

### TWOWS becomes OWSDW

The TWOWS 4th General Assembly and International Conference, held in Beijing, China, on 27-30 June this year was both a successful and spectacular event. More than 600 women scientists from 33 countries – the majority of them developing countries – attended the event. We were also pleased to host a number of VIPs such as Naledi Pandor, Minister of Science and Technology, South Africa, and Lidia Brito, director of the Division of Science Policy and Sustainable Development at UNESCO. In addition, we are also grateful to the Vice President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, for opening the conference and presenting the first ever TWOWS Awards to Young Women Scientists.

As well as the International Conference that featured some 350 presentations in 25 thematic sessions, the meeting was also notable for the discussions regarding the future of the organization. I must report that several significant changes have taken place. The first of these is perhaps the most visible – the name of our organization has changes from the Third World Organization for Women in Science (TWOWS) to the Organization for Women Scientists for the Developing World (OWSDW), which, we hope, reflects a more modern political reality.

The second major change is that we have a new executive board. As newly elected president, I thank my predecessor, Kaiser Jamil, for moving what was TWOWS forward since she took over from our founding president, Lydia Makhubu, back in 2004. I hope that I, with some familiar figures and some fresh faces on the new executive board, will continue this work and really cement OWSDW – as we are now known – as a major player on the international scene.

Other changes to OWSDW statutes and practices, agreed by the general assembly, mean that social scientists will have a greater involvement in our activities, which we hope will enhance our efforts to use science and technology in real-world development processes – and especially to improve the lives of women wherever they are. This, surely, must be our ultimate goal and I look forward to developing new programmes and projects during my term in office to tackle these challenges.

**Fang Xin, newly elected president of OWSDW**



Participants and members of the new executive board (right) at the TWOWS 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and International Conference, Beijing, China.

### New programme partners

TWAS is pleased to announce a number of new partners in the TWAS-UNESCO Associateship programme.

Through the collaboration of the Eastern Mediterranean Health Genomics and Biotechnology Network (EMGEN), which links together a number of centres of excellence in health-related fields of molecular biology, biotechnology and genomics, seven research institutions – located in Iran and Pakistan – have joined the TWAS programme, which will enhance the exchange of scientists between the participating centres. Selected 'associates' are able to make two 2-3-month visits to a partner centre in a 3-year period.

For details, see: [www.twas.org](http://www.twas.org) > Programmes > Exchange > Research Collaboration.

The International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), located in Kenya, has also joined the TWAS-UNESCO Associateship programme. In addition, TWAS and ICIPE are also offering postgraduate, postdoctoral and visiting scientist fellowships to scientists from developing countries wishing to study integrated control methodologies for crop and livestock insect pests, and insect vectors of tropical diseases. For details, see: [www.twas.org](http://www.twas.org) > Programmes > Exchange > Fellowships.

### EuroAfrica-ICT

Pre-registrations are now being accepted for the 3rd Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research, to be convened in Helsinki, Finland, on 7-8 December 2010.

The meeting is being held as part of the 2010 Euro-Africa Week on ICT Research and e-Infrastructures, and is being held in tandem with the 2010 Euro-Africa e-Infrastructures Conference, scheduled for December 9-10. Both events have also been officially declared as side events to the 3rd Africa-EU Summit, which will take place in Tripoli, Libya, on 29-30 November 2010.

Some 300 key stakeholders in the ICT field, including key figures representing the European Union, Africa Union Commission, national and international companies, academia and research institutes, NGOs, ICT project managers, etc., are expected to attend.

Additional support for the event is being provided by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland.

For additional information on the EuroAfrica-ICT project, see: [www.euroafrica-ict.org](http://www.euroafrica-ict.org).

## Young Affiliate honoured

TWAS Young Affiliate Ernesto Lupercio, Department of Mathematics, CINVESTAV, Mexico, has been awarded the Ramanujan Prize in recognition of his contributions to algebraic topology, geometry and mathematical physics, as well as for his mentoring of young researchers in Mexico. The award, funded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters in cooperation with the International Mathematical Union and the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical physics (ICTP), was presented during a special ceremony held at ICTP on 13 July. The award is named after the celebrated Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887-1919).



TWAS Young Affiliate, Ernesto Lupercio, with the Ramanujan Prize.

## Young scientists' conferences

The TWAS Regional Office for Sub-Saharan Africa (TWAS-ROSSA) is organizing a conference for young scientists (below the age of 45) on 'Exchanging Knowledge on Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerability in Africa: The Role of Networking'.

The meeting will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 26-27 February 2011. Some travel support is available. Application forms for the conference, which should be submitted electronically together with a full CV, must reach the TWAS-ROSSA office by 1 September 2010.

For additional information, see: [www.aasciences.org](http://www.aasciences.org).

TWAS has also entered into an agreement with the *Fondation Scientifique de Lyon*, France, and the *Bibliotheca Alexandrina*, Egypt – organizers of the BioVision and BioVision Alexandria conferences, respectively – that will allow up to ten young scientists selected by each of TWAS's five Regional Offices to attend BioVision and BioVision Alexandria conferences as well as associated BioVision.NXT meetings for young scientists.

Details are available from the websites of each of TWAS's Regional Offices and at: [www.biovision.org/bv2011/apply-for-biovision-nxt-2011.html](http://www.biovision.org/bv2011/apply-for-biovision-nxt-2011.html).

The deadline for submissions is 30 September 2010.

## TWOWS in Beijing

The TWOWS conference in Beijing, generously hosted and supported by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, can arguably be called the world's most colourful scientific conference. Here is a selection of images from the event.



For more information on the TWOWS event, 'Women Scientists in a Changing World', visit:

[www.twows.org](http://www.twows.org), or [www.twows.org.cn/huiyi/en/](http://www.twows.org.cn/huiyi/en/).

## TWAS on Twitter

To receive short notices and web-links of TWAS activities, visit [twitter.com/twasnews](https://twitter.com/twasnews). To date, some 200 'followers' have signed up to receive news 'tweets' from TWAS.

## TWAS contact details

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