
TRIESTE

Funding crisis

As the CERN Courier went to press, the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste was going through a painful funding crisis.

Set up in 1964 by Abdus Salam under the auspices of UNESCO and the International Atomic Energy Agency, ICTP has in recent years been mainly funded through the generosity of the Italian Government.

While awaiting confirmation of similarly generous long-term Italian support to last until the end of 1998, the rollover of the interim funding ran into difficulties. An altruistic and timely interest-free loan from the Islamic Republic of Iran will help tide things over.

ICTP is a focus for scientists from developing countries, and has established itself as a major world research centre in its own right. At the beginning of November, a Trieste plea for support drew overwhelming response from scientists and ICTP admirers throughout the world.

Hopefully the interim funding hiatus will be speedily resolved.