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**Has the Development of Academic Cooperation Between Universities in the Western "Rich" Countries and the North African and Middle East Become a Necessity?**

As the 21 first century approaches, the world is venturing to a phase of rapid social, technical and economical transformation. Part of it is due to the huge " knowledge explosion" occurring at the present time, making the areas of learning an absolute criteria. Education in general and higher education in particular will be the most major challenges facing all nations.

It is well known that in the Western "rich" countries, there is a good interaction between the industry and the universities in regard to higher education. On the other hand, in the western countries, international academic exchanges are not well developed.

In Asia, Africa and the Middle East the academic coherence within the national universities is a standard procedure. Most of these countries are now heavily involved for the need of higher education through an international competitive education cooperation in this new era of "globalization".

It is without doubt that the "rich Countries", particularly the U.S.A. are classified as the leading edge in quality research base education. Their available, sophisticated and diversified technology leaderships can offer the importance on education, worldwide.

This paper will show the importance of promoting and developing educational exchange programs and research at university level between US leading the rich Countries and the North African, Middle East exchange programs and research at university level. It deals with students and faculty exchange, curriculum standardization, colloquium initiatives, permanent short courses and research cooperation utilizing the latest technology. As a result, a model of a mutual exchange agreement in progress will be presented.