the help of experienced mathematicians from the USA and Europe for the evaluation and accreditation of these new mathematics programs. One of the first (or perhaps the first) such BS Mathematics Major Programs proposed was by the American University of Sharjah (AUS) and the University of Sharjah (UoS) just outside Dubai. And for the accreditation of these programs, I was invited to be Chair of the Accreditation Team. The AUS and UoS are sister campuses in a mega complex; whereas AUS is very cosmopolitan, UoS emphasizes local tradition and culture, and so the two universities combined provide the students a choice of the environment in which to study. A few years later, I was also invited to serve as Chair of a team for the accreditation of the proposed MS in Mathematics program at AUS. As a result of my work on the AUS and UoS programs, the UAE Commission on Accreditation invited me to evaluate mathematics programs at several universities in the UAE, often in the capacity as Chair - The United Arab Emirates University in Al Ain, The New York University Abu Dhabi, The Balamund University in Dubai, and the Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi. In addition, I have visited Saudi Arabia twice to evaluate the BS Math Major at the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) in Dhahran.

By serving on these accreditation and evaluation teams, I have not only made a contribution to the cause of producing more mathematics majors in the Middle East, but also has provided guidance on the structuring and content of the BS and MS mathematics courses. In addition, I also advised the various mathematics departments on their hiring, because to have a successful mathematics BS or MS program, any department needs to have qualified persons from a wide range of mathematical areas.

(See next page for the dates of my visits to various universities in the Middle East)

MATH PROGRAMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST EVALUATED BY ALLADI

As Chair of Team:

The American University of Sharjah, UAE (2007, 2011, 2018)

The University of Sharjah, UAE (2007, 2018)

The King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia (2009)

Khalifa University, UAE (2022)

As Member of Team

NOTE: These were teams for the entire College of Science. I was the only one for mathematics.

New York University, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2015)

King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, Saudi Arabia (2012)

United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain (2017)

University of Balamand, Dubai (2017)