

Dear distinguished authorities and guests

Dear students and colleagues

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to say a few words at this opening ceremony for the special edition of the 5th Winter School in High Energy Particle Physics. As a member of the International Advisory Board since the beginning I have witnessed the successes and evolution of this ambitious educational programme. Right away I must congratulate Dr Ahmed Bassalat and his colleagues for this fantastic opportunity they offer to students now already for the 5th time. The students can get familiar with, and deepen their skills, on all aspects of fundamental physics, on sophisticated instrumentation technologies, and on modern analysis methods.

I was always hoping to attend once the school in person and to visit the An-Najah National University, but busy travelling schedule with duty commitments made this impossible. And now, when I would have more time, the world has changed for the time being, and we can only travel virtually. So one lesson I learn late is that one should not postpone things one really would like to do.

Well beyond the direct benefit to open doors for individual students, international HEP Schools like WISHEPP can be a perfect setting to start and to consolidate international cooperation. It is this latter aspect that I have always considered to be very important in my former function as spokesperson of the ATLAS Collaboration since the LHC adventure started. Indeed, I remember such schools played a pivotal role along the way to the formalization of new institutional memberships in the ATLAS Collaboration for teams from regions where these had to be built up, in particular for regions where cooperation in CERN experiments was not just a standard matter. I am happy about successful examples involving schools for groups that joined later the ATLAS Collaboration, for instance from Morocco, from South Africa, and from countries in Latin America.

This additional motivation is also still very much valid for the WISHEPP School and NNU. The ATLAS Collaboration is glad that Dr. Bassalat is working along this path, since the time he is an individual member of ATLAS from about 2011, and since the school started in 2016. The whole partnership process started in 2013 when an Expression of Interest for participation of NNU students in ATLAS was signed. The cooperation has progressed since then, but ATLAS would be very keen to see this taking up more momentum, as the current ATLAS Spokesperson, Dr. Andreas Hoecker also confirmed to me the other day. It would make a big difference if the University could invest more resources into setting up a group around Dr. Bassalat that then could join the Collaboration.

Institutional membership would give the University much more visibility, besides of course, and most importantly, help to attract more brilliant students to work on an international cutting-edge research project. Let us just imagine how this could evolve in the longer term, as we saw in other countries: other local universities could join NNU in forming maybe in the future a university cluster, thereby gaining a substantial weight in the Collaboration.

In conclusion, I wish you all warmly a very successful school, for the students and for the University.

Peter Jenni

Former ATLAS Spokesperson

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