***Lecture by Dr. Pavel Kabat, IIASA´s General Director, during the 45th CONACYT Anniversary and the inauguration of Eugenio Méndez Docurro Auditorium***

Dr. Enrique Cabrero Mendoza[[1]](#footnote-1)\*

Good morning to everyone.

I give my warmest welcome to all of you. I am very pleased with your presence in this event that we have organized as part of the celebrations of the 45 Anniversary of the National Board of Science and Technology.

Specially, I am grateful for the presence of Dr. Pavel Kabat, General Director of the International Institution of Systems Analysis, IIASA, who will honor us with his lecture in our big celebration.

It is a great way to highlight four decades of propelling science and technology. This summarizes the desire of CONACYT of celebrating knowledge with knowledge.

I also thank all the delegations of researchers from IIASA that are here with Dr. Kabat, especially for sharing their experience throughout these days with the Mexican scientific and technological community.

Today we have invited the scientific community, students, special guests and people who are interested in research regarding complex and mutual problems with other countries. Thank you all for being here with us.

Finally, I would like to thank my comrades that have participated during these months of cooperation with IIASA. Thank you for the work that has made this collaboration possible.

Today we also inaugurate this facility.

This new auditorium makes honor to a visionary and a key figure in the Mexican history of science and technology, the founding director of the National Board of Science and Technology: Eugenio Méndez Docurro.

Eugenio surrounded himself with collaborators and advisors as prominent and enthusiastic as him. Before the creation of CONACYT, he had already made the first steps to institutionalize science and technology in Mexico, to give them order and structure and to join isolated efforts.

Long before he had identified the need for Mexico to attain influence in strategic areas and accelerate the formation of highly qualified personnel for science, technology and innovation.

Finally, all of his efforts led to the creation of CONACYT in 1970, since then, this public organization is in charge of designing and implementing the science and technology policy in Mexico.

Eugenio passed away recently, but from here we send him our honors and our most honest gratitude. (Applauses)

Ladies and Gentleman,

The visit of Dr. Kabat, which finishes with this event, is the result of several months of hard work of CONACYT and INEGI to incorporate Mexico as a member country of IIASA and to define a common agenda in the future.

IIASA is an institution whose objective is to produce scientific research useful for the design of public policies that help solve global problems and improve social welfare.

This institution has a remarkable staff of more than 300 researchers from diverse disciplines coming from 45 countries. Mexico is the second Latin American country to join this global research elite.

What characterizes IIASA is that it is gathered and directed towards relevant topics that have multinational impact and affect a group of countries. This allows us to open new doors to the exchange of experiences and experts, the realization of joint projects and the formation of human capital.

IIASA is a leading institution in the production of scientific evidence, in the generation of recommendations for public policies in areas such as energy, demography, sustainable development, water and prevention of natural disasters, to name a few.

Right now, we are defining the topics that are important for Mexico and shared with IIASA. We coincide in many issues that have been identified as crucial for our country.

In Mexico, more than ever before, we are aware of the urgent necessity of entering the knowledge society. History has demonstrated that science, technology and innovation are the driving forces that propel societies in their road to economic development and prosperity.

Also, countries that have bet for scientific and technological progress, and that have directed their efforts to promote investigation and innovation, are the ones that today offer higher levels of welfare to their population.

Throughout these 45 years, CONACYT has contributed to the creation of a solid base of scientific infrastructure, highly skilled human capital and to the construction of scientific and technological capacities that will prepare Mexico to give that big step.

During this government, we have assumed the commitment to strengthening these foundations and accelerate the transition towards a knowledge society and economy.

Because of this, the government of Enrique Peña Nieto has made an effort to increase the investment in science, technology and innovation in an unprecedented way. The Federal government had never before directed so many resources to this sector. The budget for this sector has increased by about 28 percent in real terms and 47 percent in nominal terms in only three years.

We have created and strengthened those programs that have had been more efficient in propelling the scientific and technological development from the country for more than four decades.

More than 328 thousand scholarships for postgraduate studies have been granted in the 44 years of existence of the scholarship program; we have over 25 thousand recognized members that are supported by the National System of Researchers; and, we have spent 40 billion pesos in public and private investment for the development of innovation programs.

More recently, CONACYT created and opened to public competition 800 positions for young researchers. This promotes research on specific projects in priority topics.

There have been calls oriented to propose solutions to national problems. We have invested an historical amount on infrastructure. We are also reorganizing the System of CONACYT Centers with the purpose of propelling regional development and increasing the scientific, technological and innovation capacities of the states that are lagging behind.

These are just some of the benefits that have resulted from these 45 years. We are now moving with the big changes that the world has experienced that have made knowledge and progress a core paradigm for the nations.

The scientists and technologist set the tone in this road towards the knowledge society and economy. Therefore, it is of great importance to have Dr. Kabat and IIASA as allies of Mexico.

Thank you very much.

1. \*Speech given by Dr. Enrique Cabrero Mendoza. Pavel Kabat´s Lecture on the 45th CONACYT Anniversary. Auditorium Eugenio Méndez Docurro. Mexico City, Wednesday, November 4th., 2015 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)