

Nanotechnology is a fast emerging field that is expected to have a large scale impact on science, engineering, society and economy. Many believe that its impact will be no less than the impact of inventing the transistor in 1938. The fast development in nanotechnology was paralleled with the emergence and development of nano-tools to image, structure and control systems on the nano-scale ( $\sim 10^{-9}$  m). The emergence of nanotechnology as a new field has led to the fusion of many disciplines with full cooperation and information exchange between fields that were, prior to the nano-technology era running parallel to each other. Fields such as electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, materials science, chemistry, physics and biology have all been impacted. Nanotechnology has facilitated the appearance of a wide range of applications that require expertise in more than one field and has become the hub for interdisciplinary work in many centers around the world. Exclusive funds were immediately allocated by funding agencies in many nations for nanotechnology, and the sharing of resources

-including available funds, manpower, equipment and expertise- became imperative to the success of any project involving work on the nano-scale.

Kuwait University aspires to become a leading institution in advancing research in both fundamental and applied science on a global scale. An initiative to establish a nanotechnology research center at the heart of the college of engineering and petroleum was started in early 2007. With the efforts of many individuals in the college, in research administration, and in many other supporting bodies within Kuwait University, such a center has been established, which will provide researchers at Kuwait University with a research environment in the fields of advanced materials science and engineering, nanotechnology and nano-electronics.