

Workshop

“Italy and MIT at 150: Celebrating and Strengthening the Partnership”

MIT

**Picower Institute
46 – 3189 (Mc Govern Seminar Room)
34 Vassar Street
Cambridge
June 1st 2011**

Organized by the MIT-Italy Program, MITaly, the Consulate General of Italy in Boston and Technology Review, Italy

Preamble.

Italy and MIT share a long history of friendship and collaboration based on shared research interests, cultural affinities and personal and institutional connections. MIT's motto, “*Mens et Manus*” immediately brings to mind the Renaissance workshop, with its focus on the “doing” and the knack for integrative invention that also distinguish Italy's excellence. Several Italian scientists have taught at MIT, with about 20 currently doing so, while several dozen Italian doctoral students and post-docs are conducting research at the Institute's labs. A number of Italians have started their business after having studied at MIT. Even more numerous are the members of the MIT community of Italian descent who have in many different ways contributed to strengthen the ties between MIT and Italy.

Now as in the past, major Italian companies, like Eni, Enel, Pirelli, Fiat, Finmeccanica, Telecom, Pirelli play a key role in maintaining a flow of knowledge between MIT and Italy's research and economic communities in collaboration with MIT ILP, Industrial Liaison Program, and MITeI, MIT Energy Initiative. More recently, collaborations with the best Italian engineering schools – like the Progetto Rocca with the Politecnico of Milan and the Progetto MITOR with the Politecnico di Turin – have played a similar role.

In Italy, MIT is strongly present through the many distinguished alumni (510), the Italian version of the Technology Review, and the increasing number of MIT students – nearly 50 – who intern at Italian companies, universities and schools. At MIT, the visibility of Italy is heightened by the MIT Italy Program – one of the ten country programs that form the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) – and MITaly, the Association of Italian students at MIT.

The Event.

The workshop is divided in five sessions. The first three center on key themes and issues in which Italian researchers and companies at MIT are especially interested. The last two focus on how to consolidate and grow the partnership by reinforcing excellence in Italy and two ways connections between MIT and Italy.

In each panel, interventions are expected to be short, address the issue of how what is being discussed could lead to further collaborations and meant to stimulate contributions from other participants.

The Purpose.

The event is aimed at all the actors – faculty, students, administrators, companies, foundations, universities, alumni – who are invested in strengthening the collaboration between MIT and Italy. Our goal is to take advantage of the shared 150th anniversary to take stock of current exchanges, and brainstorm on how to better coordinate and expand them.

After the workshop, in addition to producing a map of current collaborations at scientific level, the organizers will draw and circulate for discussion the participants' suggestions on how to strengthen the MIT - Italy partnership.

Draft program

9:30 – 9:40

Welcome

Deborah Fitzgerald, *Kenan Sahin dean of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences*

9:40 – 10:00

Opening Remarks

Suzanne Berger, *Professor of Political Science, and MISTI Director*

10:00 – 12:00

Energy and Environment: Research taking place at MIT, Themes that interest Italian Companies, How to collaborate?

Introduction: Giorgio Einaudi, *Professor at University of Pisa, former scientific attaché at the Italian Embassy in Washington*

10:00 – 11:00

Part One: Energy

Bruno Coppi, *MIT Professor of Physics*

Nicola De Blasio, *Vice President of R&D International Development at Eni and MIT visiting scientist*

Pompilio Caramuscio, *Technological Scenarios, ENEL*

Andrea Aparo, *Scientific Advisor CTO, Finmeccanica*

Christopher Love, *MITe Graduate student, MIT-Italy-ENEL intern*

11:00 – 12:00

Part Two: Environment and Sustainability

Paola Rizzoli, *MIT Professor of Physical Oceanography*

Roman Stocker, *MIT Assoc. Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering*

Emilio Frazzoli, *MIT Assoc. Professor, Aeronautics and Astronautics*

Federico Casalegno, *Director, MIT Mobile Experience Laboratory*

Assaf Biderman, *Associate Director, MIT Senseable City Lab*

Questions and answers

12:15 – 1:15

Lunch Break

(Stata Center 4th floor)

1:15 – 2:15

Life Sciences: Biotechnology and Neuroscience

Moderator: Giorgio Einaudi

Emilio Bizzi, *MIT Institute Professor*

Federica del Monte, *Assist. Professor in Medicine Cardiovascular - Institute Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center*

Simona Socrate, *Research Scientist, MIT Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies*

Davide Zaccagnini, *Director of Clinical Informatics, Nuance Communications*

Matteo Bovolenta, *Ph.D Medical genetic, TR Under 35 2011, Giovani Innovatori Context Awardee*

Questions and answers

2:15 – 2:30

Coffee Break

2:30 – 4:30

Strengthening Excellence in Italy and Connecting it to MIT

Moderator: Giuseppe Pastorelli, *Consul General of Italy in Boston*

In Italy

Francesco Profumo, *President, Politecnico of Turin*

Alessandro Ovi, *Director, Technology Review – Italian edition, and MIT Alumn*

Matteo Bonardello, *Progetto Rocca*

At MIT

Serenella Sferza, *co-Director, MIT-Italy Program, and MIT alumna*

Kenneth Goldman, *Manager of Corporate Relations, MIT Industrial Liaison Program*

Edoardo Cavalieri d'Oro, *President, MITaly*

Questions and answers