

No partnership is sustainable until it is mutually benefited: R Chidambaram

As a part of 104th Indian Science Congress, a plenary session was held on “International Partnerships in Science” which was addressed by Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India & Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet. He is one of India’s distinguished experimental physicists and he has made outstanding contributions to many aspects of basic science and nuclear technology.

He began the session saying that the national development and the national security are two sides of the same coin and also told that the greatest advantage of recognized strength is that you don’t have ignorance and the greatest disadvantage of perceived weakness, that is your enemy, you get adventurous. “So we must be monetarily strong so that we do not have to lose our strength”, he added.

He stated that S&T-driven growth is needed to become a ‘developed’ country. But for this development to be sustainable, a Knowledge-driven Economy is essential. This requires global leadership in science, engineering technology, manufacturing and innovation. We need excellence in R&D-led technology development and innovation. All this must be backed by high-quality manufacturing skills.

Then he talked about ‘Appropriability Conundrum’, India and International Scientific Cooperation, under which a unique multi-billion dollar facilities like the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva (CERN) are built through international cooperation. India contributed 40 million dollars worth of equipment – superconducting sextupole, octupole and decapole magnets and advanced grid software - to this facility.

Later he discussed about Robust Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) of ISRO and The Indian tsunami early warning centre which monitors the earthquakes occurring on the ocean floor. Adding to this he spoke about the design and development of The Indus-2 Synchrotron radiation source. The IAEA perspectives on the future of nuclear energy and the nuclear model of indigenization were also

included in his talk. He also briefed about the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy partnership, DAILAB (DBT-AST International Laboratory for Advanced Biomedicine) and National Knowledge Network.

Finally he concluded saying that India is at the forefront of technological development but it needs more international collaboration. “No partnership is sustainable until it is mutually benefited.”