

# Physics for a better world

An introduction to IOP's  
international programmes



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# The Institute of Physics

**The Institute of Physics (IOP) is a scientific charity devoted to increasing the practice, understanding and application of physics. It has a worldwide membership of over 36 000 and is a leading communicator of physics-related science to all audiences, from specialists through to government and the general public. Its publishing company, IOP Publishing, is a world leader in scientific publishing and the electronic dissemination of physics.**

This leaflet is an introduction to IOP's international activities, in particular our Physics for Development programme and our new offer of free or concessionary membership to physicists in the developing world. We welcome all enquiries about membership. We also welcome all offers of support, whether from volunteers or funding agencies, for the development projects that we undertake.



## IOP's international activities



**IOP Publishing disseminates scientific research world-wide. Its journals are read in more than 180 countries and an even wider audience is reached through web-based publications. Free or low-cost access is provided to many developing nations.**

IOP membership includes some 6 000 physicists who are resident outside the UK and Ireland. IOP offers free or concessionary digital membership to physicists from developing countries.

IOP subscribes to international organisations, including the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics and the European Physical Society, and it supports their activities.

We have bilateral joint agreements with more than 30 national physical societies, providing a variety of benefits such as discounts on joint membership and attendance at conferences, joint awards, and exchange lecture tours.

IOP publishes an international newsletter to update our international partners and colleagues on relevant issues. It also hosts international web pages at **[www.iop.org/activity/international](http://www.iop.org/activity/international)**

Our Physics for Development programme seeks to further the economic and social benefits that physics can deliver, and to promote educational opportunities, in the developing world.

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# The Physics for Development programme



**The Physics for Development programme focuses on two main areas where IOP has capabilities in terms of resources and expertise:**

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## Promoting entrepreneurial skills

Economic development was assessed as a priority by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics in 2005. Since then, IOP has led a programme of workshops in entrepreneurial skills, which are designed to give physicists and engineers from developing countries the skills that they need to bring their innovations to the marketplace.

Some 140 participants from over 30 countries have already attended two workshops, held at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste. A further two events, in Brazil and South Africa, are planned for 2009, and an entrepreneurship curriculum has been developed to equip workshop participants to teach the same skills to students in their home institutions.

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## Supporting physics education

A complete lack of experimental equipment has been identified as a major problem for physics teachers in Rwandan schools. Funded by IOP, volunteer physics teacher David Richardson started a project in 2005 with the donation of equipment to one school in Kigali.

Three years on, a local workshop is building equipment and training teachers to use it in other schools in the area. A similar project is being rolled out in Ethiopia, with endorsement from the government in Addis Ababa, and plans are in place to extend the programme to Malawi and Ghana when funding permits.

IOP also supports the UNESCO-sponsored SESAME project (a synchrotron light source in Amman, Jordan) which brings together research scientists from across the Middle East for scientific collaboration.

We work with partners wherever possible to maximise the resources available, and to ensure that projects are managed by local people who understand the needs and operating conditions in the countries where they are based.

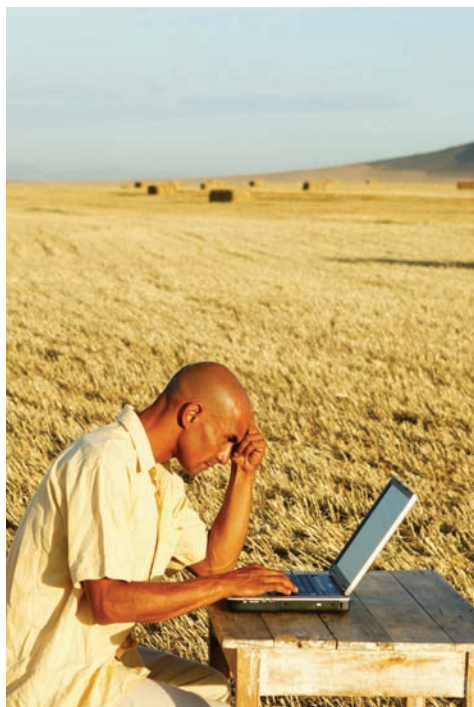
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# Becoming an electronic affiliate of IOP

**Electronic affiliate members enjoy a wide range of services delivered by the IOP through its various web sites and a wealth of opportunities to engage with other physicists around the world through the on-line members' network.**

IOP electronic affiliate membership allows you to keep up with developments in the world of physics through our websites and digital access magazines.

Working with national physical societies where these exist, electronic affiliate membership is another way to enhance the support their members gain.



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## Your membership benefits

As an electronic affiliate member, you can have access to all of IOP's services that are delivered electronically through the web. You can:

### Stay connected

- have access to MyIOP, our online members network, giving you the opportunity to create your own profile page, interact with other members, blog, post photos, join groups, read news and hear about events;
- get online access to the digital version of our popular magazine *Physics World*, giving you all the latest news about cutting-edge physics research and developments, as well as the opportunity to download the PDF version of our members' newspaper *Interactions*;
- create your own physmail address@physics.org, including a forwarding service and 50MB of storage;
- enjoy contact with a large number of specialist groups covering many areas of physics, each with its own events and news;
- maintain your own member account through MyIOP.

### Plan your future

- benefit from resources such as tips for interviews and how to prepare your CV;
- receive special member rates for professional, online courses;
- attend conferences staged regularly throughout the UK at member rates;
- gain access to professional help-sheets on a variety of topics, from our website or by e-mail.

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# To apply for electronic membership

Electronic affiliate membership is offered either entirely free to countries on the World Bank's list of **low income economies**, or for £10 per year to those in **middle income economies**.

You can apply directly online. Go to **<http://members.iop.org/onlinemembership.asp>** and select the form for international members. Please be sure to read all the information about this class of membership before applying.

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**For more information about any of IOP's international activities, contact**

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