



JOHANNES KEPLER  
UNIVERSITÄT LINZ | JKU



Linz, May 2, 2013

## **Double Honor Bestowed to H.E. Yousef Omaid Bin Yousef**

Conferral as Honorary Senator at the JKU and Recipient of the Gold Medal of Honor by the State of Upper Austria

*In recognition of outstanding services in support of Polymer Engineering Technologies at the JKU and in Upper Austria, today His Excellency Yousef Omaid Bin Yousef (former General Director of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), former Oil Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as well as initiator and long-time board member of the Petroleum Institute (PI)) was conferred as honorary senator of the Johannes Kepler University (JKU) Linz and presented with the Gold Medal of Honor by the State of Upper Austria.*

The JKU confers the title of Honorary Senator to those outside of the university in honor of his/her contribution, commitment and support of the university. JKU Rector, Richard Hagelauer, hailed H.E. Bin Yousef as a great proponent of the university: *“His steadfast support intensified cooperation and collaboration between the renowned Petroleum Institute in Abu Dhabi and the JKU in the field of Polymer Engineering Technologies, taking it to a new level. His commitment and dedication fulfills all of the requirements to be an Honorary Senator.”*

### **Great Patron of Polymer Engineering Technologies at the JKU**

Among the many merits of H.E. Bin Yousef in support of the university, two stand out most:

Together with Dr. Gerhard Roiss (General Director of the OMV), H.E. Bin Yousef was an initiator and staunch supporter of the cooperation effort between the JKU and the PI. After initial talks at the beginning of 2006, a customized educational program in Polymer Chemistry was implemented at PI. Course instructors were sent to teach at the PI and the JKU hosted PI students in Linz where they took part in specialized lab classes on campus. In March 2007, a trilateral cooperation agreement was signed between the JKU, PI and the Montanuniversität



Leoben in support of a long-term, strategic alliance in research and teaching in Polymer Engineering Technologies. This agreement was later renewed as a bilateral agreement between the JKU and PI and now focuses on expanding cooperation efforts.

In lieu of his close interaction and ties with polymer companies such as Borealis and Borouge (UAE), H.E. Bin Yousef has continually supported and overseen mutual interests in support of expanding cooperation between university facilities, as well as the expansion of Polymer Chemistry and the establishment of Polymer Engineering Technologies at the JKU as initiated and expedited by Dr. Roiss. The new academic degree programs at the JKU feature the following unique strengths and aspects:

- The JKU offers a total of four academic degree programs in Polymer Engineering (Bachelor's degree in Polymer Engineering Technologies, Master's Degree in Polymer Chemistry, Master's Degree in Polymer Technologies and Science, Master's Degree in Polymer Technologies Management) and has one of the broadest, if not the most broad, academic polymer programs worldwide.
- The JKU has 11 professors in the field (5 in Polymer Chemistry, 4 in Polymer Engineering Technologies, 2 in Physics and Lightweight Construction) and offers a unique spectrum in polymer technical disciplines.
- The completion of Buildings 2 and 3 at the JKU Science Park - and the planned renovation of the TN Tower - provide excellent infrastructure, facilities and equipment at the JKU, allowing these programs to compete internationally.
- Polymer engineering at the JKU has a distinctive synergy potential by incorporating other strong academic fields at the JKU in to their programs. This includes mathematics and computer sciences, chemistry, physics and mechatronics as well as social and business sciences and law.

### **Important Connections for the JKU to the Arabic Region**

Reinhold Lang, head of the Institute of Polymer Materials and one of the speakers at today's ceremony in honor of H.E. Bin Yousef, noted that H.E.'s most striking characteristic is his unwavering dedication in the international development of polymer engineering technologies and the academic networking between Austria and the UAE: "*H.E. Bin Yousef's support in the field of polymer materials has created an important bridge between the JKU and the Arabic world – a*



*cooperation that is unique in Europe. Our new internationally focused Master's degree programs include excellent opportunities for active student exchange and continual expansion in cooperative research."*

### **Top State Honor for Services in Support of Local Economy and Research**

In honor of His Excellency's exceptional services in support of Upper Austria as a location of business and research, during the ceremony at the JKU Upper Austrian Governor Dr. Josef Pühringer presented H.E. Yousef Omair Bin Yousef with a Gold Medal of Honor by the State of Upper Austria. During his speech, Dr. Pühringer remarked: *"His Excellency is a cornerstone of the successful cooperation between Abu Dhabi and Austria."* He is a catalyst in the cooperation between IPIC (International Petroleum Investment Company), Borealis and Borouge and thus a significant contributor supporting Borealis' expansion in Austria. The results: 170 new, high skilled jobs were created in Linz and Borealis invested over 100 million euros in the area. The innovative research cooperation initiated by H.E. Bin Yousef with the JKU has not only produced more academic research and teaching, but has also established real economic activity and strong ties to the Arabic region. This serves as a solid base for strategic alliances, thereby invigorating Upper Austria's economy.

The Governor added: *"In the economic region of Upper Austria, polymer materials are leading field. However, we need continual research efforts to help it stay that way. Borealis' decision to locate in Upper Austria was a very important and decisive course for Upper Austria. H.E. Yousef Omair Bin Yousef's dedication to Upper Austria as a location of business and research has greatly supported and strengthened these efforts."*

### **Distinguished Guests**

Many distinguished guests from local government, the local business community and the polymer engineering industry were present, including Upper Austrian Governor Josef Pühringer, the United Arab Emirates counselor of embassy, Ali Almarzooqi, the city of Linz Finance Director, Hermann Kepplinger, OMV General Director Gerhard Roiss, the deputy chairpersons at Borealis, Herbert Willerth (Executive Vice President of Borealis), Alfred Stern and Polymer Cluster Director Werner Pamminger.



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### **About H.E. Bin Yousef:**

H.E. Bin Yousef was born in 1958 to one of Abu Dhabi's wealthiest families. After completing studies in Business and Political Science at the University of Arizona (USA), he worked for the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (Investment funds) and served as UAE Oil Minister from 1990 to 1994. From 1990 to 1991 he served as President of the OPEC Conference of Ministers and from 1994 to 2011 he was Chairman and CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), the world's fourth largest oil company. He is considered one of the senior members in the UAE oil industry and is very close to the Royal Family of Abu Dhabi. In 2001 he established the Petroleum Institute, an engineering university offering studies in petroleum geosciences, chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, materials sciences, and electrical engineering. The JKU and the Petroleum Institute have enjoyed many years of successfully cooperation.

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