18 December 2013

TO: Cao Jinghua, Wang Zhenyu and Feng Kai

CC: Tan Tieniu

FR: Edward Lempinen

Re: Pending TWAS projects

Dear Jinghua, Dear Zhenyu, Dear Kai,

Thanks very much for taking the time this morning to talk with me about TWAS-CAS communication initiatives and about a shared vision for our future work. I feel that the meeting was very productive. Of course our partnership is still taking shape, but I believe you'll see in the months ahead that we are committed to communicating Prof. Bai's vision and priorities for TWAS, and that we can work creatively to raise the profile of the CAS-TWAS Centres of Excellence. There will be many strong possibilities, and on behalf of Prof. Murenzi and my colleagues here, I look forward to working with you in the weeks and months ahead.

As mentioned in my recent memo, and referred again in this morning's meeting, there are a few matters of immediate interest. You have asked me to provide some further details, which follow below.

**1. Newsletter #3 2013**

We are currently assembling articles for Newsletter #3 2013, which will be focused on the General Meeting in Buenos Aires. I would like permission to publish, at a prominent position in the Newsletter, the full text of President Bai's opening address. [<http://twas.ictp.it/news-in-home-page/news/president-bai-chunlis-opening-address-at-the-24th-twas-general-meeting-in-buenos-aires>] Of course this also will include photos.

**2. Newsletter #4 2013 – special issue**

Immediately after the holidays, we will launch TWAS Newsletter #4 2013, which will be a special issue. We plan to reach out to 25-30 TWAS members and other leaders for essays of 500-1000 words about the challenges of the next 30 years for science and engineering in the developing world. In some cases we will ask them to write about specific issues in which they are experts. In some cases we will give them the option to write whatever they wish about the future.

We would be honored if Pres. Bai would write the opening essay in this special issue.

It should be a maximum of 1500 words. It could focus on a subject of his choosing, but it seems to me that the next 30 years for TWAS would be appropriate. Perhaps this could focus on some of his immediate priorities: increasing membership in countries that aren't currently well represented (Ecuador and Bolivia, for example); increasing the number of women members; building a more robust role for TWAS Regional Offices; increasing South-North collaboration; and finding a stronger role for Young Affiliates. Perhaps also it could define a concrete mission or missions for TWAS leading to 2043. Should we be focused on all Least Developed Countries? Should we be more narrowly focused on Africa? Should we be focused on more on policy? Education? What should be the relationship between emerging nations such as China, India, and Brazil and the Least Developed Countries?

Finally, if Prof. Bai and his successors achieve great success, what will TWAS look like in 2043?

These are simply ideas. He could choose among them. He could choose one and write only about that. Or he could choose entirely new ideas. If it could be helpful, I am certainly happy to discuss this further.

**3. Book on TWAS History**

As you know, we have contracted with former TWAS PIO Danny Schaffer to assemble a book of personal essays by past and current TWAS leaders and members. Prof. Murenzi told me that Prof. Bai has agreed to write the introduction to this book.

Most of the interviews for the book are now complete. There will be 12 essays, I believe, including one by Danny on Abdus Salam; among the others are essays by Jose Vargas, CNR Rao, Jacob Palis and Mohamad Hassan. (At Prof. Bai's suggestion, we also will have an essay by Prof. Yu Lu.) These and the others represent different generations, and we have taken great care to balance the geographic representation. In addition, there will be a closing essay by a Young Affiliate from the Philippines.

All of these essays are different and they touch varied points of interest. But all have some things in common: They talk about the writer's personal experience with TWAS, and their personal memories as well as their official insights on past events. They seek to have a natural voice ­– smart, but personal and not too formal. Also, most mention general issues and challenges for TWAS's future.

Prof. Bai's essay could be about 2000-2500 words. (If he wanted it to be a little longer or shorter, that would be fine.) I think it would be good if he could combine personal memories with his vision of the future. How did he first hear of TWAS? What was his reaction on being elected in 2007? What was his earliest impression of Abdus Salam and other early TWAS leaders? How was TWAS regarded in China in that time? In his own experience, did he see TWAS having an impact in China and beyond? If yes, what sort of impact? But if TWAS was *not* having an impact, why not?

This again would be a good time to talk about specific priorities for his presidency of TWAS, and to combine that with his vision for the future. It would be a good moment to talk candidly about specific challenges. Will TWAS's role in the next 30 years be different than it has been in the first 30 years? If so, different in what ways? In what ways would it stay the same? What obstacles might we face? How would we seek to avoid them, or overcome them? What should TWAS aspire to be in 2043, at the time of its 60th anniversary?

In addition, we would like to have a few photos of Prof. Bai earlier in his career, in TWAS activities or in his own research work. We also need a current photo.

If possible, we would like to have this essay by 1 February.

If it would help you, we will send you some of the first-draft essays that we have in hand. Danny Schaffer is a great writer and editor, and so he is helping everyone to shape these in a good, consistent way. I also will be editing them after Danny is done with the first drafts.

By the way, in addition to the book, portions of all the essays and photos will be posted on a permanent TWAS.org web page. It will include a range of historical materials, including some audio recordings and a video recording of Mohamed Hassan. If you want to prepare an audio or video recording of Prof. Bai talking about his early experience and impressions of TWAS, that might be very nice. (We could receive that any time in the first half of 2014).

**4. Centres of Excellence web site**

Finally, a question: Today we talked about a possible web page on the CAS-TWAS Centres of Excellence, to be hosted by CAS, with much cross-promotion by TWAS.org. Do you think CAS will proceed with this plan?

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These projects, and all others in the times ahead, will follow a common protocol:

We will always send any publications featuring Prof. Bai to you for review before they are published. If the time comes to put the CAS-TWAS Centres of Excellence prominently on TWAS.org, we will consult with you in advance on that, too.

I want to thank you again for considering these matters, and also for your good partnership. As always, I'm glad to discuss any issues or questions that you have.

Best regards,

Ed