The 11th General Assembly of SUN and the 9th Annual Scientific Conference of IASS

International and Transdisciplinary Research Collaboration and Student Mobility - Carrying Forward the Spirit of the Ancient Silk Road

November 15 – 20, 2026

Tlemcen, Algiers, Bejaia, and Setif in

Algeria



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Welcome to the Silk Road Universities Network

Welcoming Statement from Dr. Karim Chelli, Chairman of SUN



The ancient Silk Road brought together distant civilizations separated by geography, language, and culture to exchange ideas and share knowledge in the spirit of collective enrichment. Its profound legacy goes beyond the silk, spices, and precious goods transported across continents, to provide a meeting ground where people could connect, build relationships, and explore different perspectives of the world. This enduring spirit of exchange, mutual respect, and harmonious coexistence embodies the very essence of Silkroadia, which continues to drive our Network to this day.

Converging East and West and the many societies in between, the Silk Road Universities Network (SUN) was established in recognition of this enduring legacy. It unites people and institutions connected by the geography, history, and traditions of the ancient Silk Road, to create a community of minds that promotes peace, coexistence, and prosperity through collaboration in higher education. This shared heritage serves as our anchor, reminding us that meaningful and long-lasting connections between peoples are built through dialogue, reciprocity, and trust.

From the outset, the Network has embraced a distinctly cultural spirit, celebrating the art, literature, and heritage that make our members unique. Bringing people and institutions together through culture has created opportunities to discover common ground and uncover the richness of our different intellectual traditions. Building on the foundations laid down during SUN's inauguration, we now aim to extend this cultural legacy into more dynamic academic collaborations in science, technology, economics, and the many disciplines shaping our shared future. Our next chapter must help forge connections into collaboration, collaboration into innovation, and innovation into lasting, real impact.

From its furthest points in the East to its furthest points in the West, our network of universities possesses different histories, resources, strengths, and ambitions. Through academic exchange, collaborative research, and complementary partnerships, the Network can transform individual expertise into shared impact. We can open doors for students, create new opportunities for faculty and researchers, and support institutions to expand their international reach, all the while ensuring that the benefits of global collaboration are felt beyond those greater resourced or longer established universities. Every member, regardless of size or resources, should have both an opportunity to contribute and a meaningful share in the benefits.

Our ambition for the future is to develop the Network into a leading global platform for intellectual exchange and institutional advancement, delivering tangible benefits for scholars, researchers, universities, and the societies they serve. This begins with investing in our students through structured exchange programs, cross-cultural collaborations, and inclusive digital mobility. These joint learning opportunities, be it through in-person or virtual exchanges, will enable more young people to experience different educational systems, helping to cultivate a generation that sees diversity as an advantage and international cooperation as a natural foundation for progress. International opportunity must not be limited to those who can afford to cross borders.

At the same time, we will strengthen collaboration among our researchers, academic staff, and entrepreneurs. Faculty exchange, visiting positions, collaborative research, the establishment of joint incubators, and shared professional development can connect expertise across institutions, including those with limited resources for international engagement. By combining our capabilities, we can create opportunities, which might otherwise be beyond the reach of individual universities, to generate knowledge, support innovation, and contribute to economic, cultural, and social advancement in our communities and across the Network. Strengthening connections with the industry and broader communities will translate knowledge and research into practical solutions that help generate new enterprises and sustainable economic opportunities.

Central to this will be a proactive agenda for cooperation in academic research. As artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and scientific discovery continues to reshape our world, SUN can foster responsible innovation and collaborative research that responds to our grand challenges, such as climate change, health challenges, social inequality, and the wider goals of sustainable development. One such strategy is to establish a dedicated medical network within the broader Silk Road Universities Network. By connecting medical universities, teaching hospitals, and clinicians, we aim to establish a powerful platform for research and innovation in global healthcare. Every network institution, irrespective of its size or location, will have the chance to contribute to and benefit from such shared initiatives. By pooling our expertise, we can pursue interdisciplinary initiatives that would otherwise be beyond the reach of any single institution.

Our goal is to strengthen collaboration among students, faculty, and researchers so that our institutions can collectively address the questions that will define our future. We aim to strengthen universities so that they can better serve their nations and the world, to support innovation, and to contribute to economic, cultural, and social advancement. We must prepare learners not only with knowledge, but also with the ability, curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, confidence, and the will to tackle complex problems.

This will be achieved through students crossing borders, physically and virtually; academics sharing ideas; researchers extending the boundaries of knowledge; and institutions building bridges of understanding, even in times of division. We will do so while honouring the founding principles of the ancient Silk Road: connection, reciprocity, diversity, exploration, innovation, and relationships that endure across generations.

I invite our member universities, academic colleagues, researchers, students, and alumni to help shape the next chapter of SUN. The ancient Silk Road connected civilizations. Together, we can carry this legacy forward to help connect knowledge and human understanding and pave a road that connects minds, opens opportunities, and builds a more peaceful, prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future.

