

Presentation in Paris in support of the Trieste EXPO
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Distinguished Delegates of the BIE, and Ladies and
Gentlemen:

I am honored once again to speak in strong support of Trieste's candidacy for EXPO2008 because of its contributions to the building of scientific infrastructure around the world, and its commitment to remain so engaged in the future.

Some numbers first: Italy spends about 35 million Euros a year to support the four major international institutions in Trieste, among which is my institution, ICTP. The city of Trieste hosts more than 8,600 visiting scientists every year from all parts of the world---about half from developing countries. I submit that this commitment for international science is unmatched anywhere.

Let me now say a few words about our visitors from developing countries. Some of them remain active in science only because of their connection to one or the other institution in Trieste. We assist those scientists build scientific and educational infrastructure in their own countries, and help train and educate younger people.

Some have also entered public service. Among the associates of ICTP during the forty years of its existence, there has been one President of a Republic, 11 Ministers or Deputy Ministers, 2 members of the parliament, 7 advisors to Presidents or Prime Ministers, 18 University Presidents or Vice Chancellors, 22 Deans of Faculty, about 150 Heads of Laboratory or Departments. While many factors have made this feat possible, the support of Italy and Trieste has been crucial.

Trieste EXPO can give extraordinary stimulus for sharing knowledge through reciprocal exchange between the North and the South. Developing countries will be able to acquire industrial know-how, and increase their knowledge of the techniques of production, conservation, packaging and commercialization of goods. They will also be able to promote their own ingenious methods for controlling and managing natural resources such as water. We shall be able to investigate how and why areas of excellence are developing in emerging countries---I think of Bangalore's software technology park in India---and study how to recreate those conditions in many other places. The Trieste EXPO, should the city have the honor to host it, will be an exceptional avenue for exchanging knowledge---the effects of which will not only last, but increases with time. This is why I am excited about the Trieste EXPO. This is why I hope you will be able to support it.

Thank you very much.