



AUB Physicist Ali Chamseddine among TWAS awardees

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The winners of the 2008 Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) prizes in agricultural sciences, biology, chemistry, earth sciences, engineering sciences, mathematics, medical sciences, and physics were announced last month at the general meeting of TWAS held last month in Durban, South Africa. All the winners are from developing countries.

The physics prize was won by AUB's Ali Hani Chamseddine and Predhiman Krishan Kaw, from India. Chamseddine was honored for his fundamental contributions to supergravity and noncommutative geometry.

Born in Lebanon in 1953, Professor Chamseddine studied physics at the Lebanese University and was awarded a full scholarship to pursue graduate studies at Imperial College, London University, where he earned his PhD in 1976. He then did his postdoctoral study at the International Center for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy before joining AUB as an assistant professor in 1977.

Because of the war in Lebanon, in 1979 Chamseddine left Lebanon to work at the European organization for Nuclear Research in Switzerland; later, at Northeastern University in Boston, he produced ground-breaking research on particles physics with Richard Arnowitt and Pran Nath.

Chamseddine returned to AUB in 1985, but then left again to work at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and at the University of Zurich.

Returning to AUB in 1998, he became the founding director of the newly-established Center for Advanced Mathematical Sciences. Under his leadership, CAMS became the leading institute of mathematical sciences in the Middle East. He remained in this position until 2003 and now teaches in AUB's Physics Department.

Professor Chamseddine received the Alexander von Humboldt award in 2001, the Arab Fund Fellowship in 2006, and the Bude Medal from the Collège de France in 2007. He is a visiting professor at the prestigious Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifique (IHES). His publications include one book, many book chapters, and more than a hundred articles.

Founded in Trieste in 1983, the Third World Academy of Science changed its name to the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World in 2004, but retained its TWAS acronym.