



भारतीय राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान अकादमी Indian National Science Academy

Press Release

29 May 2013

Indian National Science Academy (INSA) is the apex body of science in the country. It strives hard to promote excellence in scientific research and education by electing high quality Indian scientists as its Fellows. Upcoming young scientists are recognized by awarding a Medal and grant of contingency funds on the basis of their scientific contributions. Government of India had given the Academy, the responsibility of adhering to the International Council for Science (ICSU) and its various scientific unions. Presently, INSA is actively involved with ~30 scientific unions (2 INSA Fellows are serving as Presidents and more than 50 Fellows in various capacities in the different Unions). In addition, presently, the Academy serves on the Executive Committees of Global Network of Academies (IAP), Inter-Academy Council (IAC) and is active in the newly constituted Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA) with President, INSA as Vice President.

The political Summits of Governments of G8+5 countries including India deliberate on issues of global concerns annually. Prior to the political summits, the Presidents of science academies of these countries meet in what is now known as G-Science meetings and prepare statements on