

Director's New Year's Address (Date: 2nd January, 2017)



Left: Dr D Ramaiah (center), Director, CSIR-NEIST delivering his New Year's address. Sri Ajay Kumar (left), In-charge-Hindi cell and Mrs A Sengupta (right), Head-RP&BD Division are seen translating the speech in Hindi and Assamese respectively. Right: A section of CSIR-NEIST staff members attending the address.

Very Good Morning. “Aguntuk Nababorkhor Subhessa Jaasilu”. On the occasion of New Year, I wish each and every one of you a very happy and prosperous New Year 2017. I would also like to convey my best wishes to all our superannuated colleagues, our stake-holders and partners and to all CSIR-NEIST family members for a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Time really flies off and this is my forth address here on the New Year occasion. New Year is the best time to resolve the direction we want to make headway. This year is an important year for all of us, since it is the year of CSIR Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. It is also the moment for us to cherish our splendour past and count on the limitless hopes for the future opportunities.

The year 2016 was tagged as the Year of “*Translation Research*”, and I am happy to inform you that we have been able to Translate good number of our technologies and also accomplished considerable excellence in academics, technology, external cash flow and in societal fronts. We have achieved a milestone by transferring for the first time our Herbal Anti-Arthritis technology to 5 pharmaceutical companies namely, M/s Kudos Laboratories India Ltd, New Delhi, M/s Multani Pharmaceuticals Ltd, New Delhi, M/s Altis Life Science, Himachal Pradesh, M/s Ayur India, New Delhi, and M/s Naturaveda Organics Pvt Ltd, Kolkata. We have also transferred the technologies on Wood Care Formulation, Solid and Liquid Deodorant Cleaners and Mosquito Repellent Wax Candle to M/s. DSP Agrofoods & Chemical Industries, Bhubaneswar. I like to congratulate Dr M Bhuyan and Dr T Goswami and their teams for the achievements. We are continuing efforts for transferring other mature technologies for commercialization such as, ‘Process for Extraction and Purification of Oxyresveratrol’ and ‘Modular Bricks from Brahmaputra River Bed Sand’. We signed MoUs and Agreements with various Govt. Departments and other stake holders for collaborative programmes, which include confidentiality and joint research agreement with “Tata Steel Limited”, Jamshedpur for undertaking a project on ‘Conversion of Non-Coking Coal to Coking Coal”, and another agreement with “Better Tomorrow Technologies”, Guwahati for propagating the Bio-Remediation Technology. I take this opportunity to congratulate each and every one of you for your sincere efforts and hope that we shall strive harder to achieve higher goals and deliverables during the current year.

In the societal front, our institute has contributed significantly. Our Institute has extended training programs under different schemes, including CSIR 800 etc. During the year, the institute has extended training on Mushroom Cultivation and Vermicompost Production to several unemployed

youth, women folk from various Self Help Groups and Entrepreneurs from Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. A Health Camp was also organized at the CSIR-800 Techvil in Sonitpur, Assam to combat malnutrition in women and children. With regard to the Agro-technologies, we have developed two new and improved plant varieties of Citronella and Lemongrass. These plant varieties were released & dedicated to the nation and our farmers by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India & President of CSIR, Shri Narendra Modi during the 75th CSIR Foundation Day Celebrations at New Delhi. I would like to congratulate Dr M Lal and his team for the achievement.

The Institute also successfully hosted important events like Materials Research Society of India (MRSI) Symposium & 27th Annual General Body Meeting, Outreach Program under India International Science Festival-2016, Residential Salters' Chemistry Camps of the Royal Society of Chemistry India (RSC), CSIR-Faculty Training and other science motivation programs for students. I am pleased to inform you that Jorhat has been chosen as the centre for CSIR-UGC NET exam in 2016 and in June & December, our Institute has coordinated these examinations successfully.

In the publication front, we have performed well. We have published and crossed around 100 papers in journals of National and International repute with an average Impact Factor 3.3, the highest Impact Factor has been 8.5 for a publication in the journal "Green Chemistry". In the IPR front, 6 Patents have been filed in India and 2 in abroad. Furthermore, 4 patents have been granted in India and 1 in abroad during the year. In 2016, 8 no of students have been awarded Ph D degree under AcSIR and other Universities of North East. In External Cash Flow, we have reached 6.54 crore during the year and we are hopeful that with the aggressive involvement of the entire NEIST family, we should be able to make a significant improvements in ECF generation in the current year.

In the Infrastructure development side, we have created Rural Technology Demonstration Centre, completed the construction of Animal House Facility and created Traffic Rotary and completed renovation of Nursery School, Badminton court. Besides we have also started the roofing of the remaining laboratory buildings and Campus Quarters Type B and SA. We have also been successful in adding sophisticated equipment, such as FE SEM, AFM, HRMS, Steady State and Time Resolved Fluorescence Spectrometer and HRTEM. In the recruitment front, we have recruited 13 scientists, 11 Administrative personal and 3 temporary status employees. Importantly, we have been successful in completing the process of regularization of all temporary status of employees. I like to express our thanks to the administration, finance & accounts, stores & purchase and eng services and all sections for their accomplishments.

During the year, several important personalities have visited our Institute, a few notable are, Shri Y S Chowdary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Govt. of India; Padma Shri Prof Goverdhan Mehta, FNA, FRS; Prof. Challa Vijaya Kumar, Dept. of Chemistry, University of Connecticut, USA; Padma Shri Prof J P Mittal, B N Saha Distinguished Professor, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai and very recently Bharat Ratna Professor CNR Rao. Also, more than 3000 students along with their faculty members have visited our Institute on various occasions like Gyanjyoti, Gyan Yatra, motivation programme etc.

We are on the verge of completing the ambitious 12th Five Year Plan projects with a record of 32 network projects and 8 In-house projects and we have achieved the objectives and milestones set, reasonably well. Recently, few of our FTT projects have been sanctioned and we are also getting associated with few more mission mode projects of CSIR from this year onwards. I am happy to share with you that 2016 has been an excellent since some of our colleagues like Dr. Binoy Kumar Saikia, Dr. Ram Awatar Maurya, Dr H B Singh and Mr. Ajay Kumar have received national recognitions. On behalf of all of you and my own behalf, I extend our heartfelt congratulations and

wish them success in the future. We have also good news from recently held SSBMT tournaments held at IIP, in which our colleagues Ms Pushpa Kumari and Ms Himadri Das have qualified for finals in Caroms competitions. Let us congratulate them and wish them all the best for the finals.

On this occasion, I appeal to all of you to strive hard to achieve higher objectives, and develop technologies for the masses, both in the high-end category and also for the rural areas. I request all of you to put in extra zeal to combine discipline, innovation, research together with cooperation amongst us for the scientific and holistic societal development. Let us take a pledge on this occasion to converge all our strengths and expertise for the enhanced scientific outcomes of our Institute for the benefit of the customer and society. I would like to declare the year 2017 as the Year of “**Objective Oriented Research for Mankind**” Once again, I wish you all a very Happy New Year and may the new year be filled with full of excitements and achievements. Jai Hind and Dhanyavad.



Left: Release of CSIR-NEIST Diary for the year 2017. Right: Release of CSIR-NEISTCalendar for the year 2017.