



Department of Economics
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February 20, 2008

To: The "Funding Considerations" Team, [REDACTED]

Subject: My Statement in Support of the IISCCIW's Funding Inquiry

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to express my strong support for, and readiness to collaborate with, the "International Institute to Study Climate Change in the Islamic World (IISCCIW)" initiative, introduced to me by a colleague at our university, Prof. Paul Foote, followed soon after, with my meeting Mojtaba Aghamohammadi (Moji Agha), the Founder/Director of this deeply valuable project, which I am confident will make critically needed contributions, promising great international success, especially with support from [REDACTED]

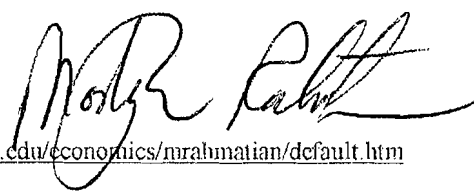
Having received my doctorate in Economics (U. of Wyoming, 1982) specializing in Environmental Economics, Regulations, and International Economics, I have been a Professor (and Vice Chair of the Dept.) of Economics at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) since 1988; serving as Department Chair from 2004 to 2007. Before that (1982-1988) I was a Prof. of Economics at West Virginia University.

Environmental economics has been the main focus of all my professional/research career. I have worked on many national and international research projects and grants, resulting in a large number of publications in several scientific journals in the field of Environmental Economics. For example, one of my research projects (completed recently) dealt with the 1991 Gulf War, where 700 oil wells in Kuwait were set on fire by Iraqi troops. Burning for 10 months, these fires created one of the most disastrous environmental problems our planet has ever encountered. My research attempted to monetarily evaluate the various environmental damages of this catastrophe.

I strongly urge the [REDACTED] not only to consider giving generous "seed-funding" to the IISCCIW, but I sincerely hope that such funding would develop into a long-term institutional partnership, because the visionary contributions of the IISCCIW could easily lead to critically required undertakings in many Islamic countries, hopefully resulting in badly needed international and interfaith collaborations in our dire global struggle against global warming and climate change.

Respectfully emphasizing your [REDACTED] attention and urgent support for this exceptional initiative, I am ready to be of any assistance--please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.
With kind regards,

Morteza Rahmatian, Ph.D.
Professor of Economics


<http://www.business.fullerton.edu/economics/mrahmatian/default.htm>

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