

CSIR-TWAS South-South Fellowships - over 15 years of collaboration

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India, recognizes the immense significance and importance of South-South cooperation as a tool to foster scientific capacity and nurture sustainable development in the South. Accordingly, CSIR has forged a robust partnership with TWAS, which symbolizes the very best of science in the developing world, to chart new vistas of international scientific collaboration for the global good.

Under the CSIR-TWAS umbrella, CSIR has instituted 30 postgraduate and postdoctoral fellowships for scholars from developing countries other than India, enabling them to pursue research in new and emerging areas of science and technology in its laboratories. The fellowships are tenable at CSIR's 37 laboratories engaged in carrying out cutting edge research in such diverse areas of science and technology as advanced materials, aerospace, biotechnology, bioinformatics, building materials and technology, medicinal plants, drugs and pharmaceuticals, food technology, leather, environment, energy and oceanography, to name a few (details are available at: www.csirwebistad.org/csirlabs). Launched in 1993, the scheme has so far supported 49 postdoctoral and 17 postgraduate fellowships at such centres of excellence as the Institute of Microbial Technology, the Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute, the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology, the National Botanical Research Institute, the Central Drug Research Institute, the Structural Engineering Research Centre, the Central Building Research Institute and the Central Institute of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants.

The programme has been a remarkable success in more ways than one. By helping to identify the scientific and technological needs of developing countries, it has led to a better understanding between CSIR and its research partners – especially in Africa. In turn, this has helped to strengthen bilateral partnerships at institutional levels.

CSIR is thus keen on receiving applications from more developing countries. In addition, a significant increase in the number of fellowships is on the agenda. There is also considerable interest in CSIR for evolving ways to further develop CSIR's partnership offered with TWAS to enable the benefits of the scheme to percolate down to a greater number of researchers, for example by continuing to help fellowship awardees in their research endeavours once they return to their home institutions.

The CSIR-TWAS Fellowship Programme, therefore, is poised to continue to serve as a beacon of hope for outstanding bright researchers from such developing countries such as Algeria, Bangladesh, Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Libya, Mozambique, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe that have participated in the scheme to date, as well as to other countries whose scientists have yet to take up the opportunities provided.

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Awardee snapshots

In November 2007 during TWAS's 18th General Meeting held in Trieste, Italy, some of the world's leading young scientists were presented with TWAS Young Affiliates certificates. Among these scientists



B. Taele, Lesotho (left pic) and E. Oguzie, Nigeria (right pic) with TWAS President J. Palis

were Benedict Taele, also previously awarded a CSIR-TWAS Fellowship to India, and Emeka Oguzie, previously awarded a CAS-TWAS Fellowship to China. The 24 young scientists selected are appointed as TWAS Young Affiliates for five years during which

time they will receive all TWAS publications and are invited to attend TWAS meetings and conferences.

News from TWAS

• **ICT research between European and African institutions.** As of January 2008, TWAS is part of an EU-funded consortium aiming to promote collaborative research in information and communication technology (ICT) between European and African institutions. The project will last two years and TWAS's main involvement in the initial stages will

be the organization of the first EU-Africa ICT Summit, to be held later in the year. For additional information see: www.euroafrica-ICT.org.

• **The Group on Science and Innovation Policy (GOSIP)** is a moderated forum for sharing information on important developments on science and innovation policy worldwide. The information shared includes news items, research papers, website links and updates on the activities of members. The list, which is moderated by TWAS member Calestous Juma, welcomes comments and contributions on contemporary policy issue but encourages members to conduct networking and extended discussions offline. New members are encouraged to introduce themselves. To subscribe, send an e-mail to the moderator whose address is given on the GOSIP website:

tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/InnovationPolicy.

Travelling to a foreign country?

Do you know which vaccinations you need? Here are a few up-to-date and very interesting websites for all your health queries:

• Scotland's Fit for Travel website www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk.

• World Health Organization's website www.who.int/topics/en. To download the World Health

Organization's international travel and health information booklet see www.who.int/ith/en.

Upcoming 2008 TWAS Deadlines

- 1 June: CSIR (India) Fellowships
 - 30 June: IACS (India), CEMB (Pakistan), ICCBS (Pakistan) Fellowships
 - 31 August: CNPq (Brazil), CAS (China), S.N. Bose (India), DBT (India) Fellowships
 - 1 October: TWAS Fellowships for Research and Advanced Training
- To download the application forms see: www.twas.org/Exchange.
- 1 July: TWAS Research Grants

Contacts

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Programme News

Between December 2007 and January 2008 TWAS awarded 105 new Fellowships. Of these, 48 were for postgraduate studies, 42 for postdoctoral research and 15 for advanced research. In the charts below you will find a breakdown of the awardees by nationality and the countries where they will be taking up their studies.

Other opportunities

- **The Organizing Committee of the African InterQuadrennial ICF Conference of Fracture (AIQ-ICF)** is inviting scientists to participate and to submit a paper for the above conference, to be held on 1-5 June 2008 in Algiers, Algeria. This conference marks the first InterQuadrennial ICF to be held in Africa. The programme offers a wide range of technical papers and will enhance interaction among scientists and engineers. For more information see: www.aiq-icf2008.org.
- **Chris Lomer Travel Award.** Scientists working in less developed countries who wish to attend the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology in Warwick, UK, are invited to apply. The award will partly cover costs to attend the meeting. Applicants do not need to be members of the society. Deadline is 1 April 2008. For additional information see www.ent.iastate.edu.
- **GoAbroad.com** is a leading international education and travel resource with over 25,000 opportunities abroad including fellowships, internships, volunteer opportunities, teaching abroad and language schools. For additional information see: www.goabroad.com.
- **Carnegie-IAS Regional Initiative in Science and Education (RISE)** is requesting concept proposals. RISE will support PhD-level scientists and engineers in sub-Saharan Africa through university-based research and training networks in selected priority areas. The aim is to prepare new faculty to teach in African universities and allow existing faculty to advance to the PhD level. Deadline is 7 March 2008. For additional information see: www.ias.edu/sig.

