

Third World Network of Scientific Organizations (TWNSO)

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TWNSO POISED TO BECOME COSTIS

The foreign ministers of nations belonging to the Group of 77 and China (G-77) have unanimously endorsed a proposal to transform the Third World Network of Scientific Organization (TWNSO) into the Consortium on Science, Technology and Innovation for the South (COSTIS). The decision was announced at their annual meeting held on 22 September in conjunction with the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. With 131 members states, the G-77 is largest coalition of developing countries in the UN.

The proposal to establish COSTIS was first made in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at the General Assembly of TWNSO in September.

"COSTIS," says Dumasani S. Kumalo, permanent representative of South Africa to the UN and chair of the G-77, "will provide member states of the G-77 with direct access to the developing world's best scientific minds. The organization could prove instrumental in placing science and technology at the centre of developing world's economic development efforts". The secretariat will be located in Trieste, Italy, and operate under the administrative auspices of the Trieste System of international organizations.

COSTIS' main focus will be to promote science-based economic development in developing countries and encourage international cooperation in science and technology. A task force is currently drafting statutes and bylaws for COSTIS. The new organization is expected to be up and running in January 2007.

Events & Future Workshops

Continuing its collaboration with the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SSC), TWNSO organized a workshop on Capacity Building for Sustainable

Development in the South at its headquarters in Trieste, Italy, from 10-13 October 2006. The United Nations University's Institute for Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) joined UNDP/SSC and TWNSO in co-sponsoring the activity. Some 25 scientists representing 19 countries participated in the event. A book describing these innovative experiences will be published in 2007.

UNDP/SSC has agreed to co-sponsor two additional workshops

in 2007: best practices in ocean/coastal management in the developing world (to be held in the spring), and cities and science in the developing world (to be held next autumn).

Networks

Scientists and scientific institutions interested in joining the Medicinal Plants Network should contact: info@twnso.org or mcgrath@twas.org. Members receive a newsletter by e-mail every two months.

To join the TWNSO online discussion group for Safe Drinking Water, please visit: groups.yahoo.com/group/twnsodwn/

About TWNSO

The Third World Network of Scientific Organizations (TWNSO) is a non-governmental organization founded in 1988 by ministers of science and technology and higher education and heads of science academies and research councils in developing countries to promote science-based sustainable economic development in the South. TWAS, the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World, led the drive for the creation of TWNSO, which acquired consultative status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1990. TWNSO currently has 148 members. As of January 2007, TWNSO will assume a new name and additional responsibilities, becoming the Consortium for Science, Technology and Innovation for the South (COSTIS).

From the Secretariat

TWNSO has awarded 7 new joint research projects in the South. The OPEC Fund for International Development has generously provided funding for these projects. The awards provide US\$15,000 to each joint project over a two-year period. This year's recipients are:

- Cuba/Haití: Centro de Biomateriales, Universidad de La Habana, and L'Ecole Normale superieure, Universite d'Etat d' Haiti
- Ethiopia/South Africa: Addis Ababa University, and South African Astronomical Observatory
- Egypt/Burundi: Soil & Water Science Dept, and Institute for Agronomic Sciences of Burundi
- South Africa/Congo, Dem. Rep.: University of Kwasulu-Natal, Dept. of Geology and University of Lubumbashi, Dept. of Geology
- Sudan/Ethiopia: Institute of Endemic Diseases, University of Khartoum and Dept. of Microbiology, Immunology and Parasitology
- Mali/Ghana/Senegal: Institut d'Economie Rurale, Laboratoire Sol-Eau-Plante and Savanna Agricultural Research Institute and Institut Senegalais de Recherches Agronomiques
- South Africa/Mozambique: University of the North and Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Food Technology and Biotechnology Section

The closing date for the next round of applications is 1 December 2006. Application forms can be downloaded at www.twnso.org.

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Scientific Events

The Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre), New Delhi, India, is organizing the following activities:

- International; Conference on S&T Policy Research and Statistical Indicators, 6-10 November 2006, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- International Roundtable on the Management of Natural Disasters, January 2007, Vellore, India
- 6th International Workshop Training Course on Micro-and Nano-Electronics and Photonics, March 2007, Islamabad, Pakistan
- International Workshop on Medicinal Plants and Herbal Medicine, September 2007, Hanoi, Vietnam
- International Symposium on Effect of Corrosion Attack in Industrial and Utilities Providers Installations, December 2007, Lahore, Pakistan.

For additional information see www.namstct.org or contact namstct@vsl.com or apknan@gmail.com.

Up Next: COSTIS

In view of the transformation from TWNSO into COSTIS, this is the last issue of the *TWNSO Update*. We nonetheless encourage members to send us news about their activities. Please send your information to info@twnso.org. Copy deadline for the next update, to be distributed under the auspices of COSTIS, is 30 January 2007.