November 2026

Dr. Karim Chelli
Chairman of SUN

In North Africa, at Last!

Greetings from Professor Sungdon Hwang, Ph.D., Secretary-General of SUN



At last, another dream of mine has come true. When I first envisioned the Silk-Road Universities Network, I held a strong conviction: as Africa is one of the key continents through which the Silk Roads passed — alongside Europe, Asia, and the Middle East — the universities of this continent must be included among SUN's member universities. However, due to various practical constraints, I had to keep this idea merely as a hope when SUN was launched in 2015. Since then, I have never abandoned it. I have always kept it deep in my mind and heart, nurturing it as a dream that would one day be realized.

Then, at the 9th Annual General Assembly held at the University of Naples "L'Orientale" in 2024, several universities from Algeria in North Africa began participating as member universities. Ultimately, the 11th Annual General Assembly and the 9th Annual Academic Conference are being held here — across four cities that were key centers of the ancient North African Silk Roads connecting Africa, the Middle East, and Europe: Bejaia, Setif, Algiers, and Tlemcen. As the founder and Secretary-General of SUN, I cannot express how deeply moved and honoured I am by this development.

The historical significance of Algeria and the North African region in the Ancient Silk Roads cannot be overstated. This is true in at least four respects.

First, Algeria and the North African region served as terminal and starting points connecting the Mediterranean and the Sahara.

Second, they were places where the Maritime Silk Roads and the Trans-Saharan trade routes converged and became integrated.

Third, they were an ancient center of economic exchange. During the Roman era, North Africa, including present-day Algeria, served as the empire's vast granary. In exchange for luxury goods arriving via the Silk Roads, North Africa exported grain, olive oil, and distinctive African products to the East and Europe. This economic cycle provided the essential foundation for sustaining Silk Roads trade.

Fourth, as a central hub of the Maghreb — the land where the sun sets — Algeria became not only a crucial base for transmitting Eastern knowledge and technology to the West and the African interior, but also a major route for cultural and religious diffusion.

In sum, Algeria is historically significant as the final stage through which Eastern goods, knowledge, skills, technology, thoughts and culture extended beyond Asia and Europe into the African continent. It was also a core western axis of the Silk Roads that sustained the economic foundations of Mediterranean civilization.

Here, in North Africa — in Algeria, a region of such profound significance in the history of the world's Silk Roads — our intellectuals have gathered to hold this SUN General Assembly and academic conference, representing 87 universities in 67 cities across 27 countries.

What, then, should we accomplish now that we have gathered? As Secretary-General, I sincerely hope that we will achieve the following three objectives together.

First, building on the mutual trust established among our member universities over the past decade, I hope that we will be able to discuss and reach concrete agreements on various collaborative projects involving our member universities and put them into action. Exchanges among professors, researchers, and students; credit transfers; joint courses; 2+2 educational programs; and joint degree programs are no longer initiatives that can be postponed.

Second, I sincerely hope that this General Assembly will produce examples of international and transdisciplinary research collaboration in various fields and lead to the establishment of a cooperative system among member universities that can ensure the sustainability of such efforts.

Third, I hope that this event will ultimately provide an opportunity for us, as members of universities — the temples of intellect — to demonstrate for ourselves that collaboration among universities is better than competition against one another, and that respecting individual differences and diversity among universities in harmony, as a reason for celebration, is better than ranking and segregating them according to a single standard.

As I have always said, SUN has grown by drawing on the sincere interest, support, and participation of its member universities. This year, too, many of you attended the event despite your busy schedules and the considerable distances involved. Thank you indeed. I have no doubt that, thanks to this commitment, both you and SUN will continue to grow steadily this year as well.

This event benefited from the assistance of a great many people. Above all, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the Algerian authorities, including the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I would also like to convey my heartfelt thanks to the presidents, faculty and staff members, and students of the University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene, the University of Tlemcen, the University of Bejaia, and the University of Setif 1, who carried out their roles as co-host institutions with such dedication and care.

I also extend my deepest appreciation to the President of IASS, which is the academic body of SUN, and all those involved for their devoted efforts in organizing the academic program. In addition, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the hard work of the leadership of USSUN, the student council of SUN. Finally, I offer my thanks and encouragement to the staff members of the SUN Secretariat, who faithfully fulfilled their respective duties throughout the entire event without wavering.

November 2026



Sungdon Hwang, Ph.D.
Secretary-General of SUN

Welcoming Address from the Host Universities

Ferhat Abbas University Setif 1

Algeria



Distinguished guests, dear colleagues, and members of the Silk-Road Universities Network,

At Ferhat Abbas University Setif 1, we firmly believe that universities are custodians of our shared heritage and dynamic bridges connecting academic communities across borders.

Hosting this General Assembly is therefore a commitment to strengthening our collective vision of international academic cooperation.

