



The World Academy of Sciences
for the advancement of science in developing countries

ICTP Campus
via Beirut 6
34151 Trieste, Italy
☎ +39 040 2240-327
✉ info@twas.org
★ www.twas.org

On behalf of TWAS, The World Academy of Sciences, it is my pleasure to welcome all participants in the "Crystallography for the next generation: the legacy of IYCr" conference, and to be with you through this letter. Because of other commitments, I regret that I cannot be there with you in person.

The International Year of Crystallography has made great achievements: It has raised awareness about a fundamental discipline which is scarcely known to the public, rarely a government priority, and too often forgotten by school and academic curricula. It has provided high-quality educational opportunities to students from the developing countries through the OpenLab initiative. And it has stimulated international cooperation in science through three excellent summit meetings in South-East Asia, Latin America and Africa.

With the belief that developing nations, by building strength in science and engineering, can build the knowledge and skill to address such challenges as hunger, disease and poverty, TWAS shares the same objectives as those pursued by the IUCr and UNESCO during IYCr2014. Therefore, TWAS is looking forward to the "legacy" of IYCr2014 and to being partner of the crystallographic community on this initiative.

In 2013, I met with IUCr officials Claude Lecomte, Luc Van Meervelt and Michele Zema, together with Jean Paul Ngome from UNESCO, in the preparation of activities for IYCr2014. In that meeting, we agreed that crystallography should be a prime field for focus and investment by policymakers and educators in developing nations.

TWAS and its partners offer nearly 500 fellowships per year to scientists in the developing world who want to pursue PhDs and post-doctoral research. TWAS prizes and awards are among the most prestigious given for scientific work in the developing world. The Academy distributes more than USD1.5 million in research grants every year to individual scientists and research groups. It supports visiting scientists and provides funding for regional and international science meetings. I am hopeful that more young crystallographers will take advantage of these opportunities.

Therefore I offer my congratulations on the achievements reached so far and wish every success to this conference and to the future activities connected with the IYCr legacy initiative.

Prof. Romain Murenzi
TWAS Executive Director