



WELCOME ADDRESS

by

PROF. S K GOYAL

Vice-Chairman, ISID

Tuesday 1st May, 2007

at

ISID CAMPUS

4, Institutional Area, Vasant Kunj
New Delhi - 110 70

Respected Prof. Manmohan Singh, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India; eminent colleagues of the Board of Governors, distinguished members of the academic community and friends

Very hearty welcome to you all.



An English philosopher had said, "All wealth is the product of labour". The ISID campus is no exception.

It is only appropriate that we are holding this function on May Day in recognition of the contribution of the construction workers to our endeavour.

The ISID campus has been completed within a record time and we have shifted from the

Barracks of Narendra Niketan to this large complex, thus culminating the efforts of more than two and a half decades. Over the years many persons extended their support – moral as well as material. I would fail in my duty if I do not pay my respects and acknowledge the support of the many personalities from whom we drew strength, courage and conviction to translate the vision into a reality. The names of Late Shri P.N. Haksar, Late Shri K.V. Raghunatha Reddy, Late Shri Krishan Kant, Shri Chandra Shekharji, Shri Mohan Dharia immediately come to my mind.

Starting from the Corporate Studies Group at the Indian Institute of Public Administration, the Institute has seen many a vicissitude. Without the active involvement of these staunch supporters, it would have been impossible to sustain the interest and momentum.

During the mid-'eighties, late Prof. Moonis Raza, renowned academician and founder Chairman of ISID, assembled a group of academics, policy makers and distinguished public men who constituted the first Governing Body of the Institute. The character of the Governing Body continues to be essentially the same.

The campus consists of an academic block, an auditorium and space for office and other support services. The academic home in its concrete form became possible because of the kind and sympathetic considerations by the then Lt. Governors, Late Shri Markandeya Singh and Late Shri P.K. Dave.

Getting allotment of land is one thing and raising finances to construct the buildings is another.

Mr. Prime Minister,

A beginning in this direction was made when you provided us Rs.1 crore, as a corpus fund. Shri Yashwant Sinha, your successor in the Finance Ministry, kept up the tradition by continuing the support to the ISID. Besides providing regular maintenance grant, the Indian Council of Social Science Research extended basic critical grant for campus development. The UCO Bank has provided the much needed financial accommodation for the timely completion of the campus.

On the operational side, I need to underline the efforts of Dr. Abid Hussain, who, as Chairman of the Campus Development Committee, guided us through various stages. Prof. M.R. Murthy shouldered the arduous task of managing the construction and finances with the technical support of Shri C.S.P. Sastry. We have the rare pleasure of maintaining cordial relationship with the building contractors, especially Shri Chanderpal Singh Chawla and Shri Ramesh Bhayana.

Today, we are proud of the modern research infrastructure created at the ISID. A large number of databases, a modern library, information dissemination through the website, indexing of 125 journals, Research Reference CD, seminar and discussion halls and State of the Art accommodation for the visiting scholars, play a unique role in facilitating research and debate. The Institute's Website has attracted thousands of scholars from all over the world to benefit from ISID services.

We look forward to building a powerful media centre for more effective communication and studies with deeper understanding of the social systems and developmental processes. Early awareness of the utility and application of databases and computer-based technologies made us take the lead and extend support to the academic community in particular and the thinking public, in general.

The academic agenda of the Institute was set during the early eighties by a Committee of the ICSSR presided over by Prof.VKRV Rao. Close interaction with senior Parliamentarians helped provide further perspective for regulation and development. Another Committee of the ICSSR, headed by Prof.C.H.Hanumantha Rao, enabled fine-tuning of the research programme.

In spite of the many ups and downs, there has been a degree of stability in the academic staff with Professors K.S. Chalapati Rao, M.R. Murthy, K.V.K. Ranganathan and Mr.Bhupesh Garg forming the core. A number of other scholars made valuable contributions over the years towards enriching the research agenda of ISID and enabling it to make a mark. The

uncertainty of space has now come to an end. ISID will be a large and permanent home for a number of scholars to interact and deliberate on a variety of national and global issues.

Prof. T.S. Papola steered the Institute's academic activities till recently as Director. He has expanded the core faculty and introduced new dimensions into the research agenda. Prof. S.R. Hashim, the new Director, will have to shoulder the responsibility of assembling a full-fledged research team, organize research, promote debates on related issues and in general enable ISID to establish itself as a think tank.

The continued patronage and deep interest of Shri Chandra Shekhar Ji will remain the single most important source of inspiration and strength for ISID.

It is my conviction that ISID has the potential to make useful contribution to the understanding of contemporary economic policy issues. Mr. Prime Minister, the institute will need your continued interest and support in the coming years.

Friends, I seek good wishes and involvement from all of you to make the ISID realize its objectives.

I thank you all for sparing your valuable time and participating in this function.