We are delighted to open our doors, share our academic and cultural environment, and explore new opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships.

I wish you a successful and fruitful General Assembly, as well as a pleasant and enriching stay in Setif.

Welcome to Setif, and welcome to Ferhat Abbas University Setif 1.

Prof. Mohamed El Hadi Latreche
Rector, Ferhat Abbas University Setif 1



Dear Distinguished Guests,
Dear Presidents and Rectors of Universities,
Dear Professors, Researchers and Participants,

It is a great honour and pleasure to welcome you to Algeria on the occasion of the 11th General Assembly of the Silk-Road Universities Network (SUN) and its accompanying International Academic Conference.

On behalf of the University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene (USTHB), I would like to extend my warmest greetings and sincere appreciation to all participating university leaders, academics, researchers and representatives of partner institutions. We are delighted to be part of this important international academic gathering, which brings together universities from different countries and cultural backgrounds around a shared commitment to knowledge, scientific excellence and international cooperation.

The Silk-Road Universities Network represents a valuable platform for strengthening academic partnerships, promoting scientific and technological innovation, and facilitating the exchange of knowledge, expertise and experiences among higher education institutions. In an increasingly interconnected world, universities have a fundamental responsibility to address common challenges through collaborative research, interdisciplinary approaches and the development of future generations of highly qualified researchers and professionals.

As a leading Algerian institution in science and technology, USTHB remains strongly committed to international academic cooperation, research development and the promotion of innovation. We firmly believe that initiatives such as SUN provide meaningful opportunities to establish sustainable partnerships, develop joint research projects, encourage academic mobility and strengthen the links between universities across the Silk Road region and beyond.

We sincerely hope that this gathering, hosted across several Algerian universities, will contribute to fruitful discussions, new collaborative initiatives and lasting institutional relationships. We also encourage all participants to take advantage of this opportunity to discover Algeria's academic potential, cultural diversity and spirit of hospitality.

I wish you all a successful General Assembly, productive discussions and an enjoyable stay in Algeria.

Welcome to Algeria. Welcome to USTHB.

Prof. Djamal Eddine Akretche
Rector, University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene (USTHB)



It is with immense pleasure and profound honour that the University of Tlemcen welcomes the distinguished members of the Silk-Road Universities Network (SUN) and the participants of the 9th Annual Scientific Conference of IASS, held on the occasion of the 11th General Assembly of SUN, taking place on November 15, 2026, in the historic city of Tlemcen, Algeria.

On behalf of the entire university community, I extend my warmest greetings and heartfelt welcome to all our distinguished guests, university presidents, academics, researchers, and international partners who have gathered here from different parts of the world to take part in this important event.

Tlemcen is a city where history, culture, and civilizations meet. With its rich historical heritage and centuries-old tradition of intellectual and cultural exchange, Tlemcen has long been a place of dialogue between civilizations. Its identity, shaped by diverse cultural influences and its strategic position at the crossroads of different traditions, makes it an especially meaningful setting for an assembly inspired by the spirit of the Silk Road.

Throughout history, the Silk Road has represented far more than a network of trade routes connecting distant regions. It has served as a channel for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, scientific discoveries, and cultural values. Today, this legacy continues to find expression through university networks such as SUN, which bring institutions and people together around shared aspirations: advancing knowledge, promoting academic cooperation, and building bridges between nations and cultures.

The University of Tlemcen is proud to be part of this vision. We firmly believe that the role of universities extends far beyond education and research. Universities are also spaces for intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding, innovation, and the construction of a more peaceful and sustainable world. In an increasingly interconnected world, international academic partnerships are essential to fulfilling this mission and addressing the challenges of our time.

I am confident that this gathering will provide a valuable opportunity to strengthen existing partnerships, explore new avenues for scientific and academic cooperation, and foster meaningful exchanges among our institutions. May the discussions, encounters, and shared experiences in Tlemcen pave the way for lasting initiatives and fruitful collaborations.

Finally, I wish all participants a successful General Assembly, enriching scientific discussions, and, above all, a memorable stay in our city.

Welcome to Tlemcen, where history brings civilizations together and knowledge builds the future.

Prof. Mourad Meghachou
Rector, University of Abou Bekr Belkaid Tlemcen



Distinguished guests, presidents and rectors of our partner universities,
Professors, researchers, and students,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is with immense pleasure and a true sense of honour that I welcome you to the 11th General Assembly of the Silk-Road Universities Network (SUN) and the 9th IASS Conference. First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the participants, speakers, and guests who have traveled from every corner of the globe to contribute to the success of this event.

The 11th General Assembly of the Silk-Road Universities Network (SUN) is a strategic opportunity to promote our shared historical and cultural heritage, strengthen scientific dialogue, and foster closer ties between academic institutions, ultimately contributing to greater understanding among peoples.

