



# SPEAKING WITH A COMMON VOICE

*A trio of global inter-academy networks join to form the InterAcademy Partnership.*

Three global networks of science and medical academies with close ties to TWAS have merged to do their work under a single umbrella organisation: the InterAcademy Partnership.

The new body includes three networks that have long worked in close collaboration: IAP – the global network of science academies; the InterAcademy Medical Panel (IAMP); and the InterAcademy Council (IAC). The new IAP will permit the three inter-academy networks to speak with one voice and thus have a greater impact on global issues of common interest.

Academies are typically independent, merit-based national institutions, with members selected from among a country's leading scientific, medical and engineering minds. The InterAcademy Partnership, representing more than 130 academies, harnesses the power, authority and credibility of its member academies.

"Our three inter-academy networks – IAP, IAC and IAMP – already have an accomplished track record of building the capacity of new and young academies, especially in developing countries, of providing syntheses and reports to national and international governance structures on scientific issues, and issuing statements that



highlight critical areas for action with recommendations to policymakers," says Mohamed Hassan, co-chair of IAP and one of the two presidents of the new body.

IAP and IAMP both have a long relationship with TWAS, which hosts their offices in Trieste, Italy, and cooperates with them on many initiatives. The new InterAcademy Partnership will focus on providing evidence-based advice and perspectives on global issues, building a scientifically literate global citizenry, strengthening global scientific enterprise and strengthening the global network of academies.

For the time being, each of the



three participating organizations will retain its autonomy with regard to governance and projects. However, there will be greater coordination among the co-chairs of the three networks and the secretariats.

In addition, coordinated branding will ensure greater visibility and impact with target audiences such as governments and international organizations.

- IAP will become 'IAP for Science'
- IAMP will become 'IAP for Health'
- IAC will become 'IAP for Research'.

"New research and the application of science are vital if we are to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] and when dealing with global challenges such as food security and climate change," says Robbert Dijkgraaf, co-chair of IAP for Research and the second InterAcademy Partnership President. "By working together more cohesively under this new umbrella organization, we are able to bring both regional and global perspectives into the discussions and ensure that the voice of the scientific community is heard loud and clear." ■

▼ From left: Mohamed Hassan, Robbert Dijkgraaf

