



Brazilian Academy of Sciences

A BRIEF NOTE



Message from the President

The Brazilian Academy of Sciences (BAS) will soon be 100 years old. These years witnessed an enormous advance in Science, Technology and Innovation in the World as well as in Brazil.

I am happy to say that, the Academy has decisively contributed to the main events that made Brazil one of the most productive nations that participate in the scientific development of our globalized world. Among them, the creation of our National Research Council and, more recently, the creation of the Sectorial Funds that substantially changed the Brazilian System of Science, Technology and Innovation (STNI) through quite innovative financial instruments.

In the international landscape BAS became a very significant player taking part in the main international scientific fora such as the Network of Science Academies (IAP), the Inter-Academy Council (IAC), the STS Forum, the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS), the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Science Forum (WSF).

Altogether, our Academy is deeply committed not only with the development of Science, Technology and Innovation in Brazil but also with the strengthening of a global knowledge-based society. In both cases the Academy is committed with the sustainable development of the planet, with social inclusion and with the

eradication of poverty and hunger, thus contributing for a better quality of life for all.

It is worth mentioning that recently the Academy adopted a proactive posture seeking to provide solutions to important problems and aiming to contribute effectively to the design of public policies geared to improve the quality of life in Brazil. These actions are conducted by study groups composed by Academicians and by recognized outstanding specialists whenever needed.

These contributions address main issues in different strategic areas, reflecting the position of the scientific community related to the process of sustainable development in its three pillars: economic growth, social inclusion and preservation of the environment. The results have been most appreciated by our society and, we hope, it might be of interest to the world as well.

With this booklet we provide a glimpse of our Academy's multiple activities, both at local and global scenarios.

The Academy is committed with the sustainable development of the planet, with social inclusion and with the eradication of poverty and hunger

Jacob Palis

A Brief History

BAS was founded in May, 1916, in Rio de Janeiro, then the capital of the Federal Republic. It was named Brazilian Society for Sciences and comprised three sections (Mathematics, Physical-Chemical Sciences and Biological Sciences).

The main objectives of the Society were to encourage its members to pursue scientific research and to diffuse the notion of science as a factor promoting prosperity and the development of the Country. Although support and aid from the government were expected, the Academy was structured as a private, legally independent organization, responsible to appoint its own administrative officers and to draw up its own rules.

It is possible to say that the history of the Academy can be divided in three periods: from the foundation to 1951 when the landmark was the publication of a regular scientific periodical (Anais da Academia Brasileira de Ciências) that exists until today. The second period was marked by the role of Academy in influencing the federal government to create an institutional framework to support scientific activities, in disseminating scientific education and recognizing out-

standing scientists in the Brazilian incipient scientific community. The third period, which started in the early 70's, was marked by the increasing recognition by the Brazilian government and so-

ciety of the importance of BAS, as a unique think tank, where new ideas could appear and which human capital was fundamental to the Country's social economic development.

PAST

First headquarter



FUTURE

New building



Picture of the first headquarter and the new building BAS will soon occupy



The BAS today

Mission

The mission of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences - BAS is to promote Science, Technology and Innovation in the Country through the recognition of merit of top Brazilian researchers, as well as through the enhancement of scientific activities in all the fields of knowledge.

Recently the Academy adopted a proactive posture seeking to provide solutions to important problems that affect Brazilian society, aiming to effectively contribute to the establishment of knowledge based on national public policies. These contributions derived from specific approaches of different strategic areas based on scientific evidence and on sound methods, thus reflecting the position of our scientific community related to the process of sustainable development.

*Universal health care,
water resources and
nanotechnology are
some of the present
concerns of BAS*



Membership and Organization



BAS congregates scientists in ten areas: Physical Sciences, Mathematics, Chemical Sciences, Earth Sciences, Biological Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Health Sciences, Engineering Sciences and Social Sciences.



Santos Dumont (previous page), Albert Einstein, Marie Curie and Carlos Chagas were distinguished members of BAS. On the opposite page the BAS Year Book

Full Members are elected by their own colleagues in one of the specialized areas. Each year Full Members are invited to propose candidates for election as Full and Corresponding Members. New members are annually elected by the General Assembly, which is the supreme body of the Academy, taking into account the recommendations of the Selection Committee. Among the most prestigious national members we may mention Oswaldo Cruz, Carlos Chagas, Santos Dumont and other personalities.

Other categories of the membership are: Corresponding Members, foreign scientists who have effectively contributed to the development of Science in Brazil, such as Marie Curie, Albert Einstein, Rita Montalccini, Guglielmo Marconi Daniel Bovet, Jacques-Louis Lions and Bernardo Houssay as well as Collaborating Mem-

bers, persons who have rendered conspicuous services to the cause of National Science. Another category is Corporate Members, created for enterprises involved with the Academy activities. Finally a newly established category - Affiliate Members – was created to incorporate in the membership talented young scientists of the different regions of the Country, appointed by the Regional Vice Presidents, and elected for a period of five years non renewable.

The Academy is led by a Board of Directors composed by a President, the Vice-President, five directors and six Regional Vice Presidents. The Board is elected every three years with reelection being allowed. Aside from the Board of Directors the institution has two others institutional instances: the Audit Council, elected for a three years term and the Advisory Council formed by 25 members.

The BAS headquarter is located downtown Rio de Janeiro and will soon occupy a beautiful Eclectic style building.

Rio de Janeiro is home of some of the most important Science, Technology and Innovation Institutions in Brazil.



National & Regional Activities and Programs

The most important event of the BAS' calendar is the Magna Meeting, which is convened every May associated to the induction of the new members. In this occasion the Academy promotes a three days scientific seminar with multidisciplinary and comprehensive themes.

This event is an excellent opportunity for the interaction among all members and for their dialogue with authorities and the high level representatives from the private sector as well as representatives of the scientific and techno-

logical realm. The annual attendance of the meeting is of circa 600 participants. Another regular annual meeting is the conference "Progress and Prospects of Science in Brazil, Latin America and the Caribbean.

In order to contribute for the sustainable development of the Country, BAS created several study groups that are related to the most important issues for our Society. The present study groups may be classified according to the following areas: Environment, Health, Education and New Technologies.

In the environmental area the recent study groups are: Amazon, Water Resources and Global Change. In the field of Health, BAS study groups not only tackled peculiar problems of the developing world, such as neglected diseases, but also addressed issues that are present all over the world, like chrono-degenerative diseases. Concerning Education, the present study groups and programs are related not only with Science Education but deals with other general issues of the Brazilian educational system, covering from early childhood learning processes to graduate courses structures. The Academy is also concerned with questions related to new technologies and the frontiers of science. Presently there are study groups in the areas of Biofuels, Nanomaterials and Information and Communication Technologies.

The annual attendance of the BAS Magna Meeting is of circa 600 participants



Progress and Prospects of Science in Brazil, Latin America and the Caribbean and Prof. Yuan T. Lee in our Magna Conference's poster



Prof. Goldemberg receiving a prize from the hands of the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Singh and below Prof. Palis representing the BAS at the STS Forum



BAS being represented in International Fora

International Relations



BAS is an active participant in some central international organization in the area of Science and Technology. It is the National Representative at the International Council for Science (ICSU) and a member of the World Science Forum (WSF) Steering Committee.

The Brazilian Academy was one of the sponsors of the creation of one of the most prestigious international organizations involving Science Academies: IAP (the Global Network of Science Academies) and its subsidiary bodies: IAC (International Council for Sciences) and IAMP (Interacademy Medical Panel).

Our Academy also participates in the panel of Academies that plays the role of an advisory group for the G8+5 head of states annual

meeting, along with the Academies of China, India, Mexico and South Africa.

Apart from the institutional participation in the above mentioned organizations, members of the Academy are quite active in the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) and the Science and Technology for Society Forum (STS). At the Regional level BAS is part of Interamerican Network of Science Academies (IANAS) and hosts the Regional office of TWAS.



Publications and Communication

The Academy has a refereed journal published since 1929 without interruptions - Anais da Academia Brasileira de Ciências - and a journal dedicated to Antarctic research: Pesquisa Antartica Brasileira.



The Academy publishes also a series named Science and Technology for the National Development: Strategic Studies that disseminates the results of the work of the Study Groups.

The Academy also publicizes its activities through an electronic weekly newsletter.



In the homepage of the Academy the contributions of speakers or participants in all meetings are available.

Neglected Diseases, Early Childhood Education, Amazon and Basic Education in Science

National Science and Technology Prize: Álvaro Alberto medal, L'Oréal Grant for Women in Science Prize and The Ernesto Illy Trieste Science Prize



Awards & Medals

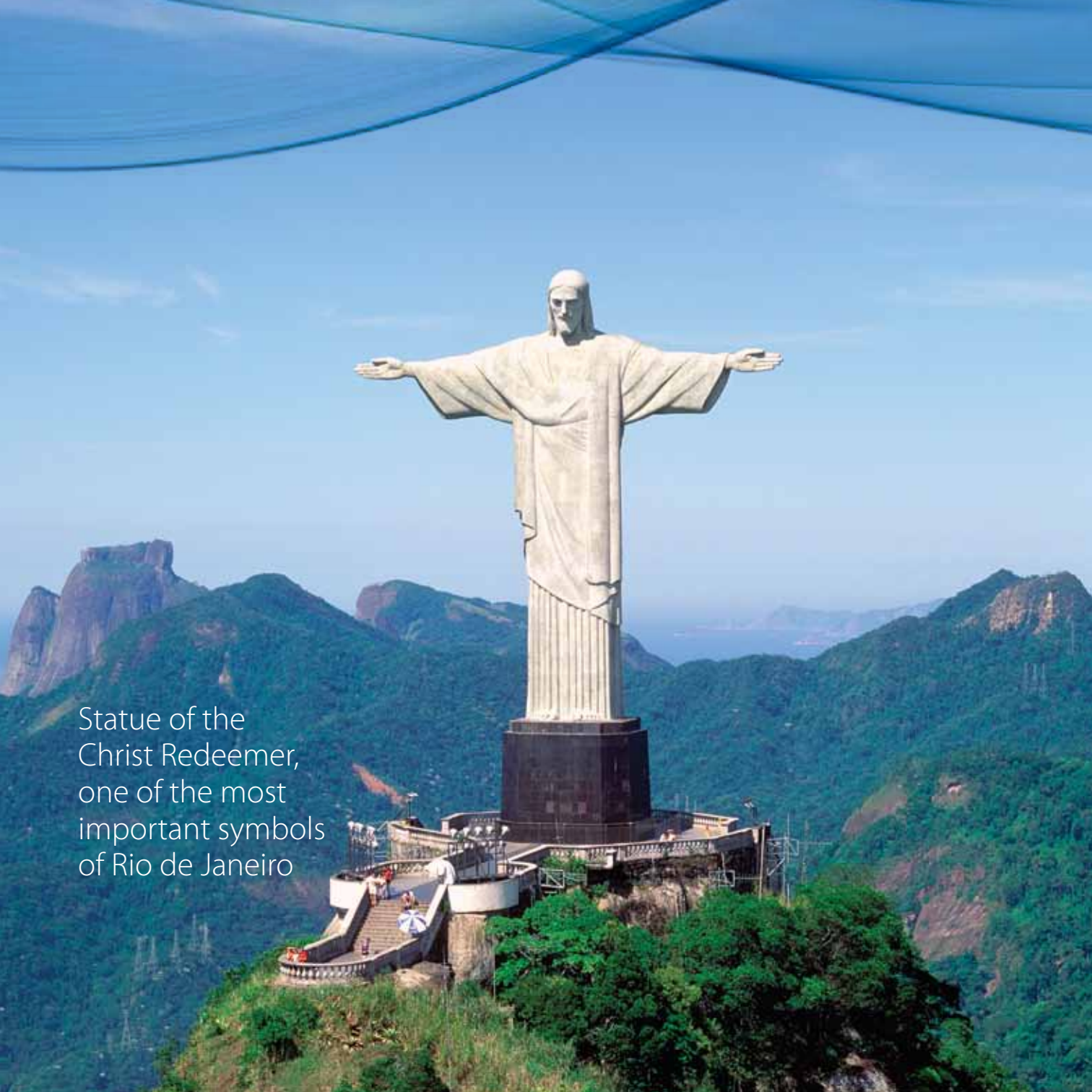
BAS is one of the sponsors of some significant prizes in environmental and gender related issues such as The Ruschi Prize for Ecology and the L'Oréal Grant for Women in Science , respectively.



The Brazilian Academy of Sciences also participates in the jury of important national Science prizes like the National Medal of Science & Technology (Alvaro Alberto), the Moinho Santista Prize and the

Conrad Wessel Foundation Award. At the international level, the Academy nominates Brazilian scientists for many remarkable scientific prizes, such as Mexico Prize, TWAS Prize and Ernesto Illy Prize.





Statue of the Christ Redeemer, one of the most important symbols of Rio de Janeiro

World Science Forum 2013

BAS welcomes you in November 2013

Together with other emerging countries, Science in Brazil has experienced great progress in recent years. At the same time, the Brazilian Academy of Sciences has been playing an important role in the international scenario, for the past few years and with a strong support from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, representing with great emphasis Brazilian science in the main scientific organizations and forums.

Due to these positive achievements, BAS has been chosen by the Hungarian Government, through the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, to host the next World Science Forum, to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2013.

The BAS concentrates the most talented scientists in the country and therefore, has a very unique ability to mobilize exceptional researchers in the most various areas of knowledge, reason the Academy has been appointed to contribute and coordinate the efforts in promoting the World Science Forum 2013.

It has been an honor and a privilege for the Brazilian Government and for the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, to have been chosen to host, for the first time, the World Science Forum in a country other than Hungary. BAS looks forward to work along with the Hungarian Government and deliver a successful meeting, such as the Hungarian Academy of Sciences has been doing for the last eight years.

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