

LETTERS

year to examine the peer reviews and decide upon the awards.

In the past four years the academy has been able to support 447 projects by talented and promising scientists from 56 third world countries.

We are certain that these grants will reinforce and enhance the research of creative scientists in the third world. As Singham rightly said, "What is important is to let the scientists themselves... decide where they can be most useful and productive."

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I encourage any person seriously interested in science and technology in developing countries to read carefully Mano Singham's Opinion column. How accurate and to the point! It is remarkable that despite the different historical backgrounds and political structures of developing countries, their research scientists have to face almost identical problems.

I would only add to Singham's list of items that should be covered by a grant some assistance for communications, particularly in areas where BITNET or other noncommercial networks are not yet operational. With the recent advances in computers and communications not much money is needed to link to the major networks using a remote node, and such a link can solve one of the worst problems of scientists in third world countries: isolation.

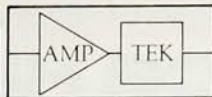
Finally, how to obtain the necessary funds for Singham's proposed international granting system? Part of the money that is used for symposiums on "creativity" and "science and development" and other recreational activities, as well as some of the resources of the ever-increasing bureaucracies of local and international "science administrators," should be directly allocated, in the form of grants, to active research scientists in developing countries. The difficulties in implementing Singham's proposal are great, but the rewards could be enormous, since some of the best scientists are to be found in those countries.

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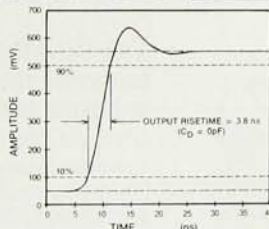
Correction

July, page 82—Michael S. Witherell, the winner of the 1990 W. K. H. Panofsky Prize, received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. ■



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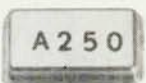
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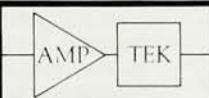
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