

VOTE OF THANKS

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I don't have a lot to say because words sometimes don't express how someone feels. But what I can say is that I am truly humbled to be in front of such an eminent gathering. I am extremely happy to be among these people and had the opportunity to interact with some members, which was absolutely enthralling. During the lunch interval I had a brief discussion with one of the participants who talked about what was happening in the world.

It came to my mind that the people who are most advanced at the moment in science and technology are changing the rules. They are making their own rules, and changing them at their own convenience and liking. We are all following world-events that recently took place and, since we have double standard politically, this is not an entirely new thing. I think it was Charles Darwin who talked about '*evolution*', and what we are seeing now is socio-political Darwinism. It says. "Adapt or diminish, eat or become lunch". It is the development of science and technology that can change the course of events.

There is a famous saying back in Uganda: "if someone loves your child more than yourself then you should be worried as parents". I would like to appeal to the governments of the world to pay heed to research and develop science and technology, otherwise it will be just like some stranger taking away our very own child and using it to its benefit.

My final anecdote is what Dr. S.T.K. Naim, Chairperson, PCST, said "if you can get an orange when you want it, it does not matter what is the source". Here I quote the first President of the United States, who said: "If you have an axe and 6 hours to cut a tree, it is better to spend the first 4 hours sharpening the axe".

This saying directly refers to strengthening research & development capacity. It is the hard way, but there are no shortcuts and the way to go about it is by making enormous efforts. Here is where I would like to thank COMSATS for the opportunity of international networking, which is important to forge any partnerships, specially between the countries with similar challenges, problems and common prospect.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the organizers of the meeting. It has been absolutely wonderful and momentous and it is a secret which I would like to share that when I was coming to Pakistan, my friends questioned my departure saying, "don't you watch CNN or BBC; that place is not safe for you". But I am glad and very touched that I came here and experienced a memorable visit.

Thank you.