

Eighth General Assembly of Silk Road Universities Network (SUN)

held at the Canadian University of Dubai



February 13–15
2023

Theme

The Roles of Universities
in the Era of AI & Big Data.

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الكنديّة
بـدبي



CANADIAN
UNIVERSITY
OF DUBAI

White version



the **SILKROAD**
UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

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INTRODUCTION

Established in 2015, Silk Road Universities Network (hereafter SUN) is a non-profit non-governmental association network of eighty-one universities/higher educational institutions spread over sixty-three cities of twenty-eight nations. The motto of SUN – “Co-existence, Collaboration, and Co-prosperity” exhibits its aims and objectives. Since its inception, the SUN has been thriving for its objectives through diverse higher educational activities with the proactive support and participation of member universities.

The General Assembly of SUN is held every year at any of the member universities that voluntarily offer to organize in consultation with the Secretariat of SUN. The purpose of having the General Assembly of SUN is to review its annual progress and to chart a plan for the upcoming year.

Welcoming Dinner

As per the tradition of the SUN General Assembly, the host university organizes a dinner on the first evening of the General Assembly. It is also a kind of formal-informal get-together in which representatives of member universities, presidents, professors and students interact with each other, introduce themselves or refresh past meetings. Before dinner, the invited guests are welcomed by the SUN office with formal introductions and a cultural program goes on with the meal.



Following this tradition, on the first evening (February 13) of the 8th General Assembly, the Canadian University of Dubai hosted a grand reception at the H Hotel. The Secretary general of SUN Prof Sung Don Hwang extended a warm welcome to the presidents, rectors, professors, and students, appreciating their conviction and cooperation with SUN despite the challenges thrown by the Covid pandemic. Welcoming the guests, Prof. Karim Chelli the President of the Host University hoped that the meeting of the SUN family at the 8th General Assembly would be the guiding path for the future. A few prominent dignitaries such as Rector Prof Tiziana Lipiello, Rector Prof Irena Karaeva, and President Prof. Yusuf Abdullayev also welcomed the august audience of the welcoming ceremony.

Opening Ceremony / Inaugural session of the 8th General Assembly of SUN

- A beautifully planned and organized opening ceremony of the 8th General Assembly of SUN was held in the conference centre of the world's famous Mohammad Bin Rashid library, Al Jaddaf, Dubai, UAE.
- At the outset, the 8th General Assembly of SUN observed a moment of silence to mourn the loss of lives and properties due to the Turkiye-Seria earthquakes.
- On the announcement of the proclamation of the 8th General Assembly of SUN by the President of the chair university HUFS, the General Assembly began with playing the National Anthem of Emirates of Dubai.
- As per the custom of the opening ceremony of the SUN General Assembly, A flag-raising ceremony was observed to show our sense of pride and loyalty to the university we belong to and raising together the flags of the member universities symbolises the sense of togetherness and willingness to collaborate for co-prosperity. In this unique event, presidents/rectors/representatives of the member universities participated in wearing the official convocation dress of their respective universities.
- Honourable Chancellor of the Canadian University of Dubai His Excellency Mr Buti Saeed Mohamed Al Ghandi greeted the participants of the 8th General Assembly of SUN and wished for a grand success of the General Assembly and a comfortable stay in Dubai.





- In his opening remarks Prof. Jae Wan Yung, representing the chair university (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies) of SUN, extended greetings on the occasion of the opening of the 8th General Assembly and underlined the importance of the theme of the General Assembly.



- The President of the Canadian University of Dubai Prof Karim Chelli once again welcomed the delegates of the 8th General Assembly of SUN and called for the academia to discuss, deliberate, ideate, and collaborate for incorporating AI and Big Data in the university curriculum in particular and in campus life in general.



- The first part of the 8th General Assembly of SUN concluded with the inaugural lecture delivered by Prof Emeritus Myung Soo Kim titled “ Living as an Intellectual in South Korea”. In his scholarly lecture, Prof. Kim reminded several problems and challenges created by humans for humans and envisaged a greater role of the SUN and its member universities as a united forum of intercontinental intellectuals to safeguard the life and dignity of citizens across the nations and to proliferate a new multilateralism in the world order.



Dissemination session of the International Association of Silk Road Studies (IASS)

- 01 The dissemination session emerging out of the online seminars/conferences being organized at the Canadian University of Dubai on the theme The Roles of Universities in the era of AI & Big Data was held in the conference centre of the Mohammad Bin Rashid library, Al Jaddaf, Dubai, UAE.



