

Welcome Address
by
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His Excellency Hon'ble Minister Mr. G.K.Vasan, Dr.R.C.Panda, Special Secretary, Dr. K.V. Rao, Director General, National Sample Survey Organisation, Delegates from SAARC Member States, Mr. Rajiv Chander, Director. SAARC Secretariat, Mr. Vishnu Kumar, Addl. DG, Ms. Preeti Saran, Joint Secretary (SAARC) and Ladies and Gentlemen

Very Good Morning to all of you.

At the outset, I profusely thank His Excellency Hon'ble Minister for sparing his valuable time in spite of hectic and busy schedule and agreeing to inaugurate this important and historical function on most important areas of Statistics.

Sir, "Statistical Classification" and "System of National Accounts" are not new concepts. But being evolving in nature, there is continuous research for their improvement keeping pace with socio-economic needs of the world.

Sir, "Statistics" and "societal needs" are highly correlated. The role of Statisticians, therefore, needs to be redefined in terms of "needs" and "delivery system" of the society. Statistical system is not just merely a system, which should "Collect", "Compile" and "Disseminate" data. In terms of *needs of the society*, a statistical system should function both as a "MIRROR OF THE ECONOMY" and also a "MIRROR OF THE SOCIETY".

Sir, no statistical system can survive without any dynamism in it. And this calls for development of partnership programme which is the essence of present day movement and it is being promoted by the UN city group PARIS21. This obviously calls for more collaboration among SAARC Member States on statistical issue including these two crucial issues namely, Classification and System of National Accounts, on priority basis.

Sir, all the seven countries under SAARC are like the seven flowers of the same plant. Their geographical locations form a garland of seven flowers. Like a garland, all the “seven flowers” in the area need balanced development in Statistics too. This can be achieved what I call “sir”, “CROSS BORDER STATISTICAL CARE” or CBSC. The new concept of CBSC through cooperation in Statistics should grow up and fortify each other. The concept of CBSC allows identification of strong and weak areas of each country through **Statistical Process Assessment (SPA)** and can be strengthened through **Statistical Re-engineering Process (SRP)**. This is essence of the technique called **Statistical Process Assessment and RE-engineering (SPARe)**.

Sir, what is urgently needed is a **road map** and we hope SAARCSTAT will soon develop a **strategic action plan** which will provide with a road map for development of Statistics in the Region.

Sir, we are extremely happy and delighted for your presence in this function, which has given moral boost to all Statisticians present here.

Let us give a big “Salute” to our respected Hon’ble Minister. *Namaskar*

We have Dr. R. C. Panda with us today. Dr. Panda is the inspirator for this workshop. In fact, he is a strong pillar for moving the SAARCSTAT objectives among the world community too. He has a long vision about the future of SAARCSTAT and it is due to his initiative we could organize this workshop with two most important subjects. Let me express my gratitude for his strong support.

We heartily welcome Dr. Panda – our beloved special secretary.

We extend “red carpet” welcome to all the delegates from SAARC Member States and also to the Director and his team from SAARC Secretariat. Let us give a big hand to all of them.

Among other dignitaries we have Dr. K.V. Rao, DG, NSSO here. His experience in survey sampling will be a great asset to the SAARC region. We have Ms. Preeti, Joint Secretary(SAARC), who plays a most pivotal role in SAARCSTAT movement. Let us welcome both Dr. Rao and Ms. Preeti

Last but not the least, let me welcome all of you present here. It is your valuable contributions in the subject concern will make this workshop a great success. So, I salute all of you.

At the end, let me say in the language of Rabindra Nath Tagore **“Let me bow before you, Sir ; and say our journey starts from today and we will not stop even under inclement weather”** – yes Sir, the journey of SAARC cooperation in Statistics will not stop and it will gather further momentum over years.

Thank you