

**NAM MEETING ON COMMERCIALIZATION OF R&D, TECHNOLOGY
DEVELOPMENT AND WORLD CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE, BANGLADESH
COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC & INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (BCSIR), DHAKA
(BANGLADESH), APRIL 19-21, 1999**

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES : 8 MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE NAMS&T CENTRE

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS : 11

In pursuance of the decision of the Governing Council of the Centre and the offer by the Government of Bangladesh to host, the Centre organised an International meeting on 'Commercialization of R&D and Technology Development' at the Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Dhaka, Bangladesh during April 19-21, 1999. The event was co-sponsored by the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of Bangladesh, National Research Development Cooperation (NRDC) of India, and Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT). The objective of the meeting was to address the problems, prospects, mechanism and policy instruments for operating linkage of research organization to market environment and sharing the experience of member countries in forging linkage between R&D and industry and role of financial institutions in the commercialization of indigenous technology.

The meeting was attended by the delegates from Bangladesh (Dr. M. Kabirullah, Dr. M. Fazlul Haq and Dr. Enam-E-Rasul Chowdhury of the Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research in Dhaka and Eng. M. Sohrab Hussain of Bangladesh Small & Cottage Industries Corporation in Dhaka), India (Dr. A.K. Sood of the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India), Indonesia (Dr. Eng. S. Farid Ruskanda of the Centre for Research, Science & Technology), Malaysia (Prof. Sharr Azni Harmin of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment), Nepal (Dr. Trinetra Man Pradhanaga of the Royal Nepal Academy of Science & Technology), Pakistan (Mr. Abdul Rashid of the Ministry of Science and Technology), Sri Lanka (Dr. Manemel Dura Victor Mendis of the National Engineering Research & Development Centre) and Zambia (Dr. Wilson N.M. Mwenya of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Vocational Training).

The faculty for the technical sessions included Dr. N.K. Sharma, Managing Director, NRDC of India, Dr. Jurgen Bischoff, Director, APCTT; Mr. K. Lakshminarayanan, APCTT; Prof. Dr. K. Siddique-e-Rabbani of University of

Dhaka; Dr. A.K. Sood, Director, Technology Development Board of India; Prof. A.K.M.A. Quader of Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET); and Prof. M. Nazrul Islam of the Institute of Appropriate Technology. Apart from the inaugural session, the programme was divided in three technical sessions dealing with various aspects of the main theme. Presentations made by eminent faculty pertained to topics like strengthening of research-industry linkage in development of commercial R&D and services, protection and exploitation of commercially potential innovations, role of financial institutions in the innovation chain, legal issues involved in the transfer of technologies and role of consultancy organizations in commercialization of R&D. Most of these presentations included case studies.

In his inaugural address, Mr. M. Fazlur Rahman, Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Science & Technology and Vice-president of the Governing Council of NAM S&T Centre addressed the importance attached by the Government of Bangladesh to the promotion of S&T and the effective use and utilisation of research. He hoped that the interaction at this meeting would lead to better understanding of the problem and sharing of experience for better management of change. He expressed his regret that Dr. R. A. Mashelkar Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research of India and Secretary to the Government of India had to cancel his visit to Dhaka at the last moment due to political developments in India and desired that his presentation on Commercialization of R&D - Management of Change may be read out by the Director of the Centre. Dr. Mashelkar in his Keynote address dealt with the strategy for change in management in CSIR and how it helped to bring about an effective partnership between CSIR institutions and Indian Industry and further into global partnerships. He also mentioned the CSIR empowering the Directors of national laboratories with greater autonomy and greater freedom in taking decision but with built-in accountability and performance based budgeting system. A Customer Evaluation Cell has been set up and 100 projects evaluated so far with another 400 projects under evaluation. The feedback has been very useful to help CSIR to align the processes to customer satisfaction. He emphasised the need for protection of intellectual property in the context of global knowledge-based competitions and advocated recognition of knowledge as wealth, which will give a new dimension to the commercialization of R&D in the global market economies in the new millennium.

H.E. Lt. Gen. Mohd. Nooruddin Khan, M.P., Minister for Science & Technology in the Government of Bangladesh chaired the first technical session and indicated the efforts being put by his Ministry to augment the budget layout for S&T. He stressed the need for setting up of technology-based joint ventures in areas like Food Processing and Tissue Culture in which there was similarity

and commonality between India and Bangladesh. Prof. Moshihuzzaman, Chairman of the BCSIR, chaired the subsequent Technical Sessions.

At the concluding session, the participants of the workshop presented Country Reports. In case of Bangladesh Dr. M Kebirullah presented the country paper with some supplementary case studies pertaining to BCSIR and presentations on public sector were made by Mr. M. Sohrob Hussain of Small Industries Cooperation of Bangladesh and Dr. M. Fazlur Huq and Dr. E Nam-e-Rasul Chowdhury of BCSIR. This was followed by a group discussion and adoption of a set of the following recommendations.

“With the present wave of liberalisation and free import of technology being encouraged in developing countries and the resultant problems being faced in commercialization of R&D, the meeting of experts of the member countries of NAM S&T Centre and APCTT recommended that:

- National R&D organisations and institutions in the member countries should strive for closer links with user industry and user ministries with a view to clearly define the scope of the projects and ensure multifunctional inputs in project formulation and implementations including market survey, engineering and design consultancy etc.
- Efforts should be made to involve / establish link with prospective entrepreneurs in the development stage itself or through other mechanisms such as technology incubators.
- Efforts should be made to support such involvement by the risk-financing institutions and technology transfer organisations.
- Member countries who do not have such organization / agency may consider setting up of organisations for risk-financing and technology transfer to promote commercialization of indigenous R&D.
- The NAM S&T Centre and APCTT may help in providing information and organising visits and discussions towards familiarisation of existing agencies / organisations in member countries set up for risk-financing and technology transfer and commercialization.”