

To The Honorable Mr. Fabio Mussi,
Minister for the University and Research
Italy

Re: Status of Istituto Nazionale di Ottica Applicata (INOA)

September 28, 2006

Dear Sir,

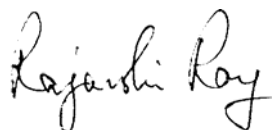
I have heard recently that the Istituto Nazionale di Ottica Applicata (INOA), the Italian Institution prominently concerned with Optics in its broadest sense, including optical technology and its applications, runs the risk of disappearing, after a three-year forced "stand-by" within the Italian Research Council (CNR).

As part of the international community in Optics, we consider such a disappearance as a great loss for our field of research and interest.

I sincerely hope that this letter will help to preserve the Italian know-how in Optics, historically maintained by that Institution, founded about 80 years ago in Firenze, land of Galileo Galilei. INOA has played an admirable role in Italy in a strategic discipline that is undergoing impressive advances in all developed as well as emerging countries.

Looking forward to your kind consideration of our opinion,

Sincerely yours,



Rajarshi Roy
Director, Institute for Physical Science and Technology
Professor, Department of Physics and
Institute for Research in Electronics and Applied Physics
Fellow, Optical Society of America
Fellow, American Physical Society