



The Abdus Salam
**International Centre
for Theoretical Physics**



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
BETWEEN
THE ABDUS SALAM
AND

**INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS (ICTP) THE
VIETNAM ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (VAST)**

The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics, hereinafter referred to as "ICTP," a category 1 institute of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), operating under a tripartite agreement between the Italian Government, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and UNESCO, legally represented by its Director, Professor ATISH DABHOLKAR, with its registered office located at Strada Costiera, 11-34151, Trieste, Italy.

AND

The Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, hereinafter referred to as "VAST", a national research organization represented legally by its President, Professor CHAU VAN MINH, with its principal office located at 18 Hoang Quoc Viet, Cau Giay, Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

Hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Parties" or individually as a "Party."

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Recognizing that this MOU is intended to serve as a framework for cooperation and mutual understanding, and does not create legally binding international rights or obligations for the Parties.

VAST and ICTP have maintained close collaboration over the past decades, and with the new presence of international centres under the auspices of UNESCO including the International Centre for Research and Postgraduate Training in Mathematics (ICRTM) and the International Centre of Physics (ICP), the Parties, wishing to strengthen such cooperation on the basis of mutual benefits, hereby resolve to enter into this MoU in accordance with the legal norms of Vietnam and Italy in force, subject to the following clauses and conditions:

1. FIRST CLAUSE - PURPOSE

1.1 By the present MoU, the Parties undertake to support the study and scientific and technological research developed by researchers in Vietnamese and ICTP teaching and/or research institutions with scientific quality recognized by the Parties.

The Parties will recognize that the provisions of this MoU are not binding.

2. SECOND CLAUSE - FORMS OF COOPERATION

2.1. The Parties will promote this cooperation, within the scope of their functions, duties, and powers, in accordance with the laws and policies of each country and the international agreements to which each Party is a member, by means of the following mechanisms:

- a) Implementation of joint projects on topics of common interest;
- b) Organization of scientific and technological seminars, symposia, and other meetings of mutual interest to promote interaction between relevant institutions and research groups of both countries, with a view to identifying future areas for cooperation;
- c) Exchange of researchers and scientists to promote research, consulting, and the exchange of experiences within the scope of joint projects;
- d) Implementation of exchange programs for Master's and PhD students;
- e) Implementation of joint courses and training programs for Master's and PhD students;
- f) Consultations and exchanges of information, documents, and scientific publications.

2.2. To ensure, if required, the implementation of the mechanisms mentioned above, the Parties may use the specific instruments of each institution.

2.3. The Parties will value the search for cooperation opportunities with other countries and/or regional blocs.

3. THIRD CLAUSE - FORMALIZATION AND REPRESENTATIVES

3.1. To implement this MoU, within the framework of scientific activities and research projects, the Parties will appoint representatives who will be responsible for the coordination, execution, and monitoring of the activities under this instrument, as well as for the negotiations and exchanges of correspondence required by the MoU.

3.2. Both Parties undertake to maintain their representatives with full authority to carry out their responsibilities under this clause, and to inform the other Party immediately of any changes or replacements.

4. FOURTH CLAUSE - DURATION AND EXTENSION

4.1. This MoU will be in effect from the date of signature for a period of five years. It will be automatically extended for an additional period of five years at each expiration date, unless either party gives six months' advance notice in writing to terminate the MoU.

5. FIFTH CLAUSE – AMENDMENTS

5.1. This MoU may be altered by mutual consent between the Parties, and the negotiations will be carried out through the exchange of electronic correspondence.

5.2. Any alterations agreed upon will be effected through the signing of an Amendment and will come into force on the date of the signing of the instrument mentioned above by both Parties.

6. SIXTH CLAUSE – TERMINATION

6.1. This MoU may, at any time, be terminated by either Party, provided the interested Party formally expresses its intention to do so at least sixty (60) days prior to the intended termination date.

7. SEVENTH CLAUSE - APPLICABLE LAW - SOLUTION OF CONTROVERSIES

7.1. Without prejudice to the privileges and immunities of the ICTP, for all disputes arising from the interpretation and execution of this MoU, the Parties undertake to resolve amicably and in a spirit of collaboration all issues through negotiations and direct talks. Any dispute or claim that may arise in connection with this Agreement, unless an amicable settlement is reached through direct negotiation within 60 (sixty) days, will be referred to arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL rules in force on the date in which the dispute arises.

8. EIGHTH CLAUSE - PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF ICTP

8.1. Nothing in connection with this MoU will be construed as a waiver of any right and/or privilege that the ICTP and UNESCO enjoy under:

- (i) the Agreement between the ICTP and the Italian Republic;
- (ii) the Tripartite Agreement establishing the ICTP;
- (iii) any other customary rule of international law or other applicable rule.

Moreover, nothing contained in this MoU or related to it will grant any privileges or immunities to the other Party (of this MoU) or to their respective officials.

Drafted in Ha Noi and Trieste in four originals, two in the Vietnamese language and two in the English language.

**For and on behalf
the Abdus Salam International
Centre for Theoretical Physics**



**Director
Atish Dabholkar**

**For and on behalf
Vietnam Academy of Science and
Technology**



**The President of the Academy
Acad. Prof. Chau Van Minh**

In Trieste, Italy, on 01/12/2025

In Ha Noi, on 10/12/2025