



# TWAS: KEY ROLE IN BEIJING DECLARATION

by Edward W. Lempinen

*International science leaders called for broad scientific cooperation for shared development in the “Belt and Road” region.*

Scientific cooperation in the “Belt and Road” region could help deliver shared development to billions of people, and TWAS joined international science leaders in endorsing plans to bring the vision to life.

At the first-ever International Science Forum of National Scientific Organizations on the Belt and Road Initiative, TWAS joined more than 20 national scientific organisations and a number of international organizations

in issuing the “Beijing Declaration”. The statement calls for improved scientific cooperation in the region, which extends from the Western Pacific across Asia to Africa and Europe.

“The Belt and Road Initiative aiming at shared development harmonizes the fundamental interests of the international community and adds a new positive force to peace and development in the world,” the declaration says. “National and regional scientific organizations, scientists and experts from different fields need to strengthen cooperation by sharing of information and joining their efforts

▼ Chinese Academy of Sciences President Bai Chunli, who also serves as TWAS president, played a leading role at the forum. [Photo: Chinese Academy of Sciences]

together in the supply of continuous and strong scientific support to the shared development and common prosperity.”

In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. Known as the Belt and Road initiative, it is a unified framework for development and cooperation in a region that touches three continents and their contiguous oceans and seas, with human population numbering in the billions.

The initiative has drawn support from over 100 countries, and already has led to establishment of the Silk Road Fund; the expansion of trade and business; the development of high-speed railways; a deepening of communication on policy and enhanced exchanges between people and cultures in the region. Projects under the initiative are expected to multiply in the years ahead.

Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) President Bai Chunli, who also serves as president of TWAS, played a leading role in the forum held 7-8 November 2016 in Beijing. Mohamed Hassan, TWAS interim executive director, and CAS Vice President Tan Tieniu, a TWAS Fellow, moderated a discussion on the role of STI in shared development.

“The Belt and Road initiative is an historic opportunity for countries to share resources, knowledge and experience in support of shared development,” Bai said. “The International Science Forum of National Scientific Organizations is a positive recognition that science, technology and innovation will be central to the success of this initiative. TWAS clearly has an important role to play, and many valuable contributions to offer.”



See the full text of the Beijing Declaration: [www.bit.do/BeijingDeclaration](http://www.bit.do/BeijingDeclaration)