

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves, in his greeting to the Academy of Sciences General Assembly today, acknowledged the Academy of Sciences as one of the most important directors of Estonian scientific life and scientists as authorities who actively participate also in discussions regarding social issues.

The Estonian Head of State, who yesterday presented the Cultural Fund's Young Scientist Prize to hematologist-oncologist Alar Aints of the University of Tartu and the Cancer Research Technology Development Center, emphasised the outstanding achievements of young Estonian scientists in his greetings and beseeched the members of Academy of Sciences to inspire and support young people.

Speaking to the academicians, President Ilves also emphasised the particular need to popularize the physical and natural sciences among the young, because that is where the scientific and economic solutions will be generated that will bring Estonia the most benefit and renown in the long term.

President Ilves expressed his wish to continue close cooperation with the Estonian scientific and intellectual community, as well as with Estonian institutions of higher education, and introduced his positions related to the future activities of the Academic Council of the President. "This should rather be a think-tank for ideas, the results of which must also reach beyond the academic sphere of tranquillity," said the Estonian Head of State.

Public Relations Department of the Office of the President  
Kadriorg, 6 December 2006