



”APS FOR THE ASIAN AND ARAB PHYSICISTS”

Sultana N. Nahar

**Astronomy, The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio, USA**

Email: nahar@astronomy.ohio-state.edu



**FIP EC Meeting
APS April Meeting 2014
Savannah, Georgia
April 5, 2014**

APS Membership and Other Issues

Greetings to everyone. I had been travelling, spent about 2 months in India for the Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative awarded STEM Education and Research project. I am now leaving on March 30 for Saudi Arabia for 3 weeks. Hence I am not able to attend the meeting. Many thanks to Noemi to present my report

- In India, I visited about 10 university and labs for our STEM project, had meetings with representatives of a number of universities. It was impressive to see the passion for science and research.
- Research level varies from very highly innovative to engagement in projects with low understanding.
- They hold conferences inside India regularly. Most Indians attend conferences and get points out of it. An oral presenter gets 40 points and a poster presenter may get 10 points.
- Indians hold high appreciation for the research being carried out in the US. However, they also feel collaboration with USA research is not easily accessible
- They have less hope for attending US conferences due to visa issues. Even a very active researcher at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) who was hosting us does not make any more effort to come to US after visa problem. However, he became interested immediately when I spoke about APS, FIP membership and APS support letter for visa.
- Although many have given up hope on US, they do become interested in the possibility of becoming APS members and participate in US conferences.
- I gave APS membership info and benefits to all places I visited.
- With more connections. I now have a network of physicists from 20 countries. They have come to know APS and feel honored when they

become part of it.

- I would like to mention that bringing these physicists to APS will make our community stronger and make advances faster. Once they appreciate to be part of APS through the fund matching program, they will find ways to stay with APS later on
- The other issue is about US speakers
- Indian physicists prefer US speakers very much. They feel US speakers give most advanced exposures in research.
- I was in the organizing committee of Aligarh Nano-IV International 2014 conference. I was asked to find US speakers for it, but could not get any except two of us from the Ohio State University and another one came from Chicago. I brought speakers from Bangladesh, Egypt, and Russia. I have got requests to get some good US speakers for another conference in Pakistan and upcoming conference in Delhi in early 2015.
- I would suggest that FIP EC create a database of speakers from the US who are willing to give presentations in foreign, particularly Third World and Arab countries and made the database accessible from FIP webpage.
- Thank you and I wish a very productive FIP meeting for everyone.