

Report of the Secretary

(November 27, 2015)

I welcome you all to the general Body Meeting of the Forum for Global Knowledge Sharing (Knowledge Forum).

Report on activities: Since April 2014

Since April 2014 we have made considerable progress in publications. We have added about 26 new research papers in our “*Research Papers*” folder. In addition we have separate folders for Conference/Workshop Papers. Select papers presented in our 2013 annual conference held at IIT Bombay have been published by *Springer* as an edited volume. In addition *Springer* has also agreed to bring out an edited volume consisting of papers presented at our 2014 conference and 2015 March workshop. Some papers presented at our 2014 annual conference are also published by the *Journal of Industrial Statistics* and another paper accepted in *Journal of Industry, Competition and Trade (Springer)*.

Conferences/Workshops Organised Since April 2014

IX Annual Conference on “*Technology: Corporate and Social Dimensions*”

Co-organised by the Indian National Academy of Engineering Hosted by NIAS, Bangalore, October 27-29, 2014

I Conference Report

More than 69 persons from 30 institutions registered and participated in the conference.

Select papers presented in the competitive sessions were published in the *Journal of Industrial Statistics*. One paper has also been accepted in *Journal of Industry, Competition and Trade (Springer)*. INAE is also bringing out a volume consisting of the *Case Studies* presented by INAE members. In addition *Springer* will also bring out a volume.

Delegates from the following institutions participated:

From Overseas:

1. Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA.
2. K U Leuven, Antwerpen, Belgium

From Mumbai and Maharashtra:

3. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT Bombay)
4. Bhaba Atomic Research Centre (BARC)
5. Institute of Chemical Engineering.
6. Tata Institute of Social Sciences
7. eSocialSciences
8. Government College of Engineering, Pune

From Bangalore and Karnataka:

9. National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS)
10. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
11. Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
12. ANTRIX and ISRO
13. ADA
14. NITK Surathkal
15. IBAB

From Chennai:

16. IIT Madras
17. Madras School of Economics
18. Institute of Financial Management and Research

From Delhi:

19. Institute of Informatics and Communications, Delhi University
20. Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University
21. Institute of Economic Growth
22. Institute for Human Development
23. IDBI Bank
24. Ministry of Finance
25. Society for Development Studies
26. Indian National Academy of Engineering

From Other Indian Cities:

27. IIT Indore
28. IIT Hyderabad
29. Bethune College Kolkata
30. DRDO

In the Introductory Session chaired by Professor Hashim, Professor Rajaram Nagappa (NIAS) welcomed the participants and Professor Baldev Raj (INAE & NIAS) spoke on collaborations between the Knowledge Forum and INAE & NIAS. Professor N S Siddharthan introduced the Session themes and the papers. Professor Stanley Nollen gave the Keynote address. After remarks from the Chair, Professor K. Narayanan proposed the vote of thanks.

The conference had two **Keynote Addresses**, the first one delivered by Professor Stanley Nollen of Georgetown University, Washington DC and the second by Dr. K Kasturirangan, Former Member of the Planning Commission. Professor Baldev Raj Chaired the Keynote address of Dr. K Kasturirangan.

Technical Sessions:

1. Multinational Enterprises: Chair: B L Pandit (DSE)

Issues Discussed

- Impact of FDI on firms performance
- Comparisons of technological and other characteristics of multinationals and domestic firms

2. Employment: Chair: K. Narayanan (IITB)

Issues Discussed

- Innovation and employment
- FDI, technology acquisition and demand for labour

3. Case Studies: Chair: B N Suresh (ISRO)

Issues Discussed

- Social benefits of Indian earth observation satellites
- Radiation and food technology
- Advanced composite technology for aircraft
- Human waste disposable systems

4. Inter disciplinary: Chair: N S Siddharthan (MSE)

Issues Discussed

- Technology intensity and complexity measure in Indian exports
- Innovations, human capital and income differences

5. Technology and Productivity: Chair: S R Hashim (IHD)

Issues Discussed

- Patenting on firm efficiency and productivity
- Total factor productivity, employment and openness
- R&D, imported inputs and productivity

6. Environment and Development: Chair: Bino Paul (TISS)

Issues Discussed

- Environmental certification and technical efficiency
- Environmental consciousness: Determinants

7. Policy Issues: Chair: Arup Mitra (IEG)

Issues Discussed

- Industrial policy and technology gap
- Quality of institutions and profits
- Profits and the base of the pyramid

8. Innovative Efforts: Chair: Filip De Beule (K U Leuven, Belgium)

Issues Discussed

- Business groups and R&D activities
- Mergers and acquisitions and R&D activities

9. Techno Social Issues: Chair: Ashok Jain (NISTAD)

Issues Discussed

- Technology, livelihood and employment in agriculture
- Sustainable farm livelihoods
- Product startup and minimum viable product

In addition to the nine technical sessions there was a session on University – Industry collaborations based on invited presentation and a Ph.D. students workshop.

Workshop on “*Harnessing Technology for Challenging Inequality*”

Knowledge Forum organised a research workshop on “*Harnessing Technology for Challenging Inequality*” at the **Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai** on March 7, 2015. About 20 scholars participated.

The following research papers were presented:

- K. Lal (UNU MERIT, The Netherlands) and Shampa Paul (SDS, Delhi): “ICTs as Enabler in Higher Education”
- Y. S. Rajan (ISRO): “Technology & Wealth: Creation and Distribution”
- Santosh K. Sahu and Sukanya Das (MSE), “Impact of Agricultural Related Technology Adoption on Poverty and Inequality: A Study of Select Households in Rural India”
- Bino Paul (TISS) : “Technology embedded goods and economic inequality in India: evidence from NSS 66th round consumption data”
- Narayanan, N.C., Chetan Singh Solanki and Jayendran Venkateswaran (IITB, Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas), “Scaling up Technology Alternatives by Localisation: Case of Solar Study Lamps in Rural India”
- Kannan Moudgalya (IITB, Chemical Engineering), “A pyramid structure for empowerment through Spoken Tutorials and Open Source Software”
- Kalpana Kannan and K. Narayanan (IITB, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences), “Using Technologies to Reduce Unequal Access in Teacher Training”
- Krithi Ramamritham (IIT B, Computer Science), “Science and Technology for the Urban Forgotten”
- G Baskaran, Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, “Next Einsteins from the Developing World - Can Modern Technology Help?”

Change of Server

On June 19, 2015 Dr. Padma Prakash, Editor, eSocialSciences, who is hosting our website wrote to me that they plan to change the server as it is old and we need to shift our website to the new server. However, that would involve the change of software which would amount to recreating the website while keeping all our folders and files intact. We were able to achieve this in a record time thanks to the cooperation of our colleagues from IIT Bombay and Dr. Santosh K. Sahu of Madras School of Economics. For the past few years Dr. Sahu has been maintaining our website. We are grateful for his help in maintaining the website and also for supervising a smooth transfer to the new server. I suggest that we formalise this informal arrangement and appoint him as **Hon. Coordinator**, Knowledge Forum Website.

Tenth Annual Conference

I am happy that our General Body is meeting now during the Tenth Annual Conference on Technology Growth and Sustainability at NIAS Bangalore. We would like to thank the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) for co-organising the conference. In addition to providing a generous grant, they were fully involved in organising the conference and INAE members have contributed important research papers. I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to Dr. B. N. Suresh, President of INAE for his active support for our venture. I am grateful to Dr. Adimurthy for coordinating our activities and for motivating technologists to present interesting papers.

I am indebted to NIAS and its director Dr. Baldev Raj for hosting the conference and in particular to Dr. Rajaram Nagappa for his active support and participation at every stage in organising this conference. I thank Dr. Chidambaran Iyer, for his efficiency in making all the arrangements. I wish to place on record my indebtedness to the members of the Conference Organising Committee - Prof. Vip Adimurthy, Prof. Bhagavatula Dattaguru, Prof. Rajaram Nagappa, Dr. Chidambaran Iyer and Prof. K. Narayanan. I express my gratitude to Professor S. R. Hashim for his constant support and encouragement; to Professor K. Narayanan for his consistent involvement and active contribution to all our activities. I thank Dr. Santosh K. Sahu for his active help in preparing and arranging the conference material.

Financial Position and Audited Statement

As you can see from our audit statement, we have invested the entire membership fee (including corporate members) in fixed deposits. We now have about Rs.6,34,977 in fixed deposits. Last year interest from fixed deposits came to only about 57,503 rupees. Therefore for holding our annual conferences we have to depend on external sources of finance. Last year INAE gave us 5 lakhs. Since we didn't spend the full amount we returned 46,553 rupees to INAE. This was mainly because we did not distribute the conference volume for which we had budgeted on lakh rupees. For the current conference we have received Rs.5 lakhs from INAE. In addition ISRO, ICSSR and DST have directly transferred funds to NIAS for local hospitality and other conference related expenditures.

I am very happy to inform you that Tata Trusts has agreed to give us Rs. 25 lakhs towards our conference expenditures for three years. Out of this Rs. 5 lakhs will be spent this year. Part of the sum will be spent for this conference and the rest towards organising a Workshop during March 2016. We are grateful to the Tata Trusts and in particular to Mr. R Venkataraman, Executive Trustee of the Trusts for partnership with Knowledge Forum.

N. S. Siddharthan
Hon. Secretary
November 26, 2015