

Professor HERWIG SCHOPPER as a science  
diplomat.  
View from UNESCO.

*by*

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Executive Director of UNESCO International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) and  
Representative of UNESCO DG to SESAME Council*

*Currently: Chair, Nencki Foundation for Promotion of Life Sciences, Polish Academy of  
Sciences, Warsaw, Poland*

**100th Anniversary of Herwig Schopper, CERN, March 1, 2024**



**Herwig Schopper (here in his office in CERN) was cooperating with UNESCO during about 20 years (1997-2017). This was to some extent the time of my service to UNESCO, so we got to know each other quite well.**

**My presentation will therefore be rather personal, based on recollections and self-made pictures.**

# **Herwig's Schopper activities with UNESCO**

- 1. Speaker at UNESCO/ICSU World Conference on Science, the first world conference on science ever organized (1999)**
- 2. Member and Chair of the Scientific Council of UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology (ROSTE) in Venice (1998-2002)**
- 3. Chair of the *ad hoc* Group of Experts and later Chair of the Scientific Board of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) of UNESCO (2002-2015)**
- 4. One of the original proponents of creation of SESAME, Chair of the Interim Council and later President of Council of SESAME, currently the Honorary Member of this body (1998-today)**
- 5. Crucial Advisor on many activities to the Director General and Assistant Director General for Science of UNESCO, as well as to the Executive Director of the International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP)**

# UNESCO Gold Albert Einstein Medal Awarded to Professor Herwig Schopper (2004)



**„The mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work unless it's open”**

***Frank Zappa***

# Professor Schopper a brilliant diplomat par excellence

**2001: my first encounter with Professor Schopper was in 2001 at the Scientific Council meeting of UNESCO/ROSTE in Venice. I immediately realized his immense talent in chairing meetings and leading people, including those with varying opinions. During his chairmanship ROSTE achieved objectivity and started financing important projects not only in Italy but also in many countries in Europe.**



## Herwig Schopper at informal gathering with UNESCO in Venice before meeting of Scientific Council of ROSTE



**From left: Herwig Schopper, Maciej Nalecz, Walter Erdelen (UNESCO ADG/SC), Howard Moore (ADG's Executive Office) and Pierre Lassere (Dir. ROSTE)  
DECEMBER 2001**



**Meeting of the ROSTE Scientific Council  
at UNESCO's former office at *Canale  
Grande* of Venice**

**(DECEMBER 2001)**

**Members of the ROSTE Scientific Council viewing renovation works  
at the new ROSTE/UNESCO Office at Palazzo Zorzi in Venice  
March 2002**





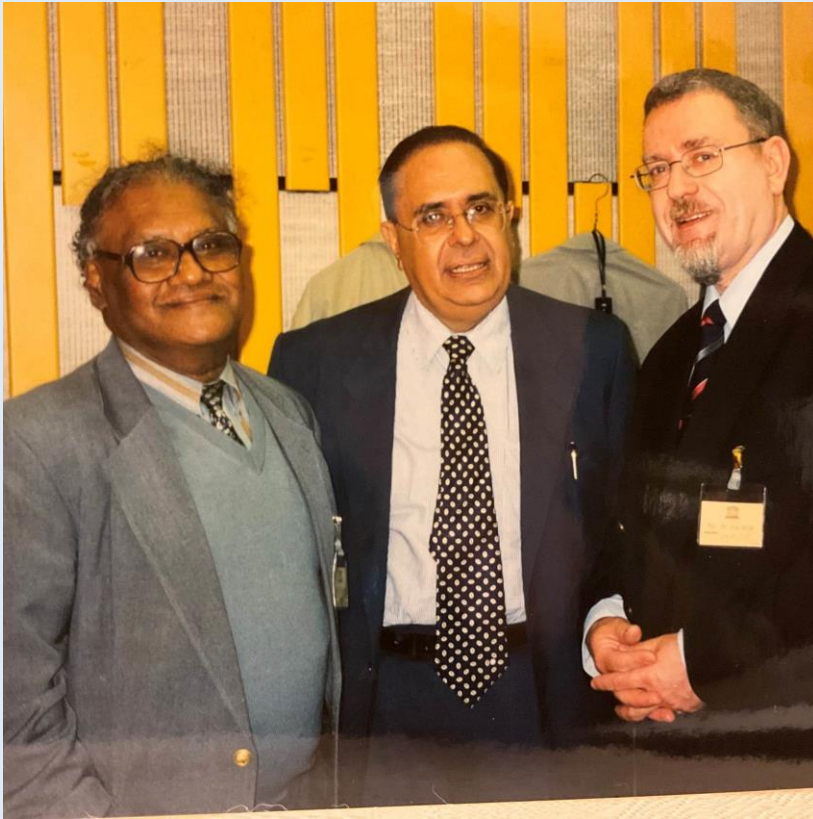
# Herwig Schopper and the UNESCO International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP): 2002-2015