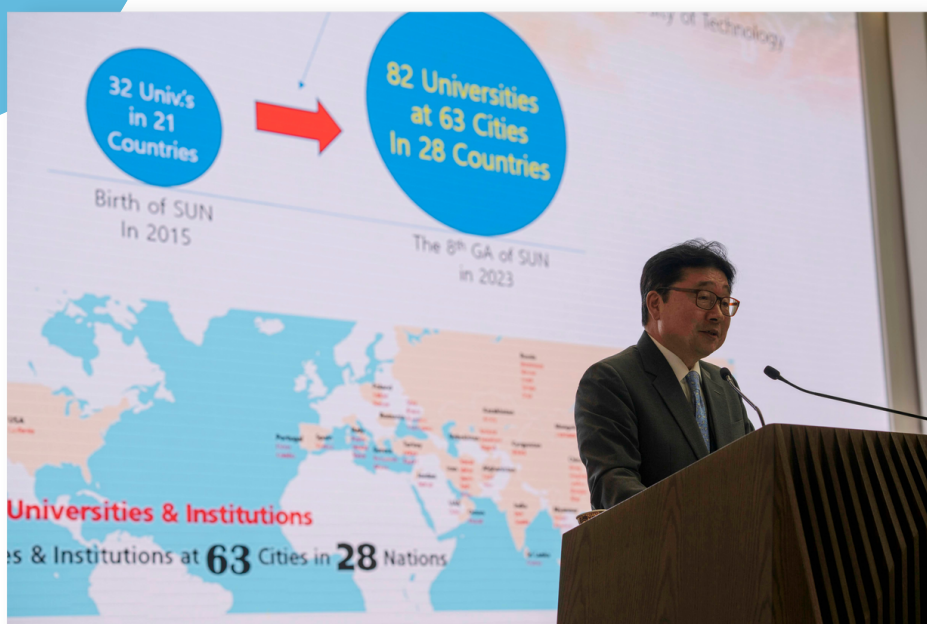
- 02 Last year due to the Covid pandemic it was not possible to conduct the IASS conference in physical mode. IASS President Adel Ben Mnaour did a commendable job by organizing the conference in an online series at the Canadian University of Dubai. This dissemination session was a summary of the outcomes of those seminars/conferences.



- 03 Enumerating the outcomes that emerged out of the online seminars/conferences the President of IASS Prof. Adel Ben Mnaour envisaged a bigger role of universities in the era of AI and Big Data.
- 04 Furthermore, to examine the challenges and opportunities involved alongside the roadmap to incentivise HEIs, Prof. Mnaour initiated a panel discussion on the above theme comprising experts from the member universities of SUN namely – Prof. Marcello Pelilo (Ca’Fiscari University of Venice, Italy), Dr Bernd Van Linder (Utrecht University, Netherlands), Prof. M. J. Moon (Yonsei University, S. Korea), Prof. Aiman Erbad (Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Qatar). The thought-provoking panel discussion proved profoundly useful for the audience that outlined AI's opportunities, impending risks, and challenges.



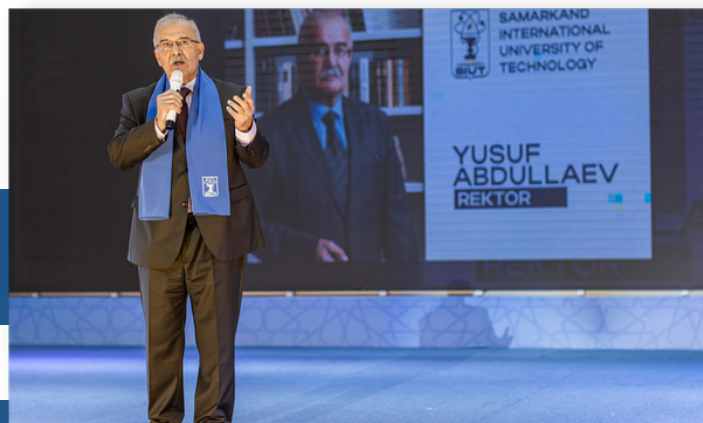
Secretary General's Report



- This session is an important session of the General Assembly of SUN in which the Secretary-General of SUN tables the report of the activities of the previous year, the audited financial report, and plans for the coming year before the House for approval.
- The Secretary General of SUN Emeritus Prof. Sung Don Hwang tabled the detailed annual report of the academic (IASS conferences), cultural (PHOCOS, WRICOS, SDECOS etc including events those organised to commemorate the 1600th anniversary of Venice jointly organised by the Ca'Foscary University of Venice and SUN), activities and audited financial report of SUN for the year 2022 before the 8th General assembly of SUN.
- On behalf of the Secretary-General of SUN, The treasurer of SUN Prof Jeong O Park placed the income and expenditure details of SUN for the year 2022 before the House. The said accounts of SUN are duly audited by its independent, auditors Prof. Mukhmbetkali Burkitbayev and Prof D. A. P. Sharma.



- Under the promotion and expansion activities, the Secretary-General of SUN apprised the house that Samarkand International University of Technology, Uzbekistan has become the newly joined member university of SUN making the total number of member universities sixty-three. The House welcomed the new member with applause.



