

TRIESTE FORUM ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: IMPACT ON SOCIETY AND ECONOMY

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Organised by The World Academy of Art and Science

Abstract:

Opening Remarks

Peter McGrath, TWAS Programme Officer

This year, TWAS – the academy of sciences for the developing world – celebrates its 30th anniversary. During those 30 years, TWAS has increased its membership from the original 41 Founding Fellows to the 1,072 eminent scientists, largely from the developing world, who we count as members today. Also during those 30 years, TWAS has worked tirelessly to help build scientific capacity in the South by providing research grants, providing PhD training and other fellowship opportunities, etc. We do this because we believe that science and technology are critical drivers of sustainable economic development and that every country should have a critical mass of trained experts in those fields that are of importance to it.

Thus, the themes of this Forum relate directly to the programmes and activities of TWAS. Sessions on ‘Human capital’ and ‘Recognizing talents and genius’, for example, are at the core of our fellowship programmes. TWAS itself, including our members and our ‘alumni’ – those who have benefited from our various programmes – has become a considerable ‘Network society’ in itself, another Forum theme. Finally, it is clear from documents such as ‘The Future We Want’, that arose from the 2012 Rio+20 World Summit on Sustainable Development, that there is an imperative need for us, as a coherent society, to move towards a more sustainable and equitable future. In this regard, sessions on ‘New economic theory’ and ‘Re-valuing nature’ become of prime significance.

We therefore look forward to examining how TWAS may bring its expertise and networks to bear on such issues, and to hearing the recommendations and opportunities for partnership that are expected to derive from this important meeting.