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STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF POLYMERIC R&D PROGRAMS IN SAUDI ARABIA

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Abstract:

The overall polymeric research and development (R&D) programs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia must be strategically developed especially when the 21th century, called the new materials age, is about to start. The concluding decade of the 20th century offers ample opportunity for those who have a clear, far-reaching vision. From such a perspective, the current paper first summarizes the various aspects of strategic planning for a typical technical R&D program which involves selection of R&D themes (opportunities), optimal allocation of resources, and restructure of the R&D system to make it more efficient. Responsibilities which the funding agencies, R&D managers, and researchers are to collectively shoulder for the progress of polymer science and technology in the Kingdom have been identified. This paper contributes to setting the research agenda and the directions of industrial polymer science in Saudi Arabia by considering various aspects of polymer education, production, processing and performance, funding policy, and evaluation of endogenous polymeric R&D programs. In addition, this paper is intended to influence to a certain extent the process of formulating the national industrial policy.