For the University of Bejaia, international cooperation, particularly with fellow member universities of the SUN network, is a strategic imperative. This event offers a platform for institutional exchange and a powerful catalyst for academic excellence, scientific outreach, and the preservation of historical and cultural heritage.

Between the Mediterranean and the mountains, Bejaia, a crossroads of knowledge, invites you to discover its history, its culture, and its natural beauty.

The generosity and hospitality of its people make every encounter special. Proud of this heritage, our university opens its doors to foster dialogue between cultures and build lasting partnerships.

Once again, welcome to Bejaia. We wish you a fruitful assembly and a memorable stay among us.

Prof. Abdelkrim Beniaiche
Rector, Abderrahmane Mira University of Bejaia

Purpose & Background of SUN

We aim to realize our vision of “serving the world” by undertaking diverse projects that restore the historical value of the ancient Silk Road which, as the birthplace of four major civilizations, has been a source of immense pride for centuries. The most valuable lesson from the history of the Silk Road is that the key to peaceful coexistence and collective prosperity is to treat individual differences as a cause for celebration rather than segregation, best captured in Silkroadia — the spirit of the ancient Silk Road.

In line with this thinking, we believe that the coming together of universities can help realize this vision through fostering an exchange of ideas culminating into decisive action between intellectuals transcending national, religious and cultural boundaries. In addition, universities through education and training the youth can create future leaders better equipped to promote peace and harmony in line with Silkroadia*.

Silkroadia

the spirit of the ancient Silk Road

1. Recognising and acknowledging individual differences as a reason for celebration rather than segregation
2. Nurturing communication and coexistence through harmonious diversity
3. Pursuing peace and prosperity through friendly interaction
4. Restoring dignity and pride to human civilization

United Presidents of SUN (UPSUN)

A body composed of presidents, rectors, and vice-chancellors of member universities who authorize and institutionalize the academic, cultural, athletic, and philanthropic initiatives of SUN.

International Association for Silk-Road Studies (IASS)

An international academic network composed of professors and researchers recognizing the economic, political, scientific, historical and cultural significance of the Silk Road and collaborating in order to establish Silk Road studies as an independent academic field of study.

United Students of SUN (USSUN)

A body of students representing each member university of SUN who generate new dreams and ambitions keeping SUN young and lively. The body also serves as volunteers for providing assistance and relief work in disaster affected regions, making use of their individual knowledge, talent and skills.

THE HISTORY OF SUN

The History of SUN

2014 – 2026

2014

Nov. 4 Symposium on Silk Road at the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea

Nov. 28 Established Organizing Committee for the inception of SUN

2015

Feb. 2 MOU signed between Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS) and the Provincial Government of Gyeongsangbuk-do for co-hosting the Inaugural General Assembly of SUN as part of Gyeongsangbuk-do's Silk Road Festival 2015

Apr. – Jun. Visited prospective member universities in Mongolia, China, Russia, India, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Italy, Greece, Türkiye, Egypt, Jordan

Jul. 13 – 15 First meeting of the International Organizing Preparatory Committee for Inaugural General Assembly of SUN at HUFS, Seoul Campus

Aug. 21 – 24 Inaugural General Assembly at the city of Gyeongju, Republic of Korea

Oct. 21 MOU signed among HUFS, the Provincial Government of Gyeongsangbuk-do and SUN regarding financial support for the activities and operations of SUN. Gyeongsangbuk-do Province as Honorary Chair Institution and HUFS as Chair University of SUN promised US$250,000 and US$50,000 per year for five years, respectively

Dec. 31 Obtained a legal entity in the Republic of Korea

2016

Jan. 13 Opened official bank account of SUN

Jan. 16 Designated Silk Road zone at Seoul campus of HUFS

Mar. 16 – 20 Preparatory meeting between National University of Mongolia and Secretariat of SUN for establishing the Silk-Road Digital Library

Apr. 5 – 9 Conducted field survey for the 3rd General Assembly at the city of Ho Chi Minh

Apr. 14 MOU signed between Korea Academy of Korean Studies (KAKS) and SUN for collaboration on academic affairs on Silk Road

Aug. 8 – 12 The 2nd General Assembly of SUN at HUFS in Seoul and Tour of Andong, Republic of Korea

2017

Jan. 25 – 26 Supported the conference on "Silk Road Transportations and Diplomacy" organized by Allameh Tabataba'i University at Chabahar in Iran

Apr. 1 – Nov. 11 The 2nd Photo Contest of SUN (PHOCOS 2017) and the 1st Writing Contest of SUN (WRICOS 2017)

Jun. 19 – 22 Launched a 5-year research project named "An International Joint Research for Having a Standard Map of Silk Road," Almaty, Kazakhstan; jointly organized the conference on "The Spread of Iron Civilizations along the Silk Road and Methodologies for Mapping a Standard Map of Silk Road," Almaty, Kazakhstan

