

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIPLOMACY FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
TEHRAN, IRAN, 13-16 MAY 2012

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES: 18 Countries (Including 15 Member Countries, 3 Non-Member Country of the NAM S&T Centre)

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: The Workshop was attended by 24 overseas participant, 11 Iranian participants from the host country and 34 Scientific papers were presented in six technical sessions.

‘Science & Technology Diplomacy’ is a complex mix of science & technology and the diplomatic process, and good S&T diplomacy requires the integration of S&T and foreign policy communities to create a platform for these two groups to work together. The negotiators of most bilateral, multilateral or regional arrangements are therefore required to include the scientists, academicians, researchers, diplomats, government policy makers and non-governmental organisations, who all should have a deeper understanding of the nuances and implications of science and technology on commerce and trade as well as the political scenario of the countries and regions involved. Moreover, the exchanges of views are expected to have a finesse that overtly may not express it, but meet the 'hidden' agenda to take care of the country's own interests. However, most countries, particularly the developing ones, are poorly informed about the above aspect and tend to thinly spread their limited financial and human resources to understand international S&T diplomacy and apply it in practice with subtlety.

In order to deliberate on these issues, the Centre for Science & Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) jointly with the Centre for Science and Technology Cooperation (CITC) of the Presidency of the Islamic Republic of Iran organised a 4-days International Workshop on ‘Science and Technology Diplomacy for Developing Countries’ at Tehran, Iran during 13-16 May 2012 with an objective to exchange views and collectively evolve the ideas and practices to be followed while executing the S&T diplomacy within individual NAM and other developing countries and concerned organisations and agencies and also to provide inputs for the forthcoming NAM Summit meeting in Iran.

The Inaugural Ceremony was attended by 16 Ambassadors and senior diplomats of Armenia, Ecuador, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Nigeria, Russia, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay and Zimbabwe, besides senior officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and commenced with the traditional recitation of Holy Qur’an and National Anthem. This was followed by the welcome remarks by Engr. Ali M. Birang, Secretary of the Workshop. The inaugural address was given by H.E. Dr. Ali Akbar Salehi, Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran. H.E. Engr. Hamid Reza Amirinia, Advisor to the Presidency and Head of CITC talked about identifying potential capabilities of the developing countries in the fields of science and technology, providing solutions for putting them into practice and exploring possible mechanisms for creating synergy between diplomacy and S&T. Prof. Dr. Arun P. Kulshreshtha, Director & Executive Head, NAM S&T Centre presented the genesis of the event and also briefly described the activities of the Centre aimed at South-South and also North-South

cooperation. H.E. Dr. Mohammad Mahdinejad Nouri, Deputy Minister of Science, Research and Technology also made valuable remarks.

Administrators and researchers of 18 countries, respectively, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela and the host country Iran, as well as from the NAM S&T Centre attended the S&T Diplomacy workshop. 24 Overseas participants were from Germany [Prof. Dr. Ittekkot Achuthan Venugopalan William, Former Director, Centre for Tropical Marine Ecology, Bremen], India [Dr. Parmod Kanwar Gupta, Secretary General and Principal Management Consultant, National Foundation of Indian Engineers (NAFEN), New Delhi and Mr. Laxmikant Sharma, Scientific Journalist], Indonesia [Mrs. Suriatinah, Head, Regional Research and Development Bureau, Banjarmasin and Mrs. Tri Sundari, Acting Deputy Director for International Science and Technology Facilitation, Ministry of Research and Technology, Jakarta], Iraq [Dr. Diyaa M. Mahdi Baqir AL-Mawlawi, Scientific Advisor, Ministry of Science and Technology, Baghdad], Jordan [Dr. Nasri Jubrail Al- Rabadi, Director General, Scientific Research Support Fund, University of Jordan, Amman], Kenya [Mr. Jacob K. Njagih, Assistant Director Research, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Directorate of Research Management and Development, Nairobi], Malawi [Mr. Patrick Mphadzula, Head of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Lilongwe], Malaysia [Ms. Sumitra Jayaseelan, Principal Assistant Secretary, International Division, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Kuala Lumpur and Prof. Dr. Mohamad Bin Deraman, School of Applied Physics, Faculty of Sciences and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Selangor], Myanmar [Dr. Phyu Hnin Khaing, Assistant Professor, Ministry of Science and Technology, Nay Pyi Taw], Nepal [Dr. Surendra Raj Kafle, Vice Chancellor, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Kathmandu], Nigeria [Mr. Shuaibu Rijau, State Coordinator (Niger), Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC), Abuja and Mr. Isaac M. Nwaedozi, Chief Technology Officer, National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)], Pakistan [Dr. Asif Raza, Pro-Rector (Academics), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad and Dr. Ahsana Dar Farooq, Professor of Pharmacology and International Research Coordinator, HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research, International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, Karachi], South Africa [Mr. Azwimpheli Mactavish Makwarela, Director, Multilateral Cooperation, Department of Science and Technology, Pretoria], Sri Lanka [Ms. Asha Manori Pitadeniya, Scientific Programme Manager, National Science and Technology Commission (NASTEC), Colombo], Uganda [Prof. Edward Tujunirwe, Assistant Executive Secretary and Head of Corporate & International Collaborations, Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST), Kampala], Uruguay [Lic. Verónica Suárez Lopez, Executive of International Cooperation, National Research and Innovation Agency of Uruguay, Montevideo] and Venezuela [Mr. Francisco Javier, Coordinator for Asia, Europe and Middle East Relations of Cooperation and Exchange, Office of International Affairs, Ministry of Science and Technology and Mr. Juan Carlos, Analyst, Analyst Business Cooperation with Iran and India, Office of International Affairs, Ministry of Popular Power of Science, Technology and Innovation, Caracas]. From the NAM S&T Centre, Prof. Arun P. Kulshreshtha, Director & Executive Head and Ms. Apeksha Yadav, Research Assistant attended the event.