- The House approved the Secretary-General's report with a voice vote and expressed its satisfaction with the relentless work he has been doing since the inception of SUN.



Election of the Chair University of SUN

- The chair of SUN rotates among the member universities.
- The 8th General Assembly of SUN unanimously elected the Canadian University of Dubai to the chair of SUN and Ca'Foscari University of Venice to the co-chair of SUN for the next three years. Consequently, the President of the Canadian University of Dubai Prof Karim Chelli will act as the Chairman of SUN and the Rector of the Ca'Foscari University of Venice Prof Tiziana Lipiellow will be the deputy Chairperson of SUN.



Delegation of the Responsibilities

- The 8th General Assembly of SUN delegated the responsibility of the president of the International Association of Silk Road Studies(IASS) to Prof. Patrizia Carioti, of L'Orientale University of Naples, Italy.
- the 8th General assembly of SUN delegated the responsibility of the student's advisor of SUN to Prof. Dorota Sylwia Majewicz of the Samarkand International University of Technology, Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- The House welcomed the above appointments with applause.

Prof. Dorota Sylwia Majewicz (Ph.D., M.A.)

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

A passionate academician with a love for empowering students and a special concern for the ongoing educational growth of students in their learning and communication, with an emphasis on the management of students' strengths and weaknesses in training to prepare them for future employment careers.

A highly educated professional with substantial academic and professional experience and extensive international exposure, serving as a visiting lecturer in a number of nations in Central Asia and North Africa.

A specialist in office communication, family relations, and communications (pragmatics, rhetoric, persuasive messaging and relativity within language and culture, conflict resolution, conflict facilitation and negotiation).

Over sixteen years of teaching and learning experience in higher education, utilizing innovative teaching methods such as "Student-Centered Learning" and encouraging extracurricular activities related to linguistics, culture, and communication in order to provide students with a comprehensive learning experience.

Competent in academic program development for Executive Education with specialties in mediation and conflict resolution, among others.

A prolific researcher and publisher with an extensive international scholar network.



Award Distribution Ceremony

- An award distribution ceremony was held to confer prizes to the winners of various competitions organised in the year 2022.



- The list of awardees is as follows:

	Name	University	Prize
Grand Prize Winners(2)	1. Mr. Geoffrey Jerry J Mosiol	University of Malaya(Malaysia)	Grand Prize(WRICOS-Poem)
	2. Mrs. Latife Sakhi	Allameh Tabataba'i University(Iran)	1) Grand Prize(SDECOS) 2) Special Selection(WRICOS-Poem)
Prize Winners(8)	3. Mr. Maniatakos Nikolaos	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki(Greece)	Excellence Award(PHOCOS)
	4. Ms. Blanca Taglialatela	University of Naples "L'Orientale"(Italy)	Special Selection(PHOCOS)
	5. Ms. Maria Foteinaki	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki(Greece)	Special Selection(PHOCOS)
	6. Ms. Poliudova Elizaveta	Moscow State Linguistic University (Russia)	Excellence Award(WRICOS-Essay)
	7. Mr. Mohammad Aryanmanesh	Imam Khomeini International University (Iran)	Excellence Award(WRICOS-Essay)
	8. Ms. Hsu Sandi Thinn	University of Yangon(Myanmar)	Special Selection(WRICOS-Poem)
	9. Mr. Neele Henry Seifert	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies(Korea)	Great Performance(SDECOS)
	10. Mr. Eihab Hamed	Canadian University Dubai(Dubai)	Special Selection(SDECOS)

United Presidents of SUN (hereafter UPSUN) Workshop



- The UPSUN Workshop is a crucial segment of the General Assembly. The objective of the UPSUN workshop is to gather innovative ideas from the university leaders, facilitate collaboration among the member universities, and learn from each other to make the curriculum and campus trendy.
- Honourable Presidents, Rectors, representatives of member universities, and professors have gone through a marathon discussion lasting from the afternoon to the late evening on the subject “Challenges and Opportunities to Integrate AI and Big Data” in order to incorporate subject-specific upskilling content and to provide solutions to the wicked problems involved in teaching and learning.



