

Foreword

The life of a scientist is an exciting venture. Its challenges are manifold. Subject to the rigors of method, committed to the search for verifiable truth, demanding the most one can give in terms of creativity and patient labour, it is a life permanently hovering between constant frustration and occasional triumph. The scientist is also continuously placed under the moral imperative of social responsibility.

His endeavours are not limited to the work place or to the laboratory or to solitary confinement. The scientific life also brings the rewards of teaching the younger, and thus sharing insight and wisdom. It derives huge benefits from the cooperation and dialogue with colleagues that produce synergies and heuristic ideas. It flourishes in an interdisciplinary environment where a broader world view is generated that functions as a necessary reality check.

I have had the privilege of experiencing the benefits of life in a scientific community in the many stages of my career: at Columbia, at CERN, at the Institute for High Energy Physics in China, and elsewhere. But none of these holds as cherished a place in my heart as the Erice community. The unique interaction of science and government in its most constructive form, the clear orientation towards peace and global well-being, the earnestness of scientific pursuit, the harmony of purpose, the human experience, make Erice a truly exceptional place.

As a former Vice President of the World Federation of Scientists, an active participant in the World Laboratory, a proud recipient of the Erice Peace Prize, and as Co-Chairman, jointly with our much missed friend Kai Siegbahn, of the International Seminars during many years, I feel closely attached to the Erice experience. It thus gives me great satisfaction that an attempt is now made to preserve the memory of the Seminars and many of their key participants, and to assess their impact on the world at large. I am sure that this book will serve not only to keep the experience alive and duly commemorate the great scientists who have contributed, but will also put the scientific and political accomplishments and the historical importance of Erice in the perspective they deserve. May it also foster the spirit of friendship and common purpose among those who, like me, proudly belong to the Erice community and feel committed to the Erice Spirit.

It is a particular joy that this book is published at an important moment in the life of Antonino Zichichi and is a tribute to his far-reaching vision and unrelenting efforts that have created and maintained the Erice universe. For me, this is an opportunity to thank Nino most sincerely for his generosity and enduring friendship.

Tsung Dao Lee