



Memorandum of Understanding

To foster the advancement of basic sciences in South American countries the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP/Trieste-Italy), a United Nations organization working under the umbrella of the United Nations Scientific and Educational Organization (UNESCO) and the Instituto de Física Teórica / Universidade Estadual Paulista (IFT-UNESP/ Sao Paulo-Brasil) will collaborate on the creation of an "ICTP-South American Institute for Fundamental Research". This collaboration will take place along the following principles:

I. Scientific Objectives

The Institute will start its operations in areas of theoretical physics which are already internationally recognized at the IFT-UNESP and, depending on the availability of funds and need, gradually expand its activities into other areas. The long-range objective is to create a number of regional scientific Centers of Excellence in the continent of America and in the countries outside US and Canada. ICTP will act as the central coordinator of such Centers.

II. Governing Body:

a) Steering Committee,

The highest Governing Organ of the Institute will be its Steering Committee whose members will consist of the key partners, policy makers and scientists, in Brasil, in the region and internationally. The number of the members of the Steering Committee will not exceed 6 and will not be less than 4. Its decisions will be mandatory upon the explicit agreement of at least 2/3 of its members.

The Steering Committee will appoint an acting director to start the process of establishing the Institute and help him/her to raise funds for its operation. The mandate of the acting Director should last up to a maximum period of three years. Within this period the Steering Committee will finalize the appointment of a more permanent Director who will be appointed for a period of 4 years that can be renewed only for an extra 4-year term. The age of the Director at the time of the appointment should not be more than 60.

The acting Director will have the right of appointing a Deputy Director for a period not exceeding his/her own term in office. The appointment should be approved by the

Steering Committee. The permanent Director will have the right of appointing his/her own Deputy Director subject to the approval of the Steering Committee.

The membership of the following organizations and government bodies in the Steering Committee will be mandatory:

- i) Representative from the Brazilian Academy of Science or the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology,
- ii) The Director of ICTP or his representative,
- iii) The Rector of UNESP or his representative,
- iv) Representative from the region outside Brazil,
- v) Representatives of other major sponsors.

The Steering Committee will decide about the major policies concerning the Institute. This consists of the funding of the Institute, selection and the appointment of its Director, the number of permanent positions (both scientific and administrative), overseeing the spending of the budget of the Institute etc.

The Steering Committee will have a Chairperson and a Coordinator. The Internal Rules and Regulations will be spelled out in a separate document.

b) Scientific Council

This Council will consist of 10 internationally well known scientists with representatives from the region. Its major duties will be to critically analyse the scientific program of the Institute prepared and proposed by its Director as well as the policy for hiring and the membership of permanent researchers and post-doctoral fellows, and suggest new ideas for the activities of the Institute. The members should be appointed for a period not longer than 4 years.

III. Staffing:

1. The Institute will have a Director and a centralized administrative and financial staff. All measures should be taken to shape the administrative body in such a way that the engagement of the scientists in non-scientific issues is minimized.

2. Scientific Staff

a) The Institute will consist of a small number of permanent scientific staff and a larger number of post-doctoral fellows who will be appointed for a period of 3-5 years. The applications for each permanent scientific position will be evaluated by an international scientific advisory committee formed by the Director of the Institute upon consultation with the permanent scientific staff members. The short list of the top qualified candidates for the post will be communicated to the Director by the chairman of the advisory committee.

b) A number of visiting scholars from Brazil and member countries will be part of the scientific staff of the Institute.

c) It is foreseen that graduate students, post doctoral fellows and active researchers from Brazil and the region will visit the Center regularly for short or long periods of time.

IV. Level and the modality of the activities of the Institute:

The Institute will be involved with training and research at graduate and post-doctoral levels. In particular it will support research in those South American countries where research in theoretical physics is not yet well developed.

In short the activities of the Institute will be modelled on those of ICTP, i.e. annual organization of Schools, Courses, Workshops and Conferences in areas of competence of the Institute combined with an active visiting program.

V. The Role of ICTP

1. ICTP will participate in a decision-making capacity in the creation and operations of the Institute. Its Director or his representative will be a member of the Steering Committee of the Institute with rights equal to other partners. ICTP will also have a representative in the Scientific Council of the Institute.

2. ICTP will provide an International umbrella for the operations of the Institute as long as its policies and the quality of its programs are compatible with the mandate of the ICTP. In particular, at least in initial stages of operations of the Institute, ICTP will co-operate in fund raising, the organization of activities at all levels and sponsoring of the visitors from the least developed countries of the region. The details of the modality of the ICTP support will be given in a separate document.

VI. The role of UNESP



The determination of the practical needs of the Institute will be an ongoing process and will be detailed in separate documents. In order to start its function the following scientific and administrative staff will be crucial:

1. During the first 5 years of the Institute, UNESP will hire at least 5 new researchers at the highest appropriate level;
2. UNESP will provide one bilingual secretary, one computer technician and one accountant for the Institute.
3. IFT-UNESP will provide the necessary infrastructure for the activities of the Institute.

This MoU will be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of its signing, with the possibility of renewal with the consent of all parties. Each party can withdraw from it with an advanced notice of 6 months.

Signatories:

Fernando Quevedo
Director of ICTP

Date... Nov 8 2010

Seifallah Randjbar-Daemi
Assistant Director of ICTP

Date... 08 Nov 2010

Rogerio Rosenfeld
Director of IFT/UNESP

Date... 08/11/2010

Herman Voorwald
Rector of UNESP

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