

The Daily Star

Siniora: Leap in science and technology is at hand

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BEIRUT: Prime Minister Fouad Siniora said Thursday that Lebanon "is on the verge of a true surge in the fields of technology and applicable research." Siniora was speaking at a ceremony held in the Grand Serail dedicated to launching "The Program of Creativities, Technologies and Sciences Strategy in Lebanon."

Among those in attendance were Koichiro Matsuura, the director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; George Tohme, the head of the administrative board of the National Council for Scientific Research; and the council's secretary-general, Mouin Hamza.

Siniora said the ceremony aimed at highlighting the government's "interest" in science and technology.

He added that the government would urge the ministries and educational institutions to cooperate with the National Council and implement the strategy, stressing that it "encourages students and researchers to cope with the world's culture and civilization." [ttp://www.dailystar.com.lb](http://www.dailystar.com.lb)

"It aims at responding to Lebanon's needs in economy and higher education," Siniora said.

Matsuura praised the government's efforts to put the strategy into effect, saying that UNESCO supports all initiatives aiming at developing scientific strategies.

Tohme said the council set a modern plan for sciences and technologies strategies in order to create new job opportunities.

"We look forward to the government's support and insurance of financial resources, as well as to UNESCO's continuous cooperation," Hamza said.