

# Institute of High Energy Physics

*Chinese Academy of Sciences*

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Prof. Jiri Drahos  
President of the ASCR  
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic


Dear Prof. Drahos,

As a Chinese scientist, I am gravely concerned about the plans to cut the funding of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic by more than a half over the next three years, revealed in Nature, 2009-07-09. If realized, such severe cuts may endanger the very existence of one of the pillars of the Czech science and research.

Important results have been obtained by this institution and further achievements can be expected as there is a number of world-class scientists in the Academy. With some of them we closely collaborate in the fields of nuclear physics and radiochemistry. In addition, the success of the Academy provides motivation for young people to choose careers in science and research.

The severe restriction of the activities of the Academy of Sciences would run against the acknowledged fact that sustained long-term expansion of the economy is impossible without strong science and research. Especially, I would like to stress one fact that this year the United States and our China have substantially increase the budget for basic and applied sciences, because the governments recognize that one of the best approaches to overcome the present financial crisis is to strengthen science and technology, including both fundamental and applied.

We are firmly convinced that further development of the Academy of Sciences is in the best interests of the Czech Republic. We urge the government to reconsider the planned cuts and keep the funding of the Academy of Sciences at the level that will make this development possible. I sincerely wish our Czech colleagues will similarly share the wise policy as the USA and China are executing

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized cursive letters that appear to read 'Chai', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Zhifang Chai**

**Academician, the Chinese Academy of Sciences**

**Professor, Institute of High Energy Physics,**

**the Chinese Academy of Sciences**

**Fellow, the Royal Society of Chemistry, UK**

**Titular Member, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry**