

Scientific diplomacy, over 300 alumni at the TWAS workshop in Trieste

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Zeno Saracino



22.06.2023 – 10.55 – The 10th [AAAS-TWAS](#) Workshop on Science and Diplomacy has been underway for two days in Trieste . The event also celebrates the successful first decade of Science and Diplomacy initiatives that TWAS initiated with the collaboration of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and with the support of the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation (Sida).

To date, in fact, there are **344** alumni trained in the various Workshops, who are actively engaged in the implementation of science-based policies, and in the dissemination of knowledge and good practices related to scientific **diplomacy** in developing countries.

The initiative has the support of the Meloni Government, through the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation** . **At the opening of the event, Giuseppe Pastorelli** , Deputy Director General/Central Director for integrated promotion and innovation within the Directorate General for the promotion of the country system, intervened with a well-wishing video message . “Scientific diplomacy is a key pillar of Italy's foreign policy, for several reasons: science is a vehicle for peace, development and economic growth,” Pastorelli said.

“Science brings peace because it strengthens dialogue thanks to a universal language. In international relations it is a fundamental tool when all other forms of confrontation are ineffective in removing obstacles. Furthermore, Pastorelli explained again, citing CERN in Geneva and the International Space Station as examples, science builds trust and creates a convergence of interests. “Italy is proud of TWAS,” he concluded.

Quarraisha Abdool Karim, new President of **TWAS**, recalled why it is important to know Scientific Diplomacy and what is the added value of the Academy workshop based in Trieste. Addressing the participants you underlined: “For the first time a scientist has the opportunity to work side by side with a diplomat, and to learn. During this event it will be possible to lay the foundations for creating lasting partnerships. Each participant can become an ambassador to their own country, and inform policy makers of how science is used to produce knowledge and well-being”.

During the first day, the participants started working in tandem, addressing issues that require the intervention of a scientist able to understand the technical aspects of the issues, and a diplomat for managing relations and for mediation. In these role-playing games, everyone made a point of presenting their point of view while trying to mediate potential disagreements with other stakeholders. Three macro areas were chosen for group work: the problem of sharing water resources also in light of the presence of dams, poaching and biodiversity at risk, and global warming.

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