



**Press Release**

**UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement  
Science receives increased interest from 398  
scientists submitting 91 pre-proposals in 2nd  
cycle**

- *His Highness Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Commends High Uptake of the Program Second Cycle: “This research initiative demonstrates the UAE’s commitment in driving international scientific research collaboration”*

**Abu Dhabi-UAE: 19 April, 2016** - His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Minister of Presidential Affairs, has commended the high level of interest from around the world for the UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science that aims to increase rainfall in arid and semi-arid regions around the world and promote water security.

Following the close of deadline for research pre-proposals in its second cycle on March 17, the Program has received remarkable interest with 91 pre-proposal submissions from 398 scientists, researchers and technologists affiliated to 180 institutes from 45 countries around the world.

Lauding the positive progress registered by the Program in its second cycle, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan said: “The UAE continues to prompt cooperation among the world’s leading researchers to find alternatives to addressing the pressing challenges of water security. The UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science demonstrates the nation’s commitment in emerging as a hub for international scientific collaboration, innovation, and excellence in the field of rain enhancement science.”

He added: “The global attention that surrounds this initiative is a validation of the UAE’s leadership in embracing scientific research as a key pillar of the country’s innovation strategy.”

The research initiative commenced its second cycle in January 2016. In less than two months, the Program witnessed a widened geographical participation in the new cycle, including



academicians from additional countries that include Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, Hungary, Mexico, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sweden, and Turkey.

Among the 91 pre-proposals this year, the United States topped the list with 16 submissions, closely followed by the UAE with 11 submissions. Other submissions from Russia, India and the United Kingdom numbered 7, 5 and 4 respectively, followed by Germany, Italy and Egypt. Researchers from China, Belarus, Indonesia, Japan and Thailand submitted 2 pre-proposals per country.

The second cycle of the UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science follows the success of the Program's inaugural edition, which was launched in early 2015 by His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and managed by the UAE National Center of Meteorology and Seismology (NCMS).

Appreciating the successful commencement of the new cycle, His Excellency Dr Abdullah Al Mandoos, Director of NCMS, said: "The strong support, leadership, and vision of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan has been instrumental in ensuring the high uptake of the Program from across the globe. This initiative reaffirms the role of the UAE as a world-class platform to advance rain enhancement research and technology and build the country's credibility in this innovative field."

The application schedule of the second cycle involves several phases throughout the summer and fall of 2016. In the upcoming stage, the submissions will be evaluated by an international reviewers committee. The committee will meet in Abu Dhabi in May 2016 to shortlist candidates that will be invited to submit their full research proposals. The shortlisted candidates will be announced on May 17. The close of deadline for shortlisted candidates to submit full proposals will be midnight (GMT) of August 17, 2016.



Alya Al Mazroui, Manager of the UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science, said: "In its second year we are happy to note that the Program has received a greater response than



in the earlier edition, from 398 scientists representing a diversified pool of institutes across continents. There is much greater awareness today for this important project and its implications to water security. We are confident that with our sustained efforts to promote the initiative, it will only grow year-on-year and achieve its noble objectives of augmenting water resources for the benefit of future generations.”

Al Mazroui said the UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science appeals to a worldwide audience due to the Program’s goal to advance the science and technology of rain enhancement through offering managed grant assistance to a select teams of researchers, scientists, or individuals from public or private entities. Applauding the quality of submissions received from participants representing some of the world’s top scientific and research institutions, she said the community of researchers is paving the way for promising and decisive outcomes in the years to come.

In its first cycle, the Program drew the participation of 325 scientists from 34 countries, affiliated to 151 organizations representing a diversified pool of governmental and non-governmental, private and public, domestic and foreign entities as well as individuals. Research groups from Japan, the UAE, and Germany led by professors Masataka Murakami, Linda Zou, and Volker Wulfmeyer were named awardees of the first cycle. The awarded research projects will be supported from concept to completion, in close cooperation with NCMS.

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#### **About the UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science**

The UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science, an initiative of the UAE Ministry for Presidential Affairs and overseen by the National Centre of Meteorology and Seismology (NCMS), offers a grant of US\$ 5 million over a three-year period to be shared by up to five winning research proposals, selected by a two-stage merit review decision process. The Program was launched at the beginning of 2015 with the aims of addressing the critical issue of water security and placing the UAE at the international forefront of scientific research into rain enhancement. In the context of the UAE’s Innovation Strategy, the Program is structured to develop human capital and stimulate investment in research in this field for the benefit of arid and semi-arid regions around the world. 3 research groups from the UAE, Japan, and Germany have been named as awardees of the first cycle.

For more information about the program: [www.uaerep.ae](http://www.uaerep.ae)

English and Arabic Media Enquiries:

Mohamed Al Muhairi  
Head of Media and Marketing  
National Center of Meteorology and Seismology  
PO Box 4815  
Abu Dhabi  
United Arab Emirates  
Tel: +971 2 222 7777  
Email: [malmuhairi@ncms.ae](mailto:malmuhairi@ncms.ae)

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