

**VOTE OF THANKS**  
**BY S.K.NATH, Programme Coordinator and ADG, CSO, India**

It is indeed a privilege for a Statistician to propose the vote of thanks at the Meeting of Chief of Statistical Organisations of SAARC Member States in this GERMINAL occasion at Calcutta.

At the outset, I would like to thank profusely His Excellency the Hon'ble Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation Mr. Oscar Fernandes for his thought provoking speech, which we hope will lay the foundation of meaningful and fruitful era of cooperation in Statistics. Sir, we the statisticians from diverse countries are ready to share the spirit that has emerged from your well thought speech. In the poetic language of the Nobel laureate, the universal Bengali Poet Tagore let me express my regards to you by saying EKTI NAMASKARE PRABHU –in English “ In one salutation to thee, my God, let all my senses spread out and touch this world at thy feet”. Respected delegates and invitees let us give a big hand to our Hon'ble Minister.

Let me now thank His Excellency Mr. Dorji, the SAARC Secretary-General in his absentia. HIS EXCELLENCY Mr. Dorji is like a glittering “North Star” in the blue sky of SAARC Region. All of us are extremely grateful to him for his vision in conceptualizing the need for cooperation in statistics in this region. The whole world community of Statisticians will remember his contribution for the cause of inter-regional development of Statistics. Let us give a BIG HAND to HIS EXCELLENCY Secretary General Mr, Dorji .

In SAARC secretariat the whole exercise could be completed – that too within a short period because of the hard work and active support of two brilliant and able SAARC officials namely. Mr. Rajiv Chander and Mr. S.C. Sharma who worked day and night to make this programme successful. Let us give big hand to them.

We are immensely grateful to our Secretary Mr. P.S.Rana. Sir, your guidance and support have given us tremendous boost in organizing this Historical Meeting within such a short period. We are sure that under your leadership Indian Statisticians will be able to carry forward the TORCH of SAARC forum for cooperation in Statistics. Let us give a big hand to Hon'ble Secretary Mr. Rana.

Respected Delegates- you are the kings of the Statistical Kingdom of this region. I feel honoured to get the life time opportunity to sit by the side of yours. I am moved . I lost my language on how to express my feelings today to the galaxy of statisticians . I may therefore try to express my feelings by citing a poem from “Geetanjali” – EKTU SHUDH BOSETE DIO PASHE- in English “ I ask for a moment's indulgence to sit by thy side.....To-day the summer has come at my window with its sighs and murmurs”.

Sirs, we are all aware how much pain you have taken to reach this place to attend this Meeting. We also know without your professionalism, cooperation and support the whole exercise would be meaningless. Let me express our sincere gratitude and thanks to all of you. Let us give Big hand to our delegates from all the six foreign countries- Mr. Musa from Bangladesh, Mr. Gaylay from Bhutan, Mr. Thowfeek from Maldives, Mr. Bastola from Nepal, Mr. Elahi and Mr. Hashmi from Pakistan and Mr. Amarasinghe from Sri Lanka.

Let me now give my special thanks to Dr. R.C.Panda, Additional Secretary and Dr. P. K. Kapur Joint Secretary, MEA It is Dr. Panda, who took keen initiatives and discussed the issue earlier with the SAARC Member States at Luang Prabang in January 2004 during SIAP/ESCAP Management seminar. Dr. Panda and Dr. Kapur are our guiding forces for making this programme successful in every respect. Let us give big hand to them.

Gentlemen, I will not take any more valuable times of yours. But my task will remain incomplete unless I thank all other invitees and my own colleagues from ISI, MOS&PI and DGCIS for their cooperation. I may be allowed to make special mention of Dr. K.B.Sinha , Mr. D. Chaudhuri, Mr. Ganeriwala, Dr. N. Ray, Dr. P.D.Joshi, Mr. N.V. Tolani, Mr. Modak, Mr. Shantanu Gupta and all protocol officers and others who provided administrative support. Their hard and sincere work we appreciate with gratitude Last but not the least let me express our sincere thanks to the Press, TV and media who have given special colour to this meet. Thanks are also due to Hyatt Regency for their arrangements and cooperation.

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