

TWAS NEWSLETTER

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LOOKING BACK: 1985

Thirty years ago, the Third World Academy of Sciences gathered for its first General Meeting in Trieste, Italy. The theme of the meeting, from 5-10 July, was “South-South and South-North Cooperation in Sciences”. The occasion was auspicious, reflecting an awareness among global leaders that the Academy was embarking on a crucial mission.

Heads of state sent messages of support and encouragement, and top world leaders attended. Here are some highlights from their comments:

“We sincerely hope that the conference...at Trieste will produce positive and pragmatic results, and science will emerge as a factor to attain equality and solidarity and thus serve as a potent force for peace and understanding between peoples of the world.”

Belisario Betancur
president of Colombia

“It is my hope that this conference will...address itself to the larger issue of the types of institutional structures and cooperative arrangements required for transforming research results into effective socioeconomic tools.”

Jerry John Rawlings
head of state, Ghana

“The nations of the Third World...have the right to anticipate the best results from concentrating the efforts of their numerous young scientists in treating the nations’ problems in order to attain their high hopes of progress and growth.”

His Majesty King **Fahd Ben Abdel Aziz**,
Saudi Arabia

“India and other developing countries are only too aware of the crucial role played by science and technology in liberating people from the grip of want. In fact, science has an even larger role. It must free people all over the world from the grip of fear and suspicion and prejudice.”

Rajiv Gandhi
prime minister of India

“I do believe that this conference will make valuable contributions to the development of the sciences in the Third World, foster unity and cooperation among the Third World countries, promote world peace and thus contribute to human progress.”

Li Xiannian
chairman, People’s Republic of China

“The development of agriculture and the conquest of avoidable disease are broadly known to be the priorities for most of the developing countries. However, it is only scientists who can define with clarity the relevance of the latest research and the gaps that still need to be filled. The judgements of social planners...will be sounder if they are arrived at after full discussions with scientists.”

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
United Nations secretary-general

“In recent times, in this adventure of discovery on the frontier, the South has not been able to play a commensurate role...principally because of lack of opportunity. This, however, is not a situation which young men and women from the Third World will accept. They enviously, and deservedly, long to participate in this exciting adventure of scientific creation on equal terms.”

Abdus Salam
Nobel laureate and TWAS founder