

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Erio Tosatti, physicist at SISSA and ICTP, appointed national member of the Accademia dei Lincei and foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences**

**Tosatti's high-calibre scientific and diplomatic achievements have received international recognition. Thanks to him the first Chinese researchers in Trieste arrived in the 1980s**



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Erio Tosatti, professor Emeritus of SISSA (Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati) and coordinator of scientific programs at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), has received recognition of his expertise from two prestigious science academies. Shortly after the election of the scientist as a national member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, the news of his appointment as foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences arrived.



Tosatti and other new members of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei were honoured at an inauguration ceremony that took place on 8 November. "It is a great honour because the Lincei members are truly outstanding. Accademia President Giorgio Parisi is reconciling the tradition of the most ancient academy of sciences with the need to rejuvenate the procedures and aims. I really hope it will be an opportunity to establish a more fruitful dialogue with the government and society," said Tosatti, a former Lincei correspondent.

Tosatti was elected as a national member of the Class of Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences following a complex evaluation process. An outcome that, with the words used by Parisi in communicating the news, "on the one hand confirms the scientific esteem for the partner and on the other expresses the conviction that the same takes on our association the shared responsibility to combine tradition and innovation."

Tosatti's fame and commitment have gone well beyond national borders, as demonstrated by his recent appointment as a foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), which crowns a relationship of mutual esteem and collaboration. "In 1979, we welcomed the first Chinese delegation to ICTP," says the physicist. "Since then we have had many Chinese students and researchers, thanks also to the great help of Chinese physicist Yu Lu, both at SISSA and at ICTP. First they were mainly physicists, now neuroscientists prevail."

"This title is purely honorary, but enjoys considerable prestige. Since its creation, the Chinese Academy of Sciences has been the real seat of the scientific and technological authority of that immense country and has a direct connection with the government. Its national members are very influential and respected," says Tosatti, who adds with a smile, "Their photos are exhibited in all the scientific institutes from which they come, and not only - as saints in Paradise, an Italian would say."

Next June, Tosatti will take part in the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Beijing to receive the title officially. "China has tremendous, formidable, human and scientific potential. I am always keen to visit to spend time with the students of those who have been my students in Trieste," says the physicist, who concludes, "I hope that being a member of the CAS will allow us to facilitate the implementation of joint projects."

As evidence of his diplomatic role, Tosatti will welcome the visit at ICTP of the grandson and daughter of Professor Lung Chi Wei, one of the members of the first Chinese delegation, as well as a collaborator and member of the Advisory Committee of the condensed matter group at the physics centre in the 1980s.

### **Erio Tosatti**

Originally from Modena, then Pisa and Rome, Erio Tosatti moved to Trieste in 1977, at the invitation of Abdus Salam and Paolo Budinich. In that year he was co-founder of the ICTP Condensed Matter Group and three years later founder of



The Abdus Salam  
**International Centre  
for Theoretical Physics**



the SISSA Condensed States Theory Sector, which he later directed for 27 years (from 1980 to 2007). He has held various positions, including that of Interim Director of ICTP (from 2002 to 2003). He is currently Professor Emeritus at SISSA and Coordinator of ICTP Scientific Programs. He has received numerous awards, such as the Enrico Fermi Prize of the Italian Physical Society (2018). Other honors include the prestigious Tate Medal of the American Institute of Physics (2005), also obtained by Abdus Salam, and his election as a foreign associate of the United States National Academy of Sciences (2011).

### **The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei**

The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, the oldest academy of sciences in the world, was founded in Rome in 1603 by the botanist Federico Cesi with the aim of promoting, coordinating, integrating and spreading scientific knowledge in its highest expressions within the framework of unity and the universality of culture. Since July 1992 it is the scientific and cultural consultant of the President of the Republic. It consists of two Classes for a total of 540 academics: the Class of Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences and the Class of Moral, Historical and Philological Sciences. Each class includes 90 "national" ordinary members, 90 "foreign" ordinary members and 90 "corresponding" members. Among its first members is Galileo Galilei.

### **The Chinese Academy of Sciences**

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) is the world's largest research organisation, comprising around 60,000 researchers working in 114 institutes. It also comprises three Universities as well as a traditional merit-based Academy. The latter consists of about 800 national members of great influence and prestige, plus about 100 foreign members (one of which, the only Italian, is now Tosatti). The CAS functions as China's scientific think, providing advisory and appraisal services on issues ranging from the national economy, social development, and science and technology progress.

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#### **IMAGE**

Credits: Alida Cartagine

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