

The President of the Polish Academy of Sciences



Science – A Great Challenge

While taking the honorable position of President of the Polish Academy of Sciences, I remain keenly aware that this institution bears significant responsibility for the condition of research in Poland. Together with Poland's other research institutions, the

Academy presently faces some extraordinary challenges. These challenges are greater than ever before, and more profound than the general public seems to realize. The vigorous advance of civilization and robust worldwide economic changes – together yielding brand-new

development opportunities while at the same time evoking serious social tension and conflict - are nowadays making scientific inquiry all the more pertinent and crucial.

The motivating factor which underpins all of science - i.e. satisfying the natural human inquisitiveness to find rational answers to questions about ourselves and the surrounding world - of course remains the fundamental driving force for most research endeavors. Nonetheless, the myriad problems surrounding us, both local and global, impose additional duties upon contemporary science. Researchers nowadays have an obligation to keep their work's impact on the world's future firmly in mind.

Who else, after all, can best find solutions to the pervasive energy problems now waiting just around the corner; who else can help us to come to grips with the hard-to-anticipate social consequences of the rapid rise of IT technologies? Who else can best resolve how to protect our natural environment, how to cope with conflicts engendered

within multicultural societies, and how to preserve and cherish our local traditions as the world grows increasingly globalized? There are hundreds of such questions, answers to which can only be sought through broad scientific inquiry.

Understanding modern science represents a first step towards recognizing its import. Therefore, consistent and convincing efforts to highlight the significance of ongoing research and to shed light on problems urgently in need of study have to become a constant element of communication with the wider public. The key to success in this great cause of promulgating scientific awareness is maintaining a language of debate tailored to the intended audience. That is why I take great satisfaction in noting how "Academia" - a top-notch quarterly showcasing the most intriguing achievements of Polish Academy of Sciences research institutes - has achieved such a high standing within such a relatively short period. I have no doubt that "Academia's" role will quickly increase, and I pledge to provide extensive assistance in this regard.



Prof. MICHAŁ KLEIBER
President of the Polish Academy of Sciences