

ADDRESS BY GUEST OF HONOUR

H.E. Mr. A.D. Idris Waziri

High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Pakistan

Mr. Parvez Butt, Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission,

Dr. Hameed Ahmed Khan, Executive Director, COMSATS,

Mr. Song Deheng, Political Counsellor, People's Republic of China,

Ms. Zainab Hussain Siddiqui, the Coordinator of the Meeting,

Excellencies, Eminent Scientists, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam-o-Alaikum.

First of all, I would like to express my utmost appreciation over the establishment and successful performance of COMSATS. In the developing world, emergence of an institution like COMSATS amounts to a dream coming true. I have known Dr. Hameed Khan since my posting in Pakistan. He and his team have been very active in trying to spread the gospel of sustainable development in the *Third World*. This is a very commendable endeavour, destined to create awareness among developing countries. We are surrounded by challenges and problems and it is about time we take our destiny in our own hands, because nobody can do it for us except ourselves.

I would like to stress that COMSATS must be appreciated, commended and encouraged to continue to work hard, so that our goals and objectives in the realm of science and technology that we set for ourselves and the developing world could be realized. I would also reiterate expression of my appreciation for the great services rendered by Dr. Hameed Khan for the sustainable development of science and technology in the developing nations, hoping that he would continue his efforts in this direction in the coming years.

I have always upheld and supported the view that not just in sciences but in all spheres of human endeavours, whether it be politics, economy, environment or scientific research, we need capacity-building. There is no way one can talk about sustainable development unless one has the capacity to do so. If one doesn't emphasize capacity-building, then development is not sustainable at all. Therefore, one must keep the society into perspective, as science doesn't live in isolation and does not spread in isolation. We need to study the environment in which we operate. This is the objective of the present meeting i.e. to encourage all concerned to undertake the aforementioned perspective in their deliberations.

The meeting's objectives may include comprehensive discussion on drawing the short-term, middle-term and long-term plans for all of us to be able to build capacities. We must pursue them vigorously, to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow, as we urgently need sustained efforts to confront so many challenges and problems whether they are environmental, political, social or economic.

While discussing planning and recommending solutions, it must be ascertained that plans should not be over-ambitious. Moreover, we should try not to copy others and focus on our own environment, and ground realities and evolve relevant technologies that can address our problems. These technologies must be sustainable, because if they are not then development cannot be sustainable.

I congratulate COMSATS for its endeavours to evolve policies in the realm of scientific and technological development, which will be beneficial for mankind and particularly for the developing world now facing many problems. We must accept this challenge and collaborate to convert the developing world into the developed world.

I wish you success, and may God bless us.