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Geographical Outreach

Sub-committee on West Asia and North Africa

Outlines

- ISCA-WANA (West Asia and North Africa).
- ISCA-WANA (Pbs.)
- ISCA-WANA (Syria)
 - Teaching
 - Research axes
 - Regional participations
- Conclusion

ISCA-WANA

- **Coordinator:**
 - Prof. Chafic Mokbel, University of Balamand, Balamand (Lebanon)
- **Members:**
 - Dr. Ossama Emam, Manager, Human Language Technology, IBM Egypt Branch, Giza (Egypt)
 - Dr. Mohamad Mrayati, Senior Advisor on Science and Technology, Ministry of Economy and Planning, Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)
 - Prof. Mustafa Yaseen, Dean, Faculty of Information Technology, Amman University, Amman (Jordan)
 - Prof. **Oumayma Al Dakkak**, Higher Institute of Applied Science and Technology, Damascus (Syria)
 - Prof. Mansour M. Alghamdi, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)

ISCA-WANA (Pbs.)

- Unfortunately no communication with Dr Mokbel or other members.
- War in Syria caused very bad economic and social situations in addition to sanctions.
 - Very low incoms.
 - No international or even regional cooperations.
 - Even some journals refuse publishing for our institution.

ISCA-WANA (Pbs.)

- However we survive with the minimum.
- I talk hereafter on the situation regarding speech in Syria (my last report was in 2020..the remaining where only emails...)

ISCA-WANA (Syria)

- Teaching Speech (in my institute)
 - We teach speech signal processing courses for telecommunication engineers and informatics engineers.
 - We have speech signal processing course for the master of telecommunication systems.
- Teaching Speech (in other institutions)
 - We provide natural language processing course for IT-faculties in all national universities: Damascus, Aleppo, Tishreen, Al Baath and Syrian virtual university.
 - We provide Speech communication course for the master of Artificial Intelligence and Natural language processing master in IT-faculty in Damascus university

ISCA-WANA (Syria-HIAST)

- Research Axis in Computer processing of Arabic language:
 - Many theses (master and PhD) on Arabic speech synthesis from text with natural prosody.
 - Master theses on type of sentence and emotion detection from text to help speech synthesis from text.
- Research Axis in Signal Processing
 - PhD's on using sparse coding for speech recognition
 - PhD's (in progress) on speech separation, word spotting and speech to text using deep learning.

ISCA-WANA (Syria-HIAST)

- Regional participation in “Computational linguistic and Arabic language”, 2022, Abu Dhabi university:
 - Using deep learning to detect mispronunciation
- Regional participation in “Arabic language and Application linguistic”, to be held 2023, Abu Dhabi university:
 - Word spotting using deep learning.

ISCA-WANA (Syria-HIAST)

Me now:

- Member in “women in speech”
- Reviewer for Interspeech (2022-2023) and speech prosody
- Reviewer for some journals
- Looking forward for more participations in speech community

Conclusion

- We do what we can with our small resources.
- Some of our former students left the country but still have good impact on speech community (ex. @Furhatrobotics).
- We have brilliant PhD students who have difficulties publishing their work in international journals because of the sanctions.

Help!

Can someone help to give opportunities to young researches in my country?

Thank you for your attention