

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of Robert Klapisch and other organizers of the meeting, on behalf of myself and of ICTP, I wish to welcome you to the third edition of the Advanced Research Workshop on “Sharing Knowledge across the Mediterranean”. The previous two editions were held in Geneva and Casablanca, and I had the pleasure of being a part of the second. It was there that Robert proposed the possibility of holding this meeting here. I am glad that it is happening.

Figure 1 shows the region which we are considering in this workshop. If I draw an imaginary line separating the northern coast from the southern, roughly speaking, one can see some similarities and differences. I have chosen Spain, France, Italy and Greece as representative of the Northern coast and Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt as representative of the Southern coast. I fully understand that Greece is different from France though the two countries are both to the North of my line, and Morocco is different from Libya though they are both to its South. Yet it is helpful to make this distinction for my purposes.

Table 1 shows some statistics for the North and the South. The populations are about the same on both sides, and, in fact, the South enjoys an extraordinary advantage for the near term: its median age of the population is sixteen years younger! The population growth is about ten times larger in the South, which, too, can be an advantage in the short to medium run, considering that the countries in

question are not especially overpopulated---though this will be a serious issue to be reckoned with sometime soon.

However, the next few columns show the difficulties of the South: the per capita income is about four-fold smaller, the unemployment is about twice as large and the population below the poverty line is four-fold larger. These inequities create enormous stress across our imaginary line, in terms of both illegal immigration and racial tensions in the Northern countries.

Actually, for us at ICTP, the most distressing feature is shown in Table 2, which lists the number of scientific publications below and above the line. This ratio is roughly FORTY times smaller for the South, in both the total number of papers and the numbers per million people. This inequity has an enormous impact on the national psyche and on the ingenuity with which one can use a country's natural resources for the benefit of its general population. Evidently, in making these comparisons, I have shied away from the sub-Saharan Africa on the South and the Northern Europe on the North. That would only exaggerate the differences just mentioned.

It is this sort of thing that concerned Abdus Salam, one of whose pictures I show in figure 2. Salam felt that this kind of difference is not "sustainable", in the modern parlance of the word. He felt that it ought to be obliterated, and I am in full agreement with that sentiment. Salam used complex arguments at different times to justify his thinking, some of which are untenable and obsolete in the present-day world, but the substance of his sentiment is expressed in the well-known statement that "Scientific thought is the common heritage of mankind" (figure 3). In the foreground,

you see the picture of the main building of our center, which was created to provide opportunities of able scientists from the South, now considered more generally.

It therefore seemed quite appropriate to dedicate this workshop to Salam's memory, to mark the tenth anniversary of his death. I had originally planned a different kind of meeting to mark this event; alas, that was not possible for reasons which went beyond my control. Nevertheless, it was clear that this would be an appropriate meeting to mark the event, and I thank Robert Klapisch who readily agreed to this suggestion, and Herwig Schopper and John Ellis who supported the suggestion unhesitatingly.

I will now add two further comments. First, I am very pleased to have in our midst the Libyan Ambassador, His Excellency Abulsalam El-Qallali. It is clear that the subject of this meeting is close to his heart. I am doubly pleased to note that the ambassador was an ICTP Associate for the period 1986-1991. We cherish the success of our associates as if it is our own. We are in a happy position of being able to say that many of our associates are very successful in all walks of life---from politics to public service to science policy matters to the practice of science. In some ultimate sense, this is the spirit and intent of the Centre. As a token of our appreciation for his presence, I have the pleasure to present the ambassador this little gift. It contains two books: one called "100 reasons for being a scientist", a collection of 100 short essays written by some distinguished friends of ICTP, published some two years ago. The other book is about James Joyce, in English and Italian. As you know,

Joyce spent some considerable part of his life here, actually in two segments.

Second, I am simply delighted that Professor Carlo Rubbia is here to speak briefly to us about the Scientific Legacy of Abdus Salam. I know that Carlo is a busy person and his presence is appreciated just for that reason. His star-like status raises the level of the workshop, which is always a good thing. Further, I know of no one better qualified to speak about the subject than Carlo. That Salam's work and Carlo's are intrinsically connected is summarized in figure 4, which is hanging in our library. You can't read the text, but you can see, at the top, pictures of Salam, including some from his Nobel ceremony; at the bottom, you can see the pictures of Salam and Carlo Rubbia together at ICTP when Rubbia's Nobel Prize was announced one fine day in October 1984. If he chooses, Professor Rubbia can tell you how he happened to be at ICTP on that day.

Carlo has always been kind to me personally and I appreciate it, just as I appreciate his support to the Centre. I welcome him again after a break of a year and a half or so. I am pleased to present this small gift to him. This package contains two pictures of Carlo Rubbia at ICTP on that fine day in 1984.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I welcome you all again to ICTP and to this Workshop. Robert Klapisch and a number of others have put a lot of work into organizing it. I look forward to stimulating discussions.