- The UPSUN workshop of the 8th General Assembly was held on the afternoon of February 14 at the Canadian University of Dubai. The following Presidents/Rectors/representatives of member universities participated in the UPSUN workshop:

1. Prof. Karim Chelli – the chair, Canadian Univ of Dubai
2. Prof. Sung Don Hwang – Moderator, Secretary General, SUN
3. Prof. Irina Karaeva – Moscow State Linguistic University, Moscow, Russia
4. Prof. Tiziana Lipiello – Ca'Foscari University of Venice, Italy
5. Prof. Zhanseit Tuymebayev – Rector, Al Farabi Kazakh National University
6. Prof. Yusuf Abdullayev – President, Samarkand International University of Technology, Samarkand, Uzbekistan
7. Prof. Tukhtasinov Ilkhomjon Madaminovich – President, Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages, Samarkand, Uzbekistan
8. Prof. Abrudan Ioan Vasile – Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania
9. Prof. Salameh Naimat – Vice Rector, University of Jordan, Jordan
10. Prof. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian – Associate Vice-Chancellor, University of Malaysia
11. Prof. Thidar Aye – Pro-Rector, University of Yangon, Myanmar
12. Prof. Chander Shekhar – Chairman, international relations, Delhi University
13. Prof. Patrizia Carioti – L'Orientale University of Naples, Italy
14. Prof. M. Ertan Gokman – Ankara University, Turkiye
15. Prof. Tamir Chultemsuren, National University of Mongolia, Mongolia
16. Prof. Chang Dong Yoo – Chairman, Korean AI Society
17. Prof. Marcello Pelilo (Ca'Fiscari University of Venice, Italy)
18. Dr Reza Ebrahimi Atani – University of Guilan, Iran
19. Prof. D. A. P. Sharma – SUN



Board of Directors Meeting of SUN

- The Board of Directors of SUN is the highest body to make resolutions and execute decisions as delegated and agreed upon by the General Assembly of SUN.
- Under the aegis of the 8th General Assembly of SUN, a Board of Directors meeting of SUN took place on February 15, 2023, in the Presidents' chamber of the Canadian University of Dubai. The following members universities and SUN officials were present at the Board meeting:
 1. The Canadian University of Dubai – chair university of SUN – Prof. Karim Chelli (chairman of Board of Directors & President, CUD)
 2. Secretary-General of SUN – ex-officio secretary of the Board of Directors – Prof. Emeritus Sung Don Hwang.
 3. Ca'Foscari University of Venice – deputy chair university of SUN – Prof. Tiziana Lipiello (Dy chairperson of Board of Directors & Rector, CFUV.)
 4. Moscow State Linguistic University – member-university – Prof. Irina Karaeva, (member-Board of Directors & Rector, MSLU.)
 5. Al Farabi Kazakh National University – member-university – Prof. Zhanseit Tuymebayev, (member-Board of Directors & Rector, AFKNU.)
 6. University of Malaysia – member-university – Prof. Yvonne Lim Ai Lian, member-Board of Directors & Associate Vice-Chancellor, Univ of Malaysia)
 7. Ankara University – member-university – Prof. M. Ertan Goekman (member-Board of Directors)
 8. National University of Mongolia – member-university – Prof. Tamir Chultemsuren, member-Board of Directors & National University of Mongolia.
 9. Prof. D. A. P. Sharma – SUN Office
 10. Amali Thanthrige (Ms) – GA organizing team, SUN Secretariate



- Upon detailed discussions and deliberations, the Board of Directors of SUN keeping in mind the core values and guiding principles of SUN – co-existence, collaboration, and co-prosperity – unanimously resolved the following to be executed during the next three years :



• **Academic Resolutions**

- 1.To focus on languages and cultures as thrust areas to celebrate the beauty of diversity and empower them with new technologies and innovations in order to buttress sustainable civilization.
- 2.To introduce a double graduation program (dual/double degree) for students' upskilling.
- 3.To explore the possibility to publish a research journal of SUN.
- 4.To establish a Silk road incorporation forum for partnership.
- 5.To establish a Silk Road travel fund.
- 6.To invite medical schools/institutions to be under the SUN network.
- 7.To form a joint task force team to deal with educational losses in areas affected by exceptional situations and natural disasters.

• **Administrative Decisions**

- 1.The Secretary General of SUN in consultation with the Chair-University and Co-Chair University will decide on the location of the SUN Office/Secretariat.
- 2.Frequent meetings will be convened to expedite the decisions taken.
- 3.A legal framework will be formulated keeping in mind the emerging international situations.
- 4.Two full-time office-staff one for coordinating programs and the other one for market management will be recruited for the SUN office.



Closing Ceremony & Farewell Dinner

- The closing ceremony of the 8th General Assembly of SUN concluded at the Dusit Thani hotel on the evening of February 15 in which Prof. D. A. P. Sharma presented a brief report of the events concluded as part of the 8th General Assembly of SUN before the audience.



- The fascinating colourful cultural programs and luscious Arabic cuisine won everyone's hearts.



- Delegates showered praise with thunderous applause on Prof. Karim Chelli, President of the Canadian University of Dubai for making the 8th General Assembly of SUN memorable and thanked him wholeheartedly for fully sponsoring the 8th General Assembly of SUN.



- In the end, The Secretary General of SUN Prof. Sung Don Hwang and Prof Karim Chelli both jointly expressed gratitude to the heads & representatives of member universities and delegates for their active participation and benign presence.