**First meeting of the *ad hoc* Committee of Experts to establish the International Basic Sciences Programme of UNESCO, Paris, June 2002**

**From right: Prof. Al. Kharafi (Kuwait), Prof. Herwig Schopper (Chair), Maciej Nalecz, Howard Moore, Clarissa Formosa-Gauci, Vladimir Zharov (all UNESCO)**

## Some Members of the *ad hoc* Committee of Experts, IBSP 2002



**From left: Prof. C.N.R. Rao (India), President of TWAS; Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman, Federal Minister of Education of Pakistan; Maciej Nalecz (UNESCO)**



**From left: Prof. Alec Boksenberg (UK); Prof. Edvard Capes (Canada); Prof. Ayaz Efendieev (Azerbaijan), Prof. Norbert Hounkonnou (Benin), Prof. Jozef Hamori (Hungary)**

# **Activities of IBSP**

- 1. Capacity building through projects proposed by Member States (e.g. construction of the educational satellite proposed by Russia)**
- 2. Science policy projects of regional and national priority (e.g. support to creation of the EU European Research Council)**
- 3. Organization of Ministerial Conferences and Round Tables to promote science and technology as levers for development**
- 4. Global science advocacy projects (e.g. International Years)**
- 5. Stimulation of Creation of Centres of Excellence in basic sciences in Member States (8 such centres created during my time with UNESCO, e.g. the Center of Biotechnology in India and in Nigeria, Centre in Basic Sciences in Portugal, Centre of Theoretical Physics in Romania, Centre of Mathematics in Vietnam, etc.)**

**Some members of  
IBSP Scientific Board  
2003-2005**



**Members of IBSP  
Scientific Board  
2005-2007**



# IBSP involvement in the creation of the EU European Research Council (2003-2005)

On the request of the European Commission, UNESCO helped organize 5 conferences of experts to discuss the possibility of creating of the European Research Council (ERC) since UNESCO could invite participants from non-EU countries interested in the idea of ERC (e.g. Israel, Switzerland, Russia, other former Eastern Block countries, etc.). DG Matsuura passed this issue to IBSP.



**First IBSP/EU meeting  
on ERC, UNESCO HQ,  
Paris, September  
2003**

Left: Herwig Schopper and Jose-Mariano Gago listening, Maciej Nalecz speaking

Right: Jose-Mariano Gago first to the right

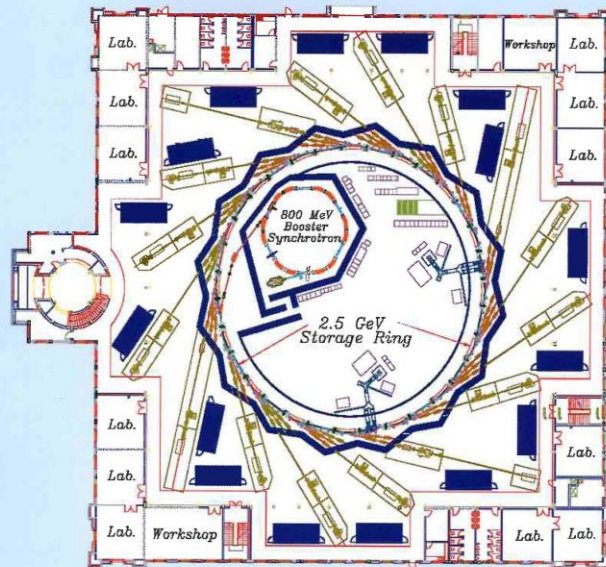


# IBSP-organized Ministerial Round Tables on S&T

HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE

## "BASIC SCIENCES: THE SCIENCE LEVER FOR DEVELOPMENT"

UNESCO HEADQUARTERS,  
PARIS, 13-14 OCTOBER 2005



MINISTERS CALL FOR SUPPORT  
FOR THE BASIC SCIENCES

## International Cooperation in Science and Technology in Response to Global Challenges

Ministerial Round Table on

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
AND THE ROLE OF UNESCO



International Oceanographic  
Commission (IOC)  
International Hydrological  
Programme (IHP)  
Man and the Biosphere  
Programme (MAB)  
International Geoscience  
Programme (IGCP)  
International Basic Sciences  
Programme (IBSP)

