

PRESS RELEASE

India, ASEAN member states must intensify collaborative research in S&T and innovation to address economic and social challenges: Dr. Harsh Vardhan

2-day India-ASEAN InnoTech Summit gets underway

NEW DELHI, 29 November 2018 – Hon'ble Union Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, today called upon the scientific community in India and ASEAN member states to intensify collaborative research in science, technology and innovation to address the economic and societal challenges being faced by the two regions.

Addressing the first **India-ASEAN InnoTech Summit** here, **organised by FICCI in association with the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and the Ministry of External Affairs**, Dr. Vardhan said, "The time now is for simple solutions for complex problems through innovation."

Under the ASEAN-India Innovation Platform, 400 technologies are ready to be commercialised in ASEAN member states, he said and called upon the scientific community to pool and share technologies through the platform.

India, he said, has a lot to offer to the ASEAN countries. New age technologies were being nurtured at the 38 laboratories of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, he said and added that in the global list of 1207 research institutions supported by government funding, India stood at the 9th position. "Our mission is to position India into the big league and be recognised among the top three global leaders in Science & Technology," he said. Applauding the initiative, he said that the summit should be an annual event with take aways and learnings, and the government will continue to extend its support for the same in future as well.

DST Secretary, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, said that Science and Technology was a new dimension to the strong India-ASEAN cultural bonds and complementary economic and political systems. The need of the hour was to scale up collaborations in nanotechnology, advanced materials and biotechnology, he said.

Prof. Sharma added that the ASEAN-India Innovation Platform (AIIP) is a major element of the enhanced the ASEAN-India S&T Development Fund (AISTDF), which is a part of ASEAN-India Science & Technology Collaboration. He applauded that the India ASEAN innovation platform which was launched 4 months back by DST and FICCI has already received more than 1.5 million hits. The AIIP comprises social innovations, product and processes innovation generated by industry and research innovations from the academia and R&D labs. He called upon innovators in ASEAN countries to explore the numerous opportunities

available in India and build partnerships for the common good of the people in the two regions.

Mr. Moe Kyaw Aung, Ambassador of Myanmar to India, said that the time was ripe to share the best ideas and build powerful networks between the scientific community of ASEAN and India. He called for creating sustainable national and international innotech projects to build a continuous and dynamic science revolution.

Mr. R.V. Kanoria, Past President, FICCI and Chairman and Managing Director, Kanoria Chemicals and Industries Ltd., said that the two-day summit is being attended by S&T advisors, experts, institution heads, companies and entrepreneurs from ASEAN member states. More than 60 ASEAN delegates from industry, academia, government, bilateral and multilateral agencies and associated establishments that constitute the ecosystem for innovation-led technical and economic development are attending the first of its kind innovation and technology summit in India.

Mr. Nirankar Saxena, Deputy Secretary General FICCI in his address mentioned that in this 21st century technology and innovation should create welfare for common man. India and ASEAN member states should aspire to replicate successful models in each other's region.

Concluding the inaugural Mr. Yogesh Andlay, Co chair FICCI startup committee and Co-founder, Nucleus Software Pvt. Ltd. Expressed that such platforms give a boost to the culture of innovation across sectors. This is an opportune platform where technology innovation and academia are meeting.

The two days summit, had ten Sessions, two grand-keynote addresses, fifty eminent panelists from India and ASEAN from the field of science and technology and more than 1200 B2B and B2G meetings amongst Indian and ASEAN delegates cutting across the innovation and technology domain. More than sixty ASEAN Delegates from industry, academia, government, bilateral/multilateral agencies, and associated establishments that constitute the ecosystem for innovation led technical and economic development attended the first of its kind innovation and technology summit in India. It attracted more than 500 relevant people from all sectors of Innovation, Science and Technology.

The Summit is a part of ASEAN India Innovation Platform Program of ASEAN India Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF) and shall be an annual flagship program to mark the Strengthening relationship between India and ASEAN Member Countries. The summit aimed to craft a unique networking ground for people to explore new collaborations, refresh existing ones and showcase projects, programs and demonstrate success stories to connect with players and stakeholders of the ASEAN community.
