

Recommendations by the International Advisory Board to the leadership of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

26 June, 2018

The International Advisory Board (IAB), appointed by the President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, congratulates SAS, at all levels from faculty to the Presidium, for a dynamic approach to implementation of the recommendations issued in the *Regular Assessment of the Research Institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences 2012-2015*. IAB is impressed by the seriousness and speed with which the recommendations have been taken on board. SAS clearly is in the process of building the foundations for a renewed public research organization.

IAB encourages SAS to proceed with confidence on the road towards further enhancement of its performance and recommends the following actions:

- Establishment of collaborative structures between SAS institutes and Universities, followed by development of a joint science strategy together with the partner Universities that could serve as a nucleus for a national science strategy.
- Inclusion of the rectors of 5 Universities as external members of the SAS scientific board.
- SAS to agree with University rectors that it will be a partner organization in the upcoming inter-university doctoral school program.
- SAS to engage with Universities in redesign of research-based curricula, and SAS faculty to engage in educational activities in research Universities.
- IAB strongly supports the activities put forward by the SAS Young Academy, particularly outreach to high schools, and advises to scale up these activities.
- SAS to take full advantage of all of its international networks, such as KMM-VIN.
- SAS to be cautious in selection of “top journals” in the context of a rewarding program.
- Management training should be put in place.
- Inter-disciplinarity, inclusiveness and internationalisation should be at the core of the research strategy of SAS.
- SAS Institutes’ Directors are encouraged to share to share good practice in development of their institutional strategies.
- SAS to reflect on the wider impact of its research programs and to further expand its society-oriented programs.