



**International Council for Industrial  
and Applied Mathematics**

To: THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, MAURICIO MACRI, and to  
THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ASAMACI, the *Asociación argentina de Matemática aplicada, computacional e industrial*, is a member of the International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM). They have informed us that after years of a sustained development of Science and Technology in the country, due to the very serious economic situation, the Argentinian government has recently decided to implement severe cuts in the budget for science and that these cuts seriously endanger the development of science and technology in the country. The Argentinian scientific community seems to experience great difficulties to continue its normal work. Talented young scientists may be tempted to leave the country and attracting anybody from abroad appears to be impossible. It takes a significant period of time to create excellent scientific institutions, but the time it takes to disrupt these institutions is much shorter, and recovery again takes very long. The skills that have been developed are lost, and the flow of innovation from the scientific research to industry, and to the economy in general, is cut off. Young scientists who had hoped to pursue a scientific career in their home country will go elsewhere, because the market for their talent is worldwide. After this disruption to their careers they may be reluctant to return to their home country for fear that such a disruption will happen again.

If the current budget cuts for science are implemented, then Argentina will face the dismantling of its internationally renowned research groups and will trigger a brain drain involving some of its most talented scientists. Scientific research will suffer, and as all economies are ultimately built on the talents of its people, Argentina's wider economy will also suffer in the long range. Noting that the salaries of the researchers and scholars have become the lowest of the geographical region, we foresee a new exodus of highly talented scientists.

ICIAM appreciates the serious economic difficulties faced by Argentina. However, it respectfully points out that the severity of the budget cuts, personnel reductions, breach of assumed commitments in research grants, international cooperation, and serious restrictions imposed by the current government will inhibit recovery from those difficulties and pleads that you reverse these decisions before more damage is done and while there is still a chance of recovery. Reversing these cuts will avoid squandering the investment that Argentina has made in its scientific community over decades.

ICIAM resolved to write to you to explain the effects that these policies will have on the scientific community in Argentina, and how they will seriously jeopardize the scientific and economic future of the country.

***Maria J. Esteban***

President, International Council for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM)