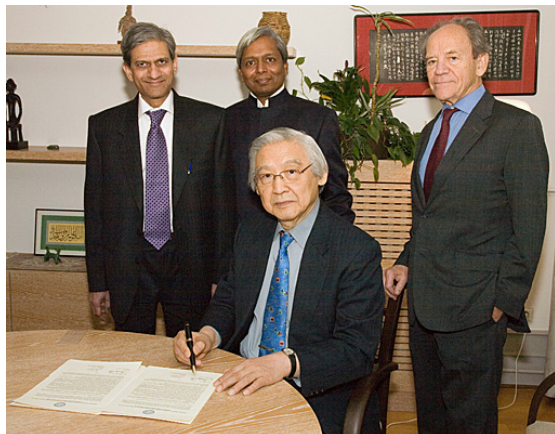


HFSP Press Release
Strasbourg, December 11th, 2006

India joins Human Frontier Science Program Organization



From left to right: Prof. A. Surolia (New Delhi), Prof. K. VijayRaghavan (Bangalore), Prof. Masao Ito (seated: President HFSP), Prof. Torsten Wiesel (Secretary General, HFSP) on signing the Memorandum of Understanding, Strasbourg, December 4th 2006.

The Human Frontier Science Program Organization (HFSP) welcomes India as a new contributing country to the Program. Membership was confirmed at the HFSP Board of Trustees meeting on December 4th with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the HFSP and the Indian government. HFSP President, Professor Masao Ito comments “We are delighted that India is now a member of HFSP. Indian scientists have already participated successfully in the grant and fellowship programs and it is excellent that India can now take an active role in the development of the Program. This is an important recognition of the strength of Indian science and the strong commitment of the Indian government to

support frontier basic research”. Professor Torsten Wiesel, Secretary General of HFSP and Nobel Laureate adds “The membership of India brings a new dimension to the global nature of the HFSP. The Program has expanded considerably in the last two years with the accession of Australia, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea and Indian membership substantially increases the strength of the HFSP in Asia. The strong tradition of Indian science in fields of research both within and outside biology ensures that Indian scientists will make a major contribution to the interdisciplinary science supported by the Program.”

Scientists from India will be able to take part fully in the coming research grant award cycle (application deadline April 3rd 2007) as Principal Investigators and are encouraged to take advantage of their new status to initiate international, interdisciplinary collaborations.

The Human Frontier Science Program Organization was founded in 1989 to support international research and training at the frontier of the life sciences. Until now it has been supported by contributions from the G7 nations, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and the European Union. With its collaborative research grants and postdoctoral fellowship programs it has supported almost 5000 scientists



Torsten Wiesel welcomes the new Indian Board members

from 64 countries over the last 16 years. The HFSPO supports research at the interface between life sciences and the physical sciences and places special emphasis on creating opportunities for young scientists.

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