

FOREWORD

Science and Technology in the current era have become the most important factor in leading any country towards the path of sustainable development and prosperity. The disparity that exists in the socio-economic conditions of the South and the North can be attributed to the amount of attention and resources that goes into this sector. Whereas the countries of the North appropriate substantial amounts of their resources for science and technology in general and Research and Development (R&D) in particular, their counterparts in the South are nowhere to be seen in the development picture. This is resulting in a greater North-South divide with the South at the receiving end.

Excessive reliance on the North in scientific and other areas without doing anything for internal capacity building has been another major cause of concern. The countries of the South despite having been endowed with rich natural resources are not in a position to fully exploit their resources due to regressive policies in the scientific and technological sphere.

*Realizing these critical issues that the South confronts today, Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) at the request of its member countries organized a two-day meeting on “**Science and Technology for Sustainable Development**” on the 8th and 9th of October 2001.*

This illustrious gathering was participated by eminent scientists and leading lights from the member countries who shared their thoughts and experiences and presented their ideas and suggestions on how to elevate, by employing science and technology, the socio-economic status of the countries of the South and bridge the gap between the North and the South.

There were six technical sessions and each session comprised at least three presentations from speakers on different aspects of Sustainable Development. Each session was chaired by an eminent scientist from Pakistan’s prestigious scientific institutions.

The meeting on the whole addressed the following important aspects of this problem:

- a) Current situation and future prospects for sustainable development;*
- b) Appropriate technology for sustainability of development initiatives;*
- c) Harmonization of technological development with ecosystem;*
- d) Role of services in any prospective structural shift in economy.*

The speakers came up with important recommendations that formed the crux of the meeting. These recommendations ranged from emphasis on pure and applied research, introduction of a curriculum based on science and technology, reliance on indigenous resources, capacity building, to allocation of substantial amount of capital for the rapid development of the countries of the South. The recommendations and the concluding note may be found at the end of the proceedings.

The proceedings of the meeting have been included in the special edition of COMSATS’ quarterly magazine “Science Vision” which will provide the readers a ready reference to the details and developments of the meeting.

I would like to express my extreme gratitude to the COMSATS member countries, diplomatic community, speakers and participants of the meeting and my team for making COMSATS 1st Meeting on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development a huge success.

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