



July 13, 2009

To whom it may Concern:

I am gravely concerned about the plans to cut the funding of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic by more than half over the next three years. If realized, such severe cuts may endanger the very existence of one of the pillars of Czech science and research.

Important results have been obtained by this institution and further achievements can be expected as there are many world-class scientists in the Academy. In addition, the success of the Academy provides motivation for young people to choose careers in science and research.

I have personally collaborated for many years with several outstanding scientists at the Hala Laboratory of Chemical Thermodynamics, Institute of Process Fundamentals, beginning as far back as 1978; these collaborations continue to the present time. I can attest to the world-class stature of these and other scientists at that institute. Collaborators have included Karel Aim, Martin Lisal, and Ivo Nezbeda. We have jointly published over 45 papers over the years, all of them in high-impact refereed journals.

A severe restriction of the activities of the Academy of Sciences would run against the acknowledged fact that sustained long-term expansion of a country's economy is impossible without a strong science and research base.

I am firmly convinced that further development of the Academy of Sciences is in the best interests of the Czech Republic. I urge the government to reconsider the planned cuts and maintain the funding of the Academy of Sciences at the level that will make this development possible.

Associate Provost Research, and Dean of Science
University of Ontario Institute of Technology
2000 Simcoe Street N., Oshawa ON, L1H 7K4
T: 905-721-3235; C: 905-404-3431; F: 905-721-3304
<http://science.uoit.ca>