

*See letter below*

**Message**

**from**

**Mr. Y. S. Rajan**

**Executive Director, Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC)  
(Department of Science and Technology)**

**and**

**Scientific Secretary to Principal Scientific Adviser,  
Government of India.**

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***Greetings to Scientists and Technologists from ASEAN and India !***

It gives me great pleasure to send my good wishes for the ASEAN-India Workshop on Nd-Fe-B Magnets being organized at Kuala Lumpur from August, 23-25<sup>th</sup>, 2000.

S&T cooperation between India and ASEAN started in 1995. It was launched with a great vision and hope. It is extremely gratifying to see that in this short span of five years, both sides have made significant progress in the joint S&T projects, specially this one on Nd-Fe-B Magnets. The scientist-to scientist interaction has led to a deeper understanding of the technology for characterization and achieving the requisite magnetic properties. This was reinforced by the Research Attachment programme in which young scientists had an opportunity to visit and have hands-on working experience on the diagnostic and production facilities from either side.

I am particularly glad to note that many related industries are coming forward to fructify the R&D results into commercial ventures. This was a part of the original vision as industrial actions would make the benefits of S&T to flow to economy and society. The progress on this project has been exemplary and in the true spirit of S&T cooperation.

TIFAC is proud to have been associated with this project right from upscaling of technology from Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL) to its eventual commercialisation through one of our programmes and later as the focal point from India for the ASEAN-India project. I cherish my personal interaction with a large number of scientists and institutions in ASEAN, particularly the help and support from the three ASEAN COST Chair persons, namely, Madame Estrella Allabastro, Mr. Gong Wee Lik and Mr. Chong Lit Cheong.

Our **Friends and Neighbors from ASEAN** represent a vital & vibrant Industrial Economy to which India attaches very great importance. In the coming months, your scientists and industries working closely with ours, will, I am sure help in winning new opportunities and markets through better technologies and products and help to bring about a new resurgence in our Economies and Societies.

I once again wish this Workshop all success.

Y.S. Rajan

New Delhi, India  
21<sup>st</sup> August, 2000

28<sup>th</sup>

Status of ASEAN S&T Cooperation as on April'2004

1. **Advanced Materials :**

a. **Surface Engineering :** The project on "Wear Resistant and Thermal Barrier Coatings for Automotive and other applications" was completed in December, 2001. As the next phase of this programme, the proposal for the project "**Development of thermally sprayed ceramic based coatings for land based gas turbines and bio-medical application**", has been jointly prepared by NTU, Singapore and ARC-I (an R&D center set up by DST).

The partner countries from ASEAN are; Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore. In order to initiate commercialization of this project, the proposal has involved partners from Industry/Hospitals (for bio-medical applications).

The proposal is under processing by the International Division of DST.

b. **High Energy Rare Earth Magnets :**

The joint project has been completed with a workshop in August, 2000 at Malaysia. The ASEAN participating countries are: Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Myanmar and Philippines. The workshop recommended that the project should be continued with focus on application engineering and improvement of properties as well as to carry out the market survey for NdFeB magnets. The draft proposal for the extension of ASEAN-India collaboration on NdFeB magnetic materials has been prepared by TIFAC and is under processing by the International Division of DST. The ASEAN Standing Committee has approved this project proposal.

## 2. **S&T Policy and Technology Management :**

An initiative was taken by TIFAC to organize an ASEAN-India Workshop on "Managing Technology for Enhancing National Competitiveness - role of Government" at IIM, Bangalore during March 2002. Top Technology Managers and S&T policy makers from seven ASEAN countries shared experiences from their respective countries and have greatly appreciated the mechanisms adopted by TIFAC in this direction. In the recommendations, it has been brought out that it would be useful to evolve project concepts in areas such as (a) Management of IPR and (b) Technology Management with focus on technology foresight, technology intermediation-technology development models, through case studies and country experiences.

During the 5<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting held in New Delhi in April, 2003, TIFAC was asked to draft a project proposal in this area. A project proposal was prepared in consultation with ASEAN Secretariat and submitted the same to the International Division of DST in August, 2003. It is proposed to organize 3 workshops in India and ASEAN focused on the themes mentioned above. DST has reviewed the proposal in their PAC held during February 2004. From ASEAN side, their concerned committees (SCIRD and COST) have endorsed the proposal in September, 2003. A go-ahead from the Indian side (DST and MEA) is awaited.

## 3.4. **Information Technology :**

The project on 'ASEAN - India Digital Archive' has been successfully completed by both sides with participation of 7 ASEAN countries.

In view of the excellent outcome of this project, on the specific request of ASEAN, ERNET India has prepared a proposal for Phase-II of this project. Again, on the request of ASEAN, they have prepared a proposal on 'Human Resource Development in the area of Computer Networking'. Both these proposals were sent by ERNET India to MEA and TIFAC in June 2002. The outcome is awaited.

#### 4. **Space :**

Under S&T Cooperation in Space Technology, a training programme on Remote Sensing was proposed to be provided by ISRO Satellite Centre, Bangalore to trainees in ASEAN member countries. The objective of the programme is to train 10 ASEAN remote sensing specialists (one person per country) at the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) in Dehradun and Space Application Centre (SAC) in Ahmedabad to use Indian Remote Sensing Data (IRS) data for environmental management such as forest fire monitoring marine and coastal management. The duration of the training programme is three months. Final dates are yet to be fixed based on the mutual convenience between ASEAN and India.

The project investigator from India, namely, Dr. K. Thyagarajan, of ISRO has been constantly pursuing the matter with his ASEAN counterpart, Dr. Muchamad Muchlis from Malaysia. Somehow there have been several communication gaps and long delays in getting a response from ASEAN side. Visit of the ASEAN team to space centers in India is still awaited.

#### 5. **Biotechnology :**

There have been several interactions between DBT and their counterparts in ASEAN with respect to specific projects in Plant and Animal Biotechnology as well as Bio-informatics Network. The present status of these projects will be informed by the representative of DBT.

#### 6. **Participation in 'ASEAN Science & Technology Week'**

A mega event is organized by ASEAN every three years to showcase latest technologies from ASEAN Member countries as well as Dialogue Partners. India has actively participated in 3 such S&T weeks at Bangkok (1995), Hanoi (1998) and Brunei Darussalam (2001). Indian Scientists presented papers on the outcome of Joint Projects and also exhibited products developed thru' S&T Cooperation with ASEAN.

7. **ASEAN – India Working Group on S&T, (AI-WGST) :**

In order for ASEAN and India cooperation on S&T to become more institutionalized and more effective, both sides agreed to establish mechanisms to coordinate and facilitate the activities, specifically at the professional and technical level, for each area of cooperation. Accordingly AI-WGST was set up, comprising senior technologists from both sides. The meeting is co-chaired from the ASEAN side by their COST Chairman and from India by ED-TIFAC and is held every two years. Three meeting held so far : i) Kuala Lumpur, November, 1997, ii) Singapore, November 1999, and iii) Bangalore, March 2002.