Jul. 5 – 7 Organized the conference on "Education of Silk Road at the Schools of Humanities and Liberal Arts in Universities along the Silk Road," Seoul, Republic of Korea, jointly with Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and QS

Sep. 17 The 3rd Silkroadia Philharmonic Orchestra Concert, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Oct. 10 Kick-off Ceremony for the Expedition of Maritime Silk Road by Ship, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Oct. 12 – Nov. 6 Expedition of Maritime Silk Road by ship from the Republic of Korea (Pohang) to Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City) through Manila (Philippines), Melaka (Malaysia), Bangkok (Thailand), and Cambodia (Sihanoukville)

Nov. 8 – 12 Held the 3rd General Assembly of SUN, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, jointly with Vietnam National University – Ho Chi Minh City (University of Social Sciences and Humanities)

Nov. 10 Held the Silk Road Student Festival, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; held the 3rd Annual International Conference of International Association for Silk Road Studies, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

2018

Mar. 8 – 10 Sponsored the conference on "Silk Road Heritage and Diplomacy" co-organized by Allameh Tabataba'i University and Shahid Chamran University at Ahvaz in Iran

Jun. 7 Ceremony to dedicate the statue of Hippocrates to the Chair University of SUN, which is Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea

Jul. 2 – 4 Introduction of SUN to the Global Silk Road Cities Mayors' Forum at Astana in Kazakhstan

Aug. 16 – 18 Introduction of SUN to the UNESCO Conference at Karakorum, Mongolia

Aug. 29 – Sep. 1 The 4th General Assembly of SUN at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy, with the events including: UPSUN Workshop; Board of Directors Meeting; Workshop & General Assembly of USSUN; Exhibition of PHOCOS 2018 (Photo Contest of SUN); Award Ceremony for PHOCOS 2018 and WRICOS 2018 (Writing Contest of SUN). The function of USSUN Secretariat is transferred to Allameh Tabataba'i University, Iran, from SUN Secretariat for a trial period of one year until the end of 2019

Sep. 13 – 15 The 4th Annual International Academic Conference and General Assembly of IASS at the city of Gyeongju, Republic of Korea

Nov. 19 – 20 Introduction of SUN to UN (the 8th UNAOC (UN Alliance of Civilizations) Global Forum) at UN Headquarters, New York, U.S.A.

Dec. 9 – 10 The 2nd Workshop to draw a universal map of Silk Roads at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

2019

Jan. 1 SUN was selected by IIE (Institute of International Education) as a case of a game-changer for the next millennium in global education and introduced as an article in the centennial issue of the IIE Networker Magazine

Jan. 1 – Sep. 18 PHOCOS 2019 (The 4th International Photo Contest of SUN)

Jan. 1 – Sep. 18 WRICOS 2019 (The 3rd International Writing Contest of SUN)

Apr. 30 – May 2 Supporting an international conference on "People and the Environment along the Silk Roads" organized jointly by Allameh Tabataba'i University and the University of Guilan at the Campus of University of Guilan, Iran

May 15 – 16 Introduction of SUN to the Asian Civilizations Dialogue Conference and Parallel Panel: "Safeguarding the Diversity of Asian Civilizations" organized by the Ministry of Education of People's Republic of China and UNESCO at Beijing, China

Sep. 18 – 21 The 5th General Assembly of SUN at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

Sep. 26 – 28 The Annual International Academic Conference on "Silk Road: Connecting Cultures, Languages, and Ideas" and the 5th General Assembly of IASS at Moscow State Linguistic University, Moscow, Russia

Oct. 7 – 11 DECOS 2019 (The 1st International Debate Contest of SUN) at University of Bucharest, Romania

Nov. 10 – 11 Supporting the International Symposium on "Silk Road: The Road of Peace and Development" organized by Imam Khomeini International University, Qazvin, Iran

Dec. 11 – 13 Supporting the International Workshop for Drawing a Standard Universal Map of the Silk Roads held as celebrating the opening of the Silk Road Research Center at Uzbekistan State University of World Languages, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

2020

Jan. SUN recognized Gyeongsangbuk-do Province and Gyeongju City as a "historic place of Silk Road Heritage." In February, SUN signed an MOU with the Seoul Design Foundation

Jul. The official webzine of SUN "SILKROADIA" Vol. 2 No. 1 published

Aug. PHOCOS and WRICOS 2020 award winners were selected

Dec. 3 The 6th General Assembly of SUN was held online jointly with Ankara University, Türkiye

2021

Jan. – May SUN organized the WRICOS and PHOCOS 2021

Sep. 29 – 30 The 7th General Assembly of SUN was held online jointly with the Mongolian National University

Jan. – Jun. SUN organized annual academic contests of S-DECOS, PHOCOS, WRICOS

Celebrating the 1600th Anniversary of Venice was another special event. SUN organized video, T-shirt, and essay contest jointly with Ca' Foscari University of Venice

