

## Trieste's uniqueness

### Highlights of Trieste's post-Roman history

- Trieste began to thrive from the 13<sup>th</sup> century onwards, when it shook off Venice's dominance by choosing to associate with Austria.
- Trieste was the only seaport of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; its free-port status made it an international and cosmopolitan city, with tolerance for multiethnic and multi-religious population. Shipping, commerce, banking and insurance were its main business.
- The city became especially prominent in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The opening of the Suez Canal in the 19<sup>th</sup> century brought the city closer to India and the Far East, and the commerce thrived even further.
- In 1918 Trieste became a part of Italy and lost its uniqueness: instead of being the only seaport of a thriving empire, it became one of many seaports in a country whose own character changed rapidly. (A study of James Joyce confirms some of the changes in Trieste around 1918-1920.)
- In 1947, the city was declared international but was returned to Italy 50 years ago.
- It is the context of its long international history that Trieste's scientific institutions of today have to be understood. They are unique because, in addition to their scientific work, they are deeply engaged in meeting the needs of the developing world.
- Now there are further opportunities to build on this unique feature: (a) Europe is changing geographically and also politically; (b) the world politics is giving greater importance to international understanding--for reasons of realism, not merely idealism. And so forth.

## The broad context for today's presentation (continued)

- What are the International institutions in Trieste doing in this direction? What vision do we have for enhancing our relevance? How do we contribute to first-rate science as we strive, at the same time, to support international science and enhance better understanding among nations? I would like to describe the work of ICTP in this regard.
- ICTP was the first of the several international institutions created here. It is through the efforts of the leadership of ICTP that many of them came into being. I can say this without blushing because I can't claim any personal credit for this leadership.
- Our institutions cooperate at many levels, both visible and invisible, and we are working especially in preparing for Trieste's claims to EXPO08. What I shall describe about ICTP should be seen as part of our efforts leading to EXPO08.
- I feel a need to state my personal attitude. It is to be open to all new ideas, without compromising the rigor of thinking in anything that we do. I believe that: (1) we should run our institutions at the highest level of quality and integrity possible; for, without this, our soul is lost: we are first and foremost scientific institutions. (2) We should at all times be open to the rest of the world--east and west, north and south; without this, we will be stifled. (3) We should shun all tendencies to be condescending when it comes to poor countries; without this magnanimity, we cannot build understanding.
- I see ICTP as part of the city's heritage. I know that ICTP is different in several respects but it is neither separate from the city nor independent of it. We contribute to the city's economy; we contribute to the spread of its name; we contribute to the richness of its culture. I would like your help in making them widely known to the city, and in promoting ICTP as integral part of the city and the region.

What specific plans exist in this direction? I will restrict myself to events as far as the end of the year. Perhaps we can have you back for a chat in December and we can describe plans for 2005.

### **International level**

**Countries:** Africa, Black Americans, South America, Iran and USA

**Organizations:** UNESCO and IAEA; ITU and IIASA

### **Italian institutions**

Rome government

Local scientific institutions

Greater collaboration with local scientific institutions (SISSA, ELETRA, AREA, INFN), and Universities of Trieste and Udine and CISM at Udine. You know about the agreement among all the regional institutions, of which we are an important part.

Other institutions in Italy: U. Roma; U. Bari; University of Bologna; high performance computing in fluid dynamics.

### **Trieste city**

- A photographic exhibition and an art exhibition.
- United Nations Day, a meeting for the town and the region. Prizes for students from local high schools and the University of Trieste.
- Letters to all regional high schools inviting teachers to attend, free of cost, any of our programs.
- Participation with Scientific Imaginario in **what exactly?**
- More concrete plans with Scientific Imaginario and the Castle.
- Discussion on possible joint programs with the University of Trieste
- Hosting one day of the eighth annual James Joyce Workshop at ICTP (the word "quark" came from James Joyce's Ulysses).
- A joint program in May with the Lions Club on "Role of Science on Social and Political Institutions"

- October meeting marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary; seen as one of the first major events leading to EXPO08.
- The hosting in November of the TWAS meeting.
- And so forth.

### **EXPO08**

Letters to ministers and prominent associates; meetings with various visiting committees to explain our work through presentations; today's meeting; presentation on Miramare Institutions to the Commission of Enquiry BIE on March 29, etc.