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Subject: **Flash Info N° 011-2008 The Director-General opens the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) Steering Committee meeting**  
Date: 1 February 2008 10:22:12 GMT+01:00  
To: undisclosed-recipients;;  
1 Attachment, 11.8 KB



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## Flash Info N° 011-2008

Office of the Spokeswoman  
La Porte-parole

### The Director-General opens the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) Steering Committee meeting

On 29 January 2008, the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, opened the ICTP Steering Committee meeting held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

ICTP, located in Trieste, Italy is a UNESCO category I Institute. The ICTP Steering Committee is made up of representatives from the ICTP Secretariat, the Italian Government, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and UNESCO.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the recommendations stemming from the performance audit of ICTP conducted by UNESCO's Internal Oversight Committee.

The Director-General welcomed the results of the performance audit, which he felt were on balance extremely positive and congratulated the Steering Committee for its excellent direction of the Institute. Mr Matsuura then thanked the Italian Government for its generous financial contributions to the centre, which had enabled ICTP to develop into a world class institute in physics and mathematics.

The objective of the audit was to assess the results achieved by ICTP, the effectiveness and efficiency of its processes and activities, the functioning of internal controls, the quality of reporting and compliance with UNESCO rules and regulations.

Mr Matsuura was pleased to note that the performance audit had underscored that the centre was successfully fulfilling its mission to build capacity in physics and mathematics in the developing world.

The Director-General then highlighted two areas that the performance audit had determined could be improved. The first related to the governance structure for ICTP, and the second to the necessity of further integrating ICTP's work in the work of UNESCO's science sector. Mr Matsuura underscored that the performance audit was a forward-looking exercise. He looked forward to UNESCO and ICTP's moving ahead with implementing the recommendations and to receiving fruitful feedback from the Steering Committee.

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