The overall programme of the Workshop was conducted at the premises of the Centre for International Research and Education (CIRE) of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the

Islamic Republic of Iran in six technical sessions, respectively co-chaired by Dr. Ittekkot (Germany) and Dr. S.H. Tabatabaeian of the Management of Technology in Allameh Tabatabaei University, Tehran (Iran) [Session-1], Dr. Reza (Pakistan) and Mrs. Jayaseelan (Malaysia) [Session-2], Dr. Rabadi (Jordan) and Dr. Tahereh EbrahimiFar, Faculty of Political Science, Islamic Azad University, Tehran (Iran) [Session-3], Prof. Tujunirwe (Uganda) and Prof. Deraman (Malaysia) [Session-4], Mr. Mphadzula (Malawi) and Prof. Kafle (Nepal) [Session-5] and Dr. Gupta (India) and Dr. Akram Ghadimi, National Research Institute for Science Policy (NRISP), Tehran (Iran) [Session-6].

23 scientific papers presented during the Workshop by the foreign participants were on 'Global Initiatives for Science & Technology Diplomacy in 21st Century' by Dr. Gupta of India; 'Science & Technology Diplomacy: Concepts, Dimensions and Global Experiences' by Prof. Kafle of Nepal; 'Opportunities and Challenges of Science and Technology Diplomacy' by Mr. Mphadzula of Malawi; 'Science and Technology Diplomacy: Revitalization and Need for a Sustainable Economy' by Dr. Diyaa Al-Mawlawi of Iraq; 'International S&T Cooperation as An Instrument of Peaceful Development' by Prof. Ittekkot of Germany; 'International Cooperation in Science and Technology: Opportunities and Challenges' by Prof. Tujunirwe of Uganda; 'Science and Technology Diplomacy - Policy Initiatives of Sri Lanka' by Ms. Pitadeniya of Sri Lanka; 'Science and Technology Diplomacy and International Cooperation in Indonesia' by Mrs. Tri Sundari of Indonesia; 'S&T for Building Bridges: Diplomacy of Deeds' by Mr. Sharma of India; 'Science and Technology Diplomacy: the South African Experience' by Mr. Makwarela of South Africa; 'South - South and Triangular Cooperation: The Uruguayan Experience' by Lic. Verónica Lopez of Uruguay; 'Science and Technology Diplomacy enhanced by University Alumni Global Networking: Malaysia Experience' by Prof. Deraman of Malaysia; 'Role of Science Diplomacy in International Relations, Alliances & Partnerships - Indian Perspectives' by Ms. Apeksha Yadav of India / NAM S&T Centre; 'Malaysia: Leading the Country into Developed-Nation Status through Science and Technology' by Ms. Jayaseelan of Malaysia; 'An Overview of Foreign Technology Transfer Efforts in Nigeria (2000-2010): NOTAP'S Perspective' by Mr. Nwaedozie of Nigeria; 'Building Bridges and Fostering Partnership by Science between Nations in Conflict - Example of ICCBS Efforts' by Dr. Ahsana Dar of Pakistan; 'Technology Transfer framed in Venezuelan Diplomacy' by Mr. Carlos of Venezuela; 'Science and Technology Policy and National Development in Nigeria' by Mr. Rijau of Nigeria; 'Kenya's Status on International Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation' by Mr. Njagih of Kenya; 'Union of Myanmar Ministry of Science and Technology' by Dr. Khaing of Myanmar; 'Pakistan's International Linkages in Science & Technology: The National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) Perspective' by Dr. Raza of Pakistan; 'International Alliances and Social Benefits of Venezuelan Satellite Program' by Mr. Javier of Venezuela; and 'Jordan's Diplomatic Efforts to Enhance S&T Collaborative Activities with the Rest of the World' by Dr. Rabadi of Jordan.

11 Iranian presentations were made respectively by Mr. Sirous Vatankhah, Scientific Attaché of the Embassy of the I.R. Iran to Ukraine on 'Science and Technology Diplomacy in International Relations from Concept to Reality'; H.E. Dr. Arsalan Ghorbani Sheikhneshin, Vice-Minister, Science, Research and Technology on 'Science and Technology Diplomacy and International Cooperation'; Dr. Afshari Mofrad, Tarbiat Modarres University, Tehran on 'The role of NAM S&T in Coordinating National Technology Strategies among Member Countries'; Dr. Tahereh Miremadi, Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST) on 'Mutually Reinforcing Relationship between Science and Foreign Policy: The Case of Soft

Diplomacy of Stem cell Research and Therapy in Iran’; Dr. Baqerimoqaddam, Advisor to the CITC and Lecturer, Amir Kabir University of Technology, Tehran on ‘Science and Technology Diplomacy and Renewable Energy’; Mr. Hossein Ahmadi, Deputy Manager of International Affairs of CITC on ‘Science and Technology Diplomacy, Innovation in Foreign Policy’; Dr. Reza Ghazal, Economist, Economic Research and Policy Department (ERPD), Islamic Development Bank on ‘The Pre-Requisites for an Effective Science and Technology Diplomacy and the Role of Governments: An Economic Perspective’; Dr. Mohammad Hassanzadeh of Tarbiat Modares University of Tehran on ‘A Framework for Interaction of Foreign Policy and Science and Technology (Experiences of the USA and Russia)’; Dr. Akram Ghadimi of NRISP, Tehran on ‘Discussions Passing from Traditional Diplomacy to Science and Technology Diplomacy’; Dr. Naser Agh, Director, Artemia & Aquatic Animals Research, Urmia on ‘Role of Universities in Science and Technology Diplomacy’; and Dr. Ahmad Mahdavi, Toxicologist from the Industry Clinic, University of Tehran Science & Technology Park (UTSTP) on ‘Science and Technology Diplomacy for Developing Countries, Case Study: Toxic Pollution’.

At the conclusion of the Technical Sessions Prof. Arun P. Kulshreshtha, Director NAM S&T Centre gave a talk on the NAM S&T Centre and its role in South – South Cooperation in Science and Technology. This was followed in the Concluding Session by extensive deliberations and debate on finalising a document titled ‘Tehran Resolution – 2012 on Science and Technology Diplomacy for Developing Countries’ with a set of recommendations, which was thereafter unanimously adopted by the participants. The Certificates for Participation were distributed to the participants and all those who were involved in the organisation of this excellent initiative by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Participants thanked the organisers for holding a highly successful event and for excellent hospitality and arrangements made for the delegates, and unanimously hoped that more similar events will be held in future with a focus on South-South cooperation for the development and successful implementation of S&T Diplomacies in developing countries.

A visit was organised for the foreign participants to the premises of the Centre for Science and Technology Cooperation (CITC) of the Presidency of Iran, where they got acquainted with the high quality technical accomplishments made in Iran in various spheres, most of which are ready for commercialisation. This was followed by a formal Banquet Dinner hosted by H.E. Engr. Hamid Reza Amirinia, Advisor to the Presidency and Head of CITC, during which besides presenting a summary of the Science Diplomacy workshop and brief speeches by the Iranian dignitaries, a campaign was made to induct new members to the Network of Women Scientists of the Islamic World (NWSIW).

The foreign participants were also flown to Shiraz, the city of poets, literature, nightingales and flowers, for a day visit where they enjoyed the visit to the ruins of Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BC); Holy Shrine of Amir Ali Bin Hamzeh Bin Mousa (PBUH); Tomb of Hafez; and Vakil Bazaar.