**New Scientific and Research Collaborations with Top Turkish Universities**

Dr. Ali M. Nikbakht, Director of International Relations Office of Urmia University announced the promotion of the level of cooperation between Urmia Universityand high profile Turkish universities.Recently, rectorof Urmia University, Prof. Dr. Rahim Hobbenaghi, and the Vice Chancellor of Education, Prof. Dr. Alireza Mozaffari, had meetings with the rectors of “Istanbul university” and “Koc University”. Through these meetings, various joint scientific and research activities have been defined.This visit, on persuasion of theinvitation of the above mentioned universities, highlighted the utilization of both parties’ capacities that could be appealing in international and European projects.Dr. Ali M. Nikbakht also announced the agreement of the Istanbul University on Mevlana Program for the academicand non-academic staff of Urmia University.The project, which has been supported by the Turkish government in recent years as a successful Mobility project at three levels of professors, staff and students (undergraduate, Master and Ph.D.) has been targeted by many academics in the region countries and Iran.

It should be noted Istanbul University is founded in the 15th century and is the largest university in Turkey. Furthermore, Koc University stands top three of Turkey in the international ranking of the world's universities and offers numerous options for academic staff and students.

International Relations Office will support all three groups in order to use the Mevlana Exchange Program at those universities who have signed a memorandum of understanding with Urmia University.

The agreed opportunities whichwill be very promising for the promotionof scientific level and the extension of international exchanges at Urmia University include: Summer School at Koc University (staff and graduate students), Scholarships for Students, Summer internship for undergraduate students, Scientific and short-term visits.