

Climate Change Research Institute, India
**Brainstorming Discussion Meeting on Science
Diplomacy on 12th May, 2016**

Executive summary

The Climate Change Research Institute (CCRI) organized a brainstorming discussion meeting on ‘Science Diplomacy’ jointly with **Trans-Disciplining Research Cluster in Sustainability Studies (TRCSS), JNU** at IIC, New Delhi. In the one of the first brainstorming discussion on Science Diplomacy in South Asia was held on 12th May 2016.

Dr. (Mrs) Malti Goel, President & CEO, Climate Change Research Institute extended warm welcome and initiated the discussion on Science diplomacy. South Asia comprises of eight countries located within latitude of 3-33°N and longitude 65-90 °E. India with its 3.28 msq.km² has border contact with all except Afganistan. Its seven neighbors occupy 1.932 msq.km², which is 60% that of India.

Prof. D. P. Agrawal, Ex Chairman UPSC said that Science diplomacy is crucial subject and we must safeguard interest of people who are partners in diplomacy. He cited the example from SAARC countries when as Chairman UPSC he persuaded the members to initiate a dialogue for the welfare of the societies. Narrating the difficulties he wished today’s deliberations a success.

Prof. P. N. Desai, Project Coordinator TRCSS & Director SASH & KN, JNU Said that development of productive linkages is prevented due to socio-economic, political, historical and technological factors. International innovation system also plays a role. A need for international Collaboration is felt irrespective of size of the investing country or R&D.

Dr. Kavita Sharma, president South Asian University questioned the very sense of diplomacy. She opined that in Science Diplomacy one should try to achieve team work for solving human problems with science takes a centre stage. We have a shared geography and therefore Climate Change and environment are the topics to get benefits of science diplomacy.

Sh. A. B. Agrawal, Executive Director, NHPC talked about diplomatic relationships in hydropower among South Asian countries. SAARC countries have potential of 3.3GW but only 15% of it has been developed. He described India's efforts with Bhutan, Nepal and Afghanistan.

Sh. A. K. Jain, Ex. Commissioner (Planning) DDA said India has a long tradition of cultural diplomacy since 2500 years when Buddhism spread all over South East Asia. He gave many examples and recent example of building of Supreme Court in Bhutan. There should be professional cadre of diplomats to enhance mutual development.

Sh. R. K. Sharma, Scientists 'E', DST gave the background of S&T Collaborations in 80 countries. He also said multi. Lateral Collaborations are on rise including that of SAARC and Asian. We sometimes feel that our scientists and bureaucrats are not serious to get benefit of science diplomacy. He said DST would welcome all policies related to science diplomacy.

Dr. Nafees Meah, Director Research Councils UK, British High Commission talked about UK's commitment to global challenges. He said idea of working on SAARC platform is interesting and there should be momentum on that. More effort be made to address issues of common nature like energy, water etc. to develop regional hub under SAARC Science Diplomacy.

The concluding remarks were made by Sh. Gautam Sen, Member, GC, CCRI. The meeting ended with vote of thanks.