May 26 – 27 The 8th General Assembly of SUN was held online

2023

Feb. 13 – 15 The 8th General Assembly of SUN was held

Nov. 24 – 25 The 6th Annual International Academic Conference of IASS held virtually

2024

Nov. 11 – 15 The 9th General Assembly of SUN at University of Naples "L'Orientale", Naples, Italy

Nov. 12 SUN signed MOU with WeGO (World Smart Sustainable Cities Organization)

The WRICOS 2023–2024, and The PHOCOS 2023–2024

2025

Jan. – Dec. SUN organized PHOCOS & WRICOS 2025–2026

Oct. 13 – 17	The 10th General Assembly of SUN was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, jointly with Samarkand International University of Technology, “Silk Roads” International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage, and Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

2026

Apr. 29	(Local) YICGG 2026: Youth Innovation Competition on Global Governance
May 31	Application Deadline for The Young Silk-Road Sustainability Watchers guided by the Nobel Laureate Professor Adam Fenech
Jun. 14	Application Deadline for MNUAC & SUN 2026 The Mongolian Silk Road Expedition Program of SUN 2026
Jun. 29 – Jul. 10	(Local) BISS 2026: Barcelona International Summer School
Jul. 3	(Local) UDG Summer School 2026 (Culture & Innovation)
Jul. 6 – 17	Courtesy call by Secretary-General Hwang to the Mongolian National University of Arts and Culture (MNUAC)
Aug. 5	1st Strategic Online Meeting for SUN
Aug. 31	Scientific committee meeting for representative members
Sep. 2	Scientific IASS for SUN
Sep. 5	2nd Strategic Online Meeting for SUN
Sep. 13	Submission due of WRICOS
Sep. 15	Submission due of PHOCOS
Sep. 21	Result announcement due of PHOCOS & WRICOS
Sep. 26 – 28	The Joint Global Leadership Workshop of SUN & USSUN
Oct. 11 – 14	(Local) PRES’26 Conference
Oct. 12 – 17	The Silk-Road Medical Forum 2026 in Greece
Nov. 15 – 20	The 11th General Assembly of SUN & 9th Annual Scientific Conference of IASS in Algeria

Participating Universities & Institutes

The 11th General Assembly of SUN and the 9th Annual Scientific Conference of IASS





Ferhat Abbas University Setif 1

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Prof. Mohamed El Hadi Latreche

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University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene (USTHB)

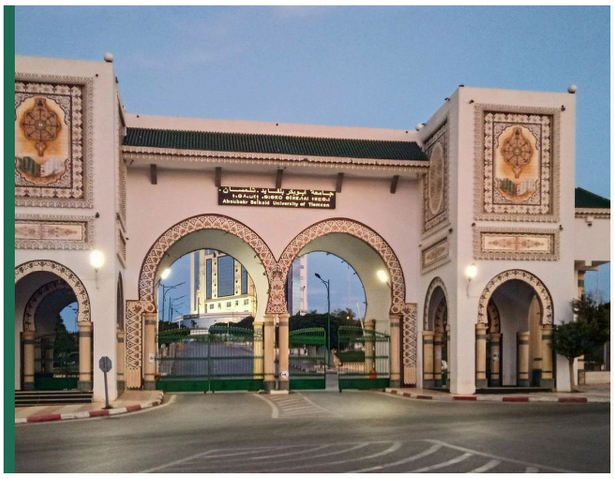
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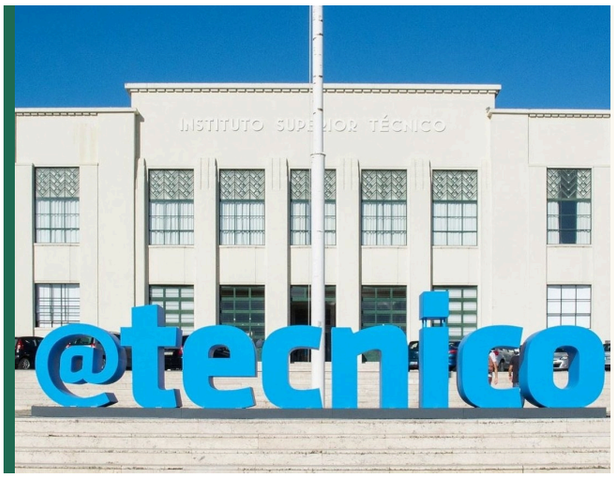
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SECRETARY-GENERAL

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Silk-Road Universities Network (SUN)

OFFICIAL WEBSITE

www.sun-silkroadia.org

UNIVERSITIES

List of Participants

Algeria

Abderrahmane Mira University of Bejaia

Prof. Abdelkrim Beniaiche, Rector
Mr. Nassim Akkal, Student
Ms. Melissa Zidane, Student