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 26 and 27 October 2007

# IBSP-sponsored International Years



## Global science advocacy and popularization actions

- 2005 International Year of Physics
- 2009 International Year of Astronomy
- 2011 International Year of Chemistry
- 2014 International Year of Crystallography
- 2015 International Year of Light



**In 2015, Prof. Herwig Schopper hands over chairmanship of IBSP Scientific Board to Prof. Sir Chris Lewellyn-Smith, another former DG of CERN and second President of the SESAME Council**



**Herwig SCHOPPER**

**Sir Chris LEWELLYN-SMITH**



**This presentation gives me also an opportunity to pass the most sincere thanks to my close collaborators within IBSP: Vladimir ZHAROV and Clarissa FORMOSA-GAUCI**



**SESAME, a third flagship project that allowed me to closely collaborate with Professor Herwig Schopper. I served on the SESAME Council as Representative of the DG of UNESCO from 2001 to 2015**



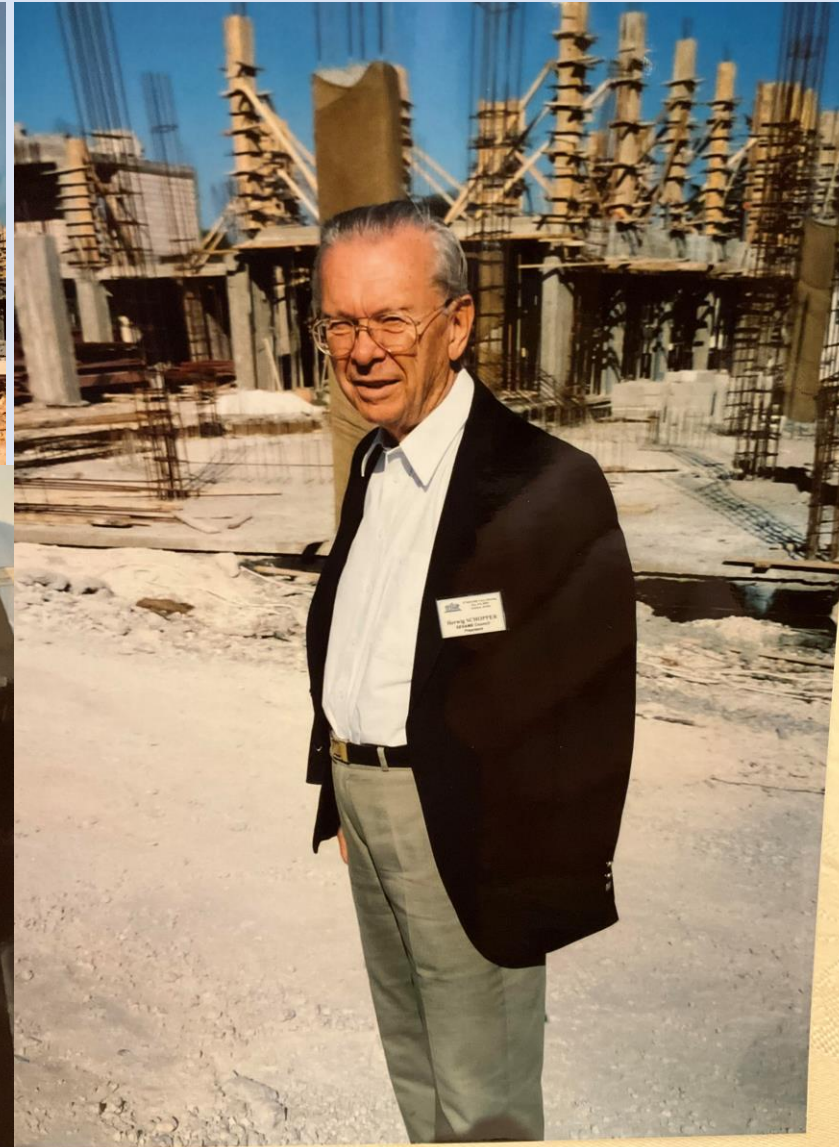
# SESAME: Shipment of BESSY 1 components to Jordan organized by UNESCO (2002)



