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THE MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM PRESENTS

Building Knowledge Economies in the Gulf

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The emergence of a global economy has stimulated interest in many developing countries to evolve from resource based economies to “knowledge economies”. Leaders in such developing countries see the beneficial results of technological strength in such developed countries as South Korea and the United States from using their knowledge based strengths to foster substantial economic development.

Several developing countries with extensive wealth from natural resources, such as the oil-rich countries of the Middle East, have begun to aggressively pursue diversification of their economies – utilizing current income from oil and gas sales to invest in high-tech commercial developments. These countries – such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates – have sought partnerships with universities in developed countries to assist in building local educational institutions to effect the conversion to knowledge economies.

Dr. Russel Jones is senior Advisor at the Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research, a new institution in Abu Dhabi, UAE. KUSTAR offers undergraduate and graduate programs in engineering and science. Until recently he served as Founding President of the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology in Abu Dhabi, UAE – a new university dedicated to graduate education and research, focused on alternative energy. He also serves as President of World Expertise LLC, a consulting company offering services to a select clientele, Dean of Engineering at the University of Massachusetts, Academic Vice President at Boston University, and President and University Research Professor at the University of Delaware. He has served as President of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. Dr. Jones also recently served as a member of the United States National Commission on UNESCO, providing guidance to the US State Department and to its Ambassador to UNESCO. His primary interests are international higher education and human capacity building through engineering education



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