Djillali Liabes University of Sidi Bel Abbes

Prof. Merahi Bouziani, Rector
Prof. Chahinaz Kandouci, Vice-Rector in charge of External Relations

Ferhat Abbas University Setif 1

Prof. Mohamed El Hadi Latreche, Rector
Prof. Ammar Mosbah, Dean
Mr. Moncef Ghoullem-ellah Ali Sahraoui, Student
Ms. Khouloud Feryal Benmohad, Student

University of Abou Bekr Belkaid Tlemcen

Prof. Mourad Meghachou, Rector

University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene (USTHB)

Prof. Djamal Eddine Akretche, Rector
Mr. Abd Eldjalil Midoun, Student
Mr. Redouane Larbi, Student

Greece

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Ms. Eleni Papadopoulou, Student
Ms. Anastasia Vasileiou, Student
Mr. Theodosios Grigoriadis, Guest

India

University of Delhi

Ms. Bhawana Anand, Student

Iran

University of Isfahan

Prof. Mohammad Reza Abedi, Vice-President for Education and Postgraduate Studies
Prof. Babak Saffari, Vice-President for Research and Technology
Ms. Zahra Alinaghian, Student
Mr. Mohammad Eskandari Analoujeh, Student

Italy

Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Prof. Tiziana Lippiello, Rector Emeritus
Prof. Elisabetta Ragagnin, Professor
Mr. Maurizio Ala, Student
Mr. Osama Andrawes, Student

University of Naples "L'Orientale"

Prof. Patrizia Carioti, Professor
Ms. Martina Cesarano, Student
Ms. Maddalena Perrino, Student
Ms. Giulia Torregrossa, Student

Jordan

The University of Jordan

Prof. Mamoun Al-Debie, Vice-President

Kazakhstan

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University

Prof. Zhanseit Tuimebayev, Rector
Mr. Daryn Korpebayev, Assistant to the Rector

Malaysia

INTI International University

Dr. Goh Khang Wen, Pro Vice-Chancellor

Montenegro

University of Donja Gorica

Prof. Ivan Jovetic, Dean, Faculty for Sports Management (FSM)

Portugal

Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon

Mr. Martim Carmelo Carvalho Schuler, Student

Republic of Korea

Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

Prof. Sungdon Hwang, Secretary-General of SUN
Ms. Minju Sung, Coordinator of SUN
Ms. Yujeong Lee, Coordinator of SUN
Ms. Sewon Park, Coordinator of SUN

Russian Federation

Derzhavin Tambov State University

Dr. Sarra Benarab, Researcher
Dr. Merchela Wassim, Researcher

Moscow State Linguistic University

Prof. Georgii Grachev, Vice-Rector for International Affairs
Mr. Taras Bardakov, Student
Ms. Tatiana Gavrilenko, Student
Ms. Daria Gavrilenko, Guest

Spain

Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona), Autonomous University of Madrid (Madrid), President of the NPO (The Doctor as a Humanist)

Prof. Jonathan James Reid McFarland, Director of Silk-Road Medical Forum
Ms. Polimnia Djalma Rojas Hernandez, Spouse of Prof. Jonathan James Reid McFarland

Tajikistan

Tajik Technical University named after Academician M.S. Osimi

Mr. Mansur Sadi Karimzoda, Specialist of International Relations

Türkiye

Ankara University

Prof. Mahmut Ertan Gokmen, Professor & Advisor of SUN
Ms. Seda Gulsum Gokmen, Spouse of Prof. Mahmut Ertan Gokmen

United States of America

Chapman University

Prof. Daniele Struppa, President Emeritus

Uzbekistan

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Mr. Avaz Abasskhanovich Baenkhanov, Founder

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Prof. Ganisher Rakhimov, Professor & Advisor of SUN

Vietnam

University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City

Prof. Pham Thi Bich Ngoc, Professor
Mr. Mai Trong Quoc Thai, Student

SUN

Dr. Karim Chelli, Chairman of SUN
Prof. Sungdon Hwang, Secretary-General of SUN
Ms. Hyangwoo Lee, Spouse of Prof. Sungdon Hwang
Prof. Qian Long Kweh, President of IASS
Prof. D.A.P. Sharma, Auditor of SUN
Prof. Mahmut Ertan Gokmen, Professor (Head of Member University & Advisory)
Ms. Seda Gulsum Gokmen, Spouse of Prof. Mahmut Ertan Gokmen
Prof. Khalid Elgazzar, Chair of Forum & Professor
Prof. Richard Griffiths, Chair of Forum & Professor
Prof. Jonathan James Reid McFarland, Director of Silk-Road Medical Forum
Ms. Polimnia Djalma Rojas Hernandez, Spouse of Prof. Jonathan James Reid McFarland
Prof. Adam Lawrence Fenech, Nobel Laureate Professor
Mr. Bien-U Bae, Advisor of SUN
Mr. Euihwan Cho, Advisor of SUN
Mr. Shiyong Chon, Advisor of SUN
Mr. Byung Kil Kang, Advisor of SUN
Mr. Ronald Steiner, Advisor of SUN
Mr. Chong-ha Yoo, Advisor of SUN
Ms. Minju Sung, Coordinator of SUN
Ms. Yujeong Lee, Coordinator of SUN
Ms. Sewon Park, Coordinator of SUN
Ms. Amali Ranavi Thanthrige, Coordinator of SUN
Ms. Lyna Djaboub, Secretary-General of USSUN
Ms. Maria Pourlioti, President of USSUN
Mr. Ettore Grasso, Vice-President of USSUN

