

Welcoming remarks for the Workshop on Capacity Building for Academies: Symposium on Science, Religion and Values

Organized by the Interacademy Panel on International Issues (IAP) and Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)

5-7 March 2003

This is my third day on the job as Director of ICTP, and so you can tell that I am a seasoned veteran here. But this does not detract from the warmth of the welcome I wish to extend, nor diminish the depth of my good wishes for a successful workshop.

At ICTP most of what we do is Science---in fact, a small part of it, namely Physics. The scope of this meeting embraces much more of human experience. Yet, because of our mandate, namely fostering the growth of advanced studies and scientific research in developing countries, we play a crucial role in unifying, under the banner of Physics, a large cross-section of people with different cultures and backgrounds. The understanding we develop in the pursuit of our common heritage, we hope, will also enable us to understand our differences. It is thus appropriate that ICTP should have some involvement in the meeting, though the leadership for it has come from the Interacademy Panel and the Third World Academy of Sciences. Between sessions, I hope you will take the time to visit the other ICTP buildings, which is not far from here, and see some of our work for yourself.

I look forward to hearing your experiences on how to grapple, through science, the various other issues that arise in cultural contexts. I renew my welcome to you, and extend my thanks to Professor Mohamed Hassan, who has been instrumental in organizing this meeting.

Thank you.

