



The World Academy of Sciences
for the advancement of science in developing countries

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TWAS, the voice for science in the South

TWAS is a global science academy based in Trieste, Italy, working to advance science and engineering for sustainable prosperity in the developing world. It was founded in 1983 by a distinguished group of scientists from the developing world, under the leadership of Abdus Salam, the Pakistani physicist and Nobel laureate. They shared a belief that developing nations, by building strength in science and engineering, could gain the knowledge and skill to address such challenges as hunger, disease and poverty. From the start, the Academy had essential support from Italian scientists and political leaders.

TWAS has some 1,100 elected Fellows from 90 countries; 15 of them are Nobel laureates. About 85% come from developing nations, and the rest are scientists and engineers from the developed world whose work has had a significant impact in the South. As some of the world's most accomplished scientists and engineers, they are the foundation for all of the Academy's work.

Through three decades, TWAS's mission has remained consistent:

- Recognize, support and promote excellence in scientific research in the developing world;
- Respond to the needs of young scientists in countries that are lagging in science and technology;
- Promote South-South and South-North cooperation in science, technology and innovation;
- Encourage scientific research and sharing of experiences in solving major problems facing developing countries.

TWAS day-to-day work focuses on the implementation, thanks to and via its partners, of a number of programmes as summarized below.

TWAS Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships:

<http://twas.org/opportunities/fellowships>

TWAS and its partners offer over 600 fellowships per year to scientists in the developing world who want to pursue PhDs and post-doctoral research. These schemes involve south-to-south programmes and have resulted in enhanced cooperation between emerging countries and least developed countries.

TWAS Research Grants: <http://twas.org/opportunities/research-grants>

TWAS provides grants to researchers in some developing countries for specialized equipment, consumable supplies and scientific publications. If you would like to build a research group but do not have a suitable laboratory, or perhaps you need extra resources, grants are awarded to individual scientists and research groups.

TWAS Scientific Meetings: <http://twas.org/opportunities/scientific-meetings>

TWAS offers financial assistance to the organizers of international and regional scientific conferences, workshops, symposia and special meetings in the developing world.

TWAS Exchanges/Associateships: <http://twas.org/opportunity/visiting-scientist>

TWAS has arranged for a series of programmes to support visits and foster collaborations as well as transfer of skills, in three directions: south-to-south, south-to-north and north-to-south. The majority of these programmes support visits of internationally renowned scientists to institutions located in developing countries, especially those located in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The objective of the programme is to provide institutions and research groups in developing countries, especially those with limited outside contacts, with the opportunity to establish long-term links with world leaders in science and so help develop capacity-building in their country.

TWAS Prizes and Awards: <http://twas.org/opportunities/prizes-and-awards>

Honours awarded by TWAS and its partners are among the most prestigious given for research in the developing world. They range from the TWAS-Lenovo Science Prize, which celebrates the very best research in the South, to prizes awarded to early-career scientists already making impressive contributions to their field.

TWAS has established five *regional offices* to help organize activities and disseminate information. They are located in Alexandria (Egypt), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Beijing (China), Pretoria (South Africa) and Bangalore (India). TWAS Regional Offices play a major role in dissemination as well as taking an active role in the organization of activities such as local conferences and regional prizes.

Under a 1991 agreement, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) assumed responsibility for administering TWAS funds and personnel. Legally, TWAS is a programme unit within UNESCO. The Italian government passed a law in 2004 that ensures an annual financial contribution to the Academy's operation. Representatives of the Italian government and UNESCO are members of the TWAS Steering Committee.

For more information on TWAS, its activities and programmes, please visit www.twas.org