

REPORTS ON CONFERENCES

SAUDI ARABIAN SECOND NATIONAL COMPUTER CONFERENCE*

The Second National Computer Conference was held November 18-20, 1975 at the Institute of Public Administration in Riyadh. The conference was a continuation of the previous conference held at the University of Petroleum and Minerals in 1974.

At the 1974 conference, discussion had centered on the identification of problems facing executives, educators, planners, analysts and programmers in the electronics data processing (EDP) area. Discussions in 1975 concentrated mainly on the solution or methods of solution of some of these problems.

The stated objectives of the conference were

1. To explore manpower development problems encountered in staffing EDP organizations in the Kingdom; and
2. To identify needs for the development of standards and guidelines for EDP activities.

The conference was organized into sessions in which relevant material was presented by means of formal position papers; subsequently, five working groups were formed to develop specific recommendations.

PROGRAM

The sessions and the formal position papers presented included the following:

I. Opening Session

1. Inaugural Address - Fahd Dughaiter, Director General, IPA
2. Manpower - Mohammed Al-Tawail, Director General, Executive Development programs, IPA
3. Standards - Thomas Steel Jr., Equitable Life Assurance Society, U.S.A.

II. Education and Manpower - A

1. Manpower Development Policies - Peter Morrogh, E.A. Juffali and Bros.
2. Guidelines for a National Computer Policy - Alex Drudl, University of Petroleum and Minerals.
3. Educational Standards in EDP in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, - Robert P. DuVernay, University of Petroleum and Minerals.
4. Role of Service Bureaus in standards and Manpower Development - Sibtul Hasan, General Organization for Social Insurance.
5. NECHEMS Costing and Data Management System - Fahd Hazzam, University of Petroleum and Minerals.

III. Documentation and Managing EDP Activities

1. Practical Usage of Documentation Standards and Techniques in EDP - Roger Peel, CAP
2. The Importance of Documentation - Victor Perez, Middles West Service Co.
3. The Provision of Comprehensive Documentation for Computer Project - John Carpenter, SCICON.

IV. Managing EDP Activities

1. Computer Operations Management - Daud Mathews, University of Petroleum and Minerals.
2. Management of Software Development Projects - Tom Pederson, Christian Rovsing.

V. Education and Manpower - B

1. Development of ARAMCO Engineering Computer Applications Through Use of a

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Combination of Computer Remote Terminals
Thomas Mueller and George Homolka,
ARAMCO.

2. The Role of Experience in Creating Standards for EDP training - Roger Peel, CAP
3. Computer Education for Saudi Arabia - Charles Aird, University of Petroleum and Minerals.

VI Arabic Data Representation

1. Arabic Data Representation - Samy Tawakol Middle West Service Co.
2. The Need for a Standard Arabic Character Set - Ali Saflan, ARAMCO.
3. Arabic Data Representation - Roger Hajjar, IBM.

VII Selection for Hardware and Software

1. Guidelines for Hardware and Software Selection - Brian Cassidy, Presented by Tom Pederson, Christian Roving.
2. Installation Security Standards - J. Harwood, SCICON.
3. The Future of Computer Printing in Saudi Arabia - Hassan Hussaini, University of Petroleum and Minerals.

RECOMENDATIONS:

Five working sessions were organized to look at the specific areas of (a) Education, (b) Manpower, (c) Arabic Data Representation, (d) Documentation and Planning, and (e) Selection of Hardware and Software. Each of these working sessions drew up a set of recommendations for the approval of the entire conference. In addition, a working committee was formed by each session to carry out the recommendations.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The National Computer Conference elected an Executive Committee consisting of the following: 4 representatives of government departments and universities (Ahmed Al-Sari, University of Petroleum and Minerals; Abdulber Al-Gain, University of Petroleum and Minerals; Khalil Niazi, Ministry of the Interior; and Fahd Al-Hazzam, University of Petroleum and Minerals, 2 representatives from the private sector (Akram Nader, Saudi Computer Services; and Wayne Compton, ARAMCO), 1 representative from semi-government organizations (Ibraheem Abu-Al-Khair, Saudia), and 1 representative from the computer industry (Yousif Khalaf, IBM).

This Executive Committee was charged with coordinating the implementation of the recommendations of the working groups, and with the responsibility for arranging a Third Computer Conference.