Capacity Building in TWAS

Daniel Schaffer
Public Information Officer, TWAS

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Action by TWAS

TWAS primary objective: Promote scientific capacities and encourage the pursuit of scientific excellence in research and education in developing countries.

*TWAS Report on Building Scientific Capacity: A TWAS perspective* (2004) provides detailed account of priorities and action followed by TWAS in assisting developing countries to build their capacities in science, technology and innovation (ST&I).
Implementation Strategies

1. Training a new generation of qualified researchers in S&T-lagging countries
   - Fellowships for postgraduate and postdoctoral training, especially in basic sciences
   - 250 fellowships offered annually by Brazil, China, India and Mexico
   - 20 Fellowships per year offered to female students from Africa to study in developing countries
Implementation Strategies

2. Supporting young and active researchers in basic sciences
   - 75 competitive and merit-based research grants ($10,000 each) per year to young researchers especially from S&T-lagging countries (1800 grants offered so far)
   - Competitive grants (up to $100,000 over 3 years) to research units located in LDCs (10 research units currently supported)
   - Grants offered in basic sciences only (biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics)
   - TWAS acts as research council/foundation for S&T-lagging countries in basic sciences
Implementation Strategies

3. Linking senior scientists from S&T lagging countries to institutions of excellence in developing countries
   - UNESCO/TWAS associateship scheme involving 120 centers of excellence;
   - Travel costs covered by UNESCO/TWAS and other expenses by host institution.
Implementation Strategies

4. Linking renowned scientists from the north to institutions in S&T-lagging countries
   - ICSU/UNESCO/TWAS/UNU visiting scientist scheme
   - Programme needs revitalization to include diaspora scientists

5. Sharing innovative experiences in the successful application of S&T to real-life problems
   - Publication of success stories in critical areas such as safe drinking water, renewable energies, dry-land biodiversity and medicinal and food plants
   - Partnership with UNDP, UNESCO, WMO and UNEP.
Implementation Strategies

6. Strengthening academies of science in Africa and Islamic world

- IAP project of capacity building of academies
- Supporting networks of academies (NASAC, NASIC)
- Small grants to academies to help with basic infrastructure (computers, software, internet connectivity).