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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