# SESAME Gound Breaking Ceremony (January 6, 2003)



# Construction of SESAME building (2004)



# SESAME „Soft Opening”, 3 November 2008

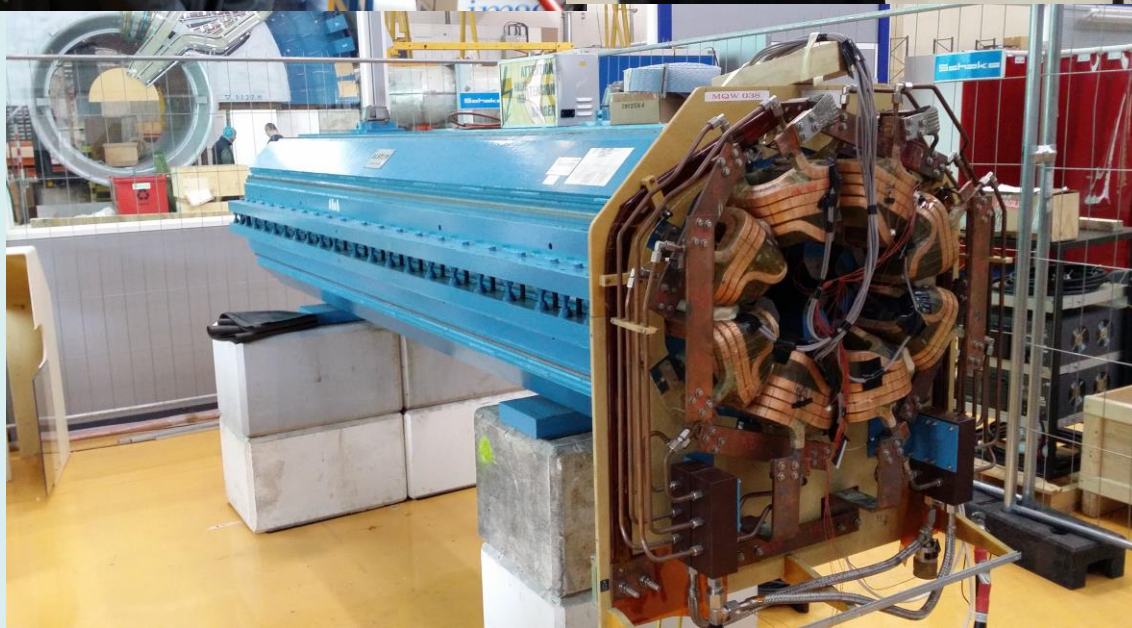


# Construction of the shielding wall in SESAME experimental hall (2010)



# Construction of the EU-funded key magnetic system for SESAME's new main ring led and coordinated by CERN (2012-2013)

Herwig Chris J.Gillies





# SESAME: storage ring under construction (2014)



# SESAME's Session at the UNESCO/ICSU/Hungarian Academy of Sciences/AAAS/EASAC World Science Forum in Budapest (November 2015)

Science for Peace Session at the WSF in Budapest, November 2015



# **Congratulations for SESAME's Session at the World Science Forum 2015 from Dr Rush HOLT, former US Congressperson and President of AAAS**



