

# CAS President Re-elected as President of TWAS

**B**AI Chunli, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, will be leading TWAS (the World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries) for another two years from 2016 to 2018, as was announced by the 26<sup>th</sup> TWAS general meeting in Vienna, Austria in November 2015.

Addressing the meeting's opening on November 18, BAI pointed out that 30 years after the first TWAS general meeting was convened to promote research capacity in developing nations, it is time to "build networks for South-North cooperation", which is often overlooked yet essential for addressing regional and global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and sustainable development in a new era.

"This is why our meeting in Vienna is so important", he said. "It is a signal to the world: South and North have shared interests, and we are working together."

It is the first time that a TWAS general meeting was hosted by a developed country other than Italy, where the academy's headquarters are located. More than 10 science ministers and over 300 scientists were present at the meeting. Austrian President Heinz Fischer and Reinhold Mitterlehner, Austrian Minister of Science, Research and Economy, also spoke at the opening ceremony.

Besides "extending global presence", BAI stressed, the priorities of TWAS also include "the advancement of women" and "education and training programs".

For instance, the CAS-TWAS President's PhD Fellowship program now offers 200 fellowships per year to young scientists from the developing world. CAS is also working with TWAS to host five centers of excellence at its research institutes. Since these centers were formed in 2013, they have welcomed over 750 students and scientists from more than 40 developing countries for conferences, workshops and doctoral studies.

According to him, a new agreement with South Africa will provide 90 new fellowships per year, and an agreement with India is expected to provide 100 fellowships over five years, plus training in science diplomacy.

The conference announced the nomination of 44 new



TWAS Fellows, including 12 from China. They are: GUI Jianfang from the CAS Institute of Hydrobiology, DING Jian from the CAS Institute of Materia Medica, LIU Zhongfan from Peking University, XIE Yi from the University of Science and Technology of China, ZHANG Hongjie from the CAS Institute of Applied Chemistry in Changchun, ZHOU Zhonghe from the CAS Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology, CHEN Yongchuan from Nankai University, YUAN Yaxiang from the Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science, CAS, LI Shushen from the CAS Institute of Semiconductors, XIANG Tao from the CAS Institute of Physics, HONG Yongmiao from Xiamen University and SHI Yong from the University of CAS.

TWAS, formerly known as "the Third World Academy of Sciences" and "the academy of sciences for the developing world", is a non-governmental, non-profitable international science academy that unites more than 1,000 scientists from 95 countries and regions. It was founded in 1983 under the leadership of Pakistani Nobel Laureate Abdus Salam and a group of distinguished scientists who wanted to change the dismal state of scientific research in the developing world. It mainly aims at promoting the scientific capacity and excellence for sustainable development in the South.

BAI Chunli is a well-known chemist and leading researcher in nanoscience. In January 2013, he became the first Chinese president of TWAS. With this reappointment, he will be leading TWAS for a second term from 2016 to 2018.