



Still, I am hopeful. A number of new developments augur well for TWAS's work in the years ahead.

Leadership: *With the start of 2013, we welcome Bai Chunli, an accomplished scholar in chemistry and nanotechnology, as the new TWAS president. Prof. Bai also serves as president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and his essay in this issue shows his ambitious vision and high standards for TWAS.*

Education: *Early 2013 brought two major PhD Fellowship agreements: Up to 140 early-career scientists per year from the developing world will travel to China for PhD study under the new CAS-TWAS President's Fellowship Programme. And the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and TWAS will support up to 10 PhD fellowships a year focused on weather, climate and water-related hazards. TWAS now offers more than 500 fellowships per year.*

Science Diplomacy: *Nearly 50 high-level science and policy leaders from 12 nations convened recently in Budapest to explore the renewal of long-standing education and research networks linking Central Europe and the Southern Mediterranean. TWAS organized the roundtable with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNESCO.*

Fund-raising: *TWAS has begun an important new fund-raising effort, reaching out to members, governments, businesses, private foundations and others to support our programmes and endowment. This is a critically important moment for our work, and these new resources have a direct impact on building S&T capacity.*

Communication: *The TWAS Public Information Office has a new director: Edward Lempinen, a senior journalist and science communicator, who has strong experience in international science and science diplomacy. Cristina Serra, a veteran science journalist, has joined the PIO staff as a writer and liaison to the Italian news media.*

Finally, as you may know, a measure approved at our General Meeting in China last year changed the Academy's name. We have begun the transition and henceforth we will be known as 'The World Academy of Sciences, for the advancement of science in developing countries'. Our mission will not change – we will continue to build science capacity and excellence in developing nations – but the new name reflects the ambitious global scope of our work.

New leadership, new ideas, new initiatives – this is the best way to honour our founders. As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, we're committed to continuing their work, matching the dedication and creativity that have helped TWAS to change the world. ■

❖❖❖ **Romain Murenzi**
TWAS Executive Director

(from top) TWAS Founder Abdus Salam; speakers at the 1983 meeting at the University of Trieste at which TWAS was founded as the Third World Academy of Sciences; founding ceremony, from left: Mohamed H.A. Hassan, Antonino Zichichi, Paolo Budinich; TWAS founding members at the University of Trieste ceremony.