# SESAME OPENING CEREMONY, 16 May 2017



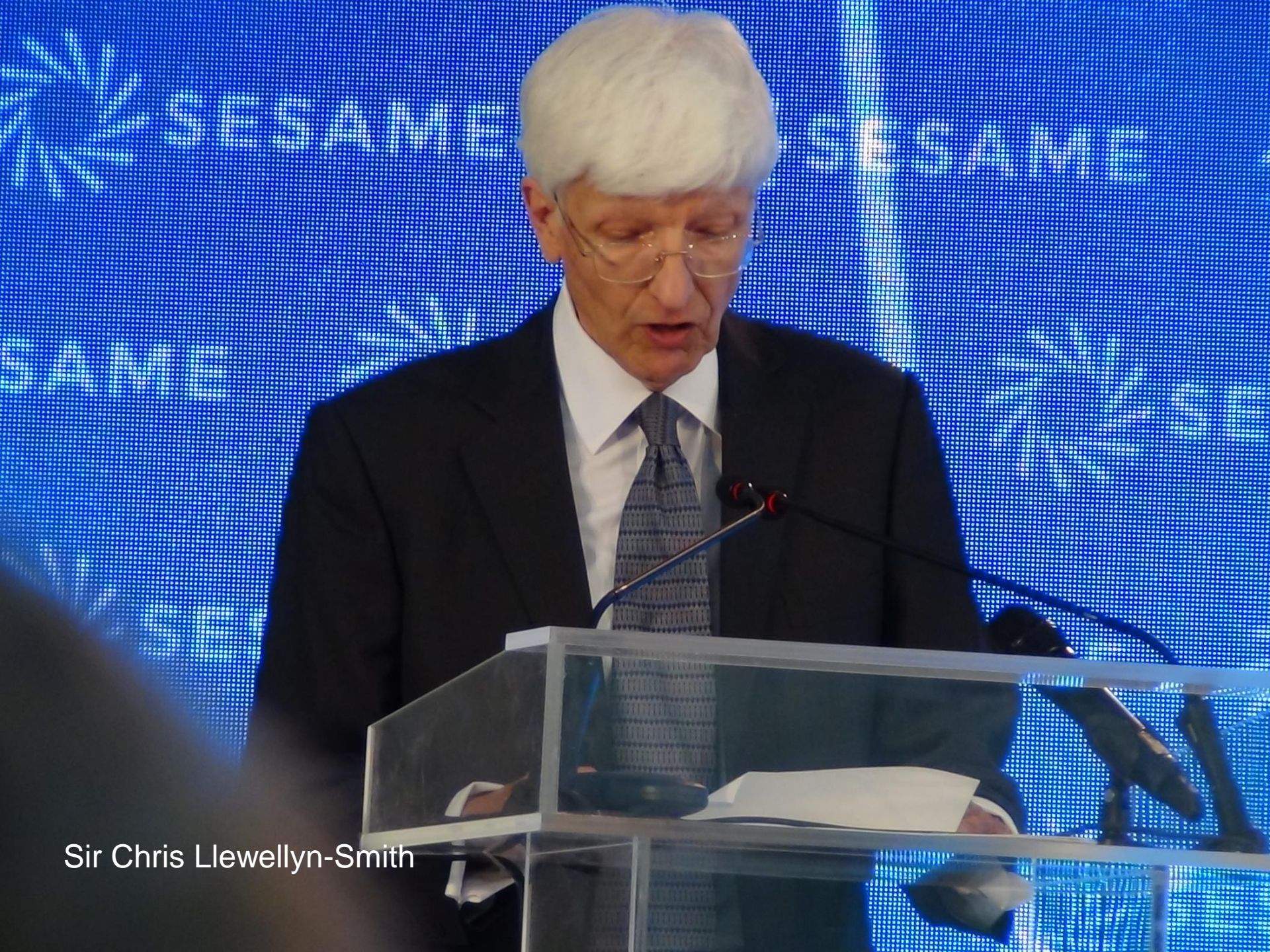
**Zafra  
Lerman**

**Giorgio Paolucci**



**Herwig Schopper**

**Yasser Khalil**



Sir Chris Llewellyn-Smith

HRH Princess Sumaya bint El Hassan



# HM King Abdullah II of Jordan at the Opening Ceremony of SESAME





# **SESAME is a succes through the effort of numerous people**

## **CONCEPT:**

**Eliezer Rabinovici, Sergio Fubini, Gustav-Adolf Voss, Herman Winnick, Herwig Schopper, Tord Ekelof + suport from Federico Mayor and Koichiro Matsuura (DGs of UNESCO)**

## **LEADERSHIP:**

**Herwig Schopper, Chris Lewellyn Smith, Rolf Heuer (all former DGs of CERN and Presidents of SESAME Council), Khaled Toukan (a „strong man” of Jordan and Director of SESAME), Zehra Sayers (Chair of SESAME’s Scientific Advisory Committee), Albin Wrulich (Chair of SESAME’s Technical Advisory Committee)**

## **Management**

**Khaled Toukan, Hany Helal, Yasser Khalil, Dieter Einfeld and many others**

## **Assistance**

**UNESCO: Maciej Nalecz, Clarissa Formosa-Gauci; EC: Carlos Moedas and others; IAEA: Ana Maria Cetto and others; many representatives of CERN, ALBA (Spain), ANKA (Germany), BESSY (Germany), DESY (Germany), Diamond (UK), Elletra (Italy), ESRF (France), MAX Lab (Sweden), SLS/PSI (Switzerland), SLAC (US), Soleil (France), ICTP, etc., and individuals, e.g. Jose Mariano Gago, Costas Papanicolas**

# CONCLUSIONS

**Professor Schopper has shown that science diplomacy serves as a critical medium of international political communication when regular diplomatic channels are strained, blocked or nonexistent**

**Science diplomacy to be efficient must be based on top class Research Institutions (as CERN or SESAME) and led by non-questionned scientific, human and moral Authorities (as Professor Herwig Schopper)**

# Collaboration with Herwig Schopper also turned into a personal friendship and lovely contacts aside from work



**Ms & Mr Erdelen  
Ms & Mr Nalecz  
in Geneva, at home  
of Ms & Mr  
Schopper**

**(August 2006)**

*Dear Herwig,*

*A milion thanks for  
many wonderful years  
of close collaboration!*

*I wish you health,  
happiness and  
continued active  
action for a long time  
still.*

**THE WORLD NEEDS  
YOU!**



**Thank you for listening,**

**Maciej NALECZ**