

PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

To: Mr. Ronald Lehman II
Chairman of the ISTC Governing Board

To: Mr. Adriaan van der Meer
ISTC Executive Director

The years following the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States have not been easy. All spheres of our life, including science, have been changed completely. The problems related to post-Soviet life were numerous: the closing of research institutes, requalification of scientists, brain drain and halt of works in basic sciences were felt heavily by the scientific community. The task-oriented financial assistance of the ISTC was timely and became an important source to support Armenian scientific organizations. The funds provided by the ISTC played a positive role. Armenia managed to preserve major part of its scientific potential. Progressive ideas and technologies came to the Republic thanks to the assistance of partners and collaborators. Different activities such as meetings with foreign colleagues in Armenia, travels to international science forums, specialized conferences supported by the ISTC, contributed to strengthening positions of scientists engaged in basic sciences.

In recent years, the State has come to play a more important role in science and economy leading to further improvement. A vivid example the State's involvement is the signature of a Memorandum of understanding on co-funding of science projects submitted by our country. I think that soon we will be able to notice positive results.

Hope of continued active cooperation between Armenian scientists and ISTC stems from the fact that in spite of financial difficulties worldwide the Center continues its noble mission and supports CIS countries members of the Agreement.

Of course new times and new circumstances dictate new policies. In this regard, the new focus of ISTC and donor-countries towards commercialization of scientific activities and self sustainability of institutes are highly welcomed/appreciated. Scientific institutions should learn to support themselves at the expense of their applied developments. It is an imperative of our era.

On this special day I would like to congratulate on the 15th Anniversary all of those connected to this important and honorable mission focused on integration of former weapons scientists of the CIS into the global scientific community. A lot has been done in the last 15 years, but more is still to be done.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Armenia let me assure you that our Republic has always been and will remain a supporter of the fundamental ideas underlying ISTC's activities, and will in every possible way support ISTC's initiatives.

My heartfelt congratulations on this Jubilee and best wishes for future successful activities.

Tigran Sarkisyan
Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia