

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Dr. Hameed Ahmed Khan
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Commission on Science and Technology
For Sustainable Development in the South
(COMSATS)

Honourable Chief Guest,
Mirza Hamid Hasan Sahib,
Federal Secretary for Water & Power
H.E. Badi Khattab, Charge'd Affairs
of Syria
H.E. T.Y. Opatola
Deputy High Commissioner of Nigeria
The Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Eminent Scientists,
Participants,
Ladies & Gentlemen

It is with a deep sense of satisfaction and gratitude to Almighty Allah that we have had a very fruitful and technically sound discussion in this meeting on "Water Resources in the South: Present Scenario and Future Prospects". It has been a great privilege for me and the COMSATS to have acted as hosts of this meeting.

As far as the deliberations of this two-day meeting are concerned, 22 presentations were made on the following subjects: (i) Management and Uses of Water-Resources (ii) Climate-Change, Flood Control, and Drought Management (iii) Water Quality and (iv) Use of Saline-Water and Wastewater-Treatment Technology. 52 delegates including 22 speakers attended the forum. The scientific and technical standard of all the presentations were very high. I believe, the purpose of discussing the various national and regional issues of Water resources, and its management from national and regional point of view, during this meeting has been served to a large extent.

In the inaugural and key note address by Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed (the Special Advisor to the Chief Executive of Pakistan) pointed out that management of water-resources and its conservation are fast emerging as critical issues facing today's world, especially the developing-countries, and are needed to be tackled collectively and through a sustained effort by all

countries. He said, global climatic changes, growing population, rapid industrialization, unplanned disposal of untreated wastes into the aquatic systems, are all contributing to the current stress on water-resources. It is important that modern scientific technologies, particularly, the nuclear desalination technique and isotope hydrology-techniques be used for better management and conservation of water resources in the South Asia.

H.E. General C.S. Weerasooriya, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka elaborated the water-resources situation in Sri Lanka and explained that his country is facing stress on its water resources, despite the fact that Sri Lanka is a water-rich country. He opined that problems like water-logging, salinity, scarcity of clean water can only be tackled if collaborative approach is adopted and awareness is created among the people about the significance of the issues.

The Chinese Ambassador, H.E. Lu Shu Lin gave a detailed account of the water resources and their status in China. He said that China, like other countries in the region, also faces drought-like conditions in its northern areas and is trying to manage it by working out strategies like standard trans-basin water-transfer from the South and Central China to the North. He also shared the view that burgeoning population and pollution are resulting in the degradation of water-resources. Excellency Lu Shu Lin lauded the efforts of the COMSATS in taking up such an important issue as the main subject of the meeting.