Program & Time Schedule

The 11th General Assembly of SUN and the 9th Annual Scientific Conference of IASS



University of Setif 1 (Group B)

TIME	PROGRAM			VENUE / NOTES
07:00	**Pick-up from hotels by shuttle bus** Please be in the hotel lobby a few minutes before departure.			**Lobby of Hotel Sétif and Hotel Tadj El Mouada**
08:00 – 09:00	Registration			Mouloud Kacem Nait Belkacem Auditorium – Reception
09:00 – 10:00	**Welcoming Ceremony** • Introduction of the Host University • Welcoming Speech **Prof. Mohamed El Hadi Latreche**, Rector of Ferhat Abbas University Setif 1 • Appreciation Speech **Dr. Karim Chelli**, Chairman of SUN • MOU Signing Ceremony			Mouloud Kacem Nait Belkacem Auditorium – Main Hall
10:00 – 11:00	**Keynote Speech**			
11:00 – 12:40	**IASS Scientific Conference & Silk-Road Forums**	**UPSUN Workshop** Continuation of the November 17 workshop, if needed	**USSUN Workshop** • Workshop 3 (see Annex)	**IASS CONFERENCE** Mouloud Kacem Nait Belkacem Auditorium Building – Room 1 and Room 2 **UPSUN WORKSHOP** Honorary Hall, Mouloud Kacem Nait Belkacem Auditorium **USSUN WORKSHOP** University Incubator Building
12:40 – 14:00	Luncheon			Mouloud Kacem Nait Belkacem Auditorium, El-Bez Campus
14:00 – 18:30	**IASS Scientific Conference & Silk-Road Forums**	**UPSUN Workshop** Continuation of the November 17 workshop, if needed	**USSUN Workshop** • Workshop 3 (see Annex)	**IASS CONFERENCE** Mouloud Kacem Nait Belkacem Auditorium Building – Room 1 and Room 2 **UPSUN WORKSHOP** Honorary Hall, Mouloud Kacem Nait Belkacem Auditorium **USSUN WORKSHOP** University Incubator Building
18:50 – 19:50	**Conclusion** • Summary of the Event • Closing Speeches – **Prof. Mohamed El Hadi Latreche**, Rector of Ferhat Abbas University Setif 1 – Representative of SUN • Exchange of Appreciation • Voice of Participants			Mouloud Kacem Nait Belkacem Auditorium – Main Hall **DRESS CODE** National traditional clothes
20:00 – 22:00	**Farewell Dinner with Cultural Performance** 19:50 Transfer together by shuttle bus from the auditorium to the dinner venue • Cultural Performance by Students and Local Masters			"La Citadelle" Restaurant or "Restaurant Lapinède" (to be confirmed)

University of Setif 1 (Group B)

TIME	PROGRAM	VENUE / NOTES
08:00 – 11:30	Hotel check-out and Cultural Excursion to Djemila • 08:00 Departure to Djemila from Hotel Sétif and Hotel Tadj El Mouada • 09:30 Arrival at Djemila • 11:30 Return to Ferhat Abbas University Setif 1 • What to wear: walking shoes and comfortable clothing	Departure: Hotel Sétif and Hotel Tadj El Mouada
13:00 – 14:30	Luncheon	Mouloud Kacem Nait Belkacem Auditorium, El-Bez Campus
14:30 – 18:30	Transfer to Algiers by shuttle bus and airport / hotel drop-off	Departure: El-Bez Campus, Ferhat Abbas University Setif 1, Algiers Road, 19137 Sétif, 14:30
From 18:30	Departure for participants with flights on November 20; hotel check-in in Algiers for participants departing on November 21	Hotel in Algiers

Abbreviations

SUN	Silk-Road Universities Network
GA	General Assembly
IASS	International Association for Silk-Road Studies
UPSUN	United Presidents of the Silk-Road Universities Network
USSUN	United Students of the Silk-Road Universities Network
USTHB	University of Science and Technology Houari Boumediene
PHOCOS	Photo Contest of SUN
WRICOS	Writing Contest of SUN

Silk-Road Universities Network

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The 11th General Assembly of SUN
and the 9th Annual Scientific Conference of IASS

November 15 – 20, 2026 | Tlemcen, Algiers, Bejaia, and Setif in Algeria

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