



## FORUM FOR GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING

*(Knowledge Forum)*

<http://FGKS.in>

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### ***Report of the Secretary***

(October 27, 2014)

I welcome you all to the general Body Meeting of the Forum for Global Knowledge Sharing (Knowledge Forum).

Before presenting the report I would like to place on record our deep sorrow on the death of Professor Daniel Van Den Bulcke. He has been a Vice-President of our Forum for Global Knowledge Sharing since its inception. He has been regularly participating and contributing papers in our conferences. He has also been motivating young European Scholars to become members of the Forum. His death is a big loss to the Forum. He took active part in our last year conference (October 25-27, 2013) and chaired a Session and discussed a large number of papers. Within two months of attending our conference he died. We will always cherish his memory.

#### **Report on activities: Since April 2013**

Since April 2013 we have made considerable progress in publications. We have added about 26 new research papers in our “*Research Papers*” folder. In addition we have new “*Case Studies*”. Select papers presented in our 2013 annual conference held at IIT Bombay have been accepted for publication by *Springer*. This will appear as an edited volume.

In March 2014, Knowledge Forum in collaboration with eSocialSciences published the eBook, “*Stagnant Manufacturing: Governance and Policy Slack*”. This volume is edited by N S Siddharthan and is placed in the websites of Knowledge Forum and eSocialSciences. All the papers were contributed by Members of Knowledge Forum. The volume contains the following papers:

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I wish to place on record our sincere thanks to eSocialSciences and in particular to its editor Dr. Padma Prakash, for hosting and maintaining our website and for helping us in our academic activities

### ***Conferences Organised Since April 2013***

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***VIII Annual Conference October 25-27, 2013***

***Hosted by IIT Bombay and supported by KU Leuven, Belgium.***

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## *Conference Theme: Emerging Technologies and Development*

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More than 80 persons registered and participated in the conference. Delegates from following institutions participated:

From Europe:

1. University of Antwerp
2. K U Leuven, Antwerpen, Belgium
3. Pardos, France

From USA:

4. George Town University, Washington DC

From Mumbai (Bombay) and Maharashtra:

5. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bomay)
6. National Institute of Industrial Engineering [NITIE], Mumbai
7. Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
8. MES's Pillai's Institute of Information Technology, Engineering, Media Studies and Research, Mumbai
9. eSocialSciences, Mumbai
10. Symbiosis, Pune

From Delhi and National Capital Region:

11. IIT Delhi
12. Delhi School of Economics
13. Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
14. IDBI Bank, Delhi
15. Society for Development Studies, Delhi
16. Amity University (Noida)
17. Technology, Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, Delhi

From Chennai (Madras) and Tamil Nadu:

18. IIT Chennai
19. Madras School of Economics (Chennai)
20. Institute for Financial Management and Research Madras, Chennai
21. Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Trichi

From Kolkata:

22. Bethune College, Kolkata
23. Jadavpur University, Kolkata

From Other Indian Cities:

24. IIT Indore
25. IIM Lucknow
26. Central University Gujarat
27. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Bangalore

In the Introductory Session, Professor Karuna Jain, Director, National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai, delivered the theme address. This was followed by Technical Sessions.

### **Technical Sessions:**

- I. **Foreign Direct Investments** – Chair/Discussant: Stanley Nollen (George Town University, Washington DC).

Issues discussed:

- Direction of outward FDI of Indian manufacturing firms: Influence of technology and firm productivity
- Outward FDI, firm heterogeneity and technological efforts
- FDI in wind energy – impact of state policies
- FDI, technological choices and spillovers

- II. **Innovations** - Chair/Discussant: Daniel Van Den Bulcke (University of Antwerp)

Issues Discussed

- Innovation by firms
- Knowledge resources and decision to export
- Institutions and innovations
- Clean development mechanism and exports
- Geography of patenting

- III. **R & D Related Issues** – Chair/Discussant: K L Krishna (Delhi School of Economics)

Issues Discussed:

- R & D and financing constraints
- R & D Spillovers
- Productivity, technical efficiency and ICT

- IV. **Technology and Policy** – Chair/Discussant: Ashok Jain (Former Director NISTADS)

Issues Discussed:

- Innovative capabilities of Indian companies in cross-border acquisitions

- Genetically modified crops and farm livelihoods
- Policy shifts in urban sanitation: Public Private Partnerships.

In addition to these technical (competitive) sessions, there were also two *Case Studies* sessions.

V. **Case Studies: Technology** – Chair: B L Pandit (Delhi School of Economics)

Cases Discussed:

- Technology intermediation – Case study of TIFAC
- Longitudinal trends in competitiveness
- Components for photovoltaic panels, a case study

VI. **Case Studies: Socio economic Issues** – Chair: Alakh Sharma (Director IHD)

Cases Discussed:

- Poverty and social entrepreneurship
- Electronic voting machines
- Spoken tutorials for IT literacy
- Improved cook stoves

On 27<sup>th</sup> October two **Research Workshops** were conducted. Research Scholars presented their research findings.

VII. **Workshop on Social Sciences** – Chair: S R Hashim (President Knowledge Forum)

Themes Discussed:

- Social networks in corporate sector
- Technological change and capital – labour relations
- Harnessing tacit knowledge for innovation
- Impact of affluence and population on agrochemical use in India

VIII. **Workshop on Technology** – Chair: Milind V Rane, (Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Bombay)

Themes Discussed:

- Measurement technologies for urban heat islands and impact on urban climate patterns.
- Planning for integration of solar Photovoltaics in to the energy needs
- Solar collector for agro produce drying

Towards the end of this last session Professor K Narayanan (Convenor of Conferences) proposed a vote of thanks.

I am happy that our General Body is meeting now during the Ninth Annual Conference on Technology: Corporate and Social Dimensions at NIAS Bangalore. We would like to thank the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) for co-organising the conference. In addition to providing a generous grant, they were fully involved in organising the conference and INAE members have contributed important case studies. They have agreed to collaborate with us for the next two conferences also. I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to Dr. Baldev Raj, President of INAE and director NIAS for his vision, appreciation of the role of interdisciplinary forums and active support for our venture. I am grateful to Dr. B N Suresh for coordinating our activities and for motivating eminent technologists to present case studies. Collaboration with INAE will result in a paradigm shift in our activities and will substantially strengthen the technology component of the Forum. The three institutions will complement each other and could emerge as an important global knowledge hub.

I am indebted to NIAS for hosting the conference and in particular to Dr. Rajaram Nagappa for his active support and participation at every stage in organising this conference. I thank Dr. M Mayilvaganan, for his efficiency in making all the arrangements and in particular for arranging the Ph.D. Workshop. I express my gratitude to Professor S R Hashim for his constant support and encouragement; to Professor K Narayanan for his consistent involvement and active contribution to all our activities. I thank Dr. Santosh K Sahu for his active help in preparing and arranging the conference material.

### **Research Papers**

Since April 2012 we have added about 27 papers to our *Research Papers* folder of the website. In addition we have also added an additional folder on *Case Studies*. I appeal to members to regularly contribute research papers to these folders. Papers posted in our *Research Papers* folder are covered by google search. They are also covered by google citation index. The papers posted in our folder have already received several citations. Furthermore, eSocialSciences <http://www.esocialsciences.com> has also been giving wide publicity to our papers and programmes. They have also given a link to our website. Currently they are also hosting our website. Our sincere thanks to Dr. Padma Prakash.

### **Financial Position and Audited Statement**

As you can see from our audit statement, we have invested the entire membership fee (including corporate members) in fixed deposits. We now have about Rs.5,69,252 in fixed deposits. Last year interest from fixed deposits came to only about 63,816 rupees. Therefore for holding our annual conferences we have to depend on external sources of finance. The 2013 conference was funded by K U Leuven Belgium. The money was transferred directly to IIT Bombay. For the current conference we have received Rs.5 lakhs from INAE. In addition ISRO and DST have directly transferred funds to NIAS for local hospitality and other conference related expenditures. INAE has agreed to support our next two conferences also.

N S Siddharthan  
Hon. Secretary  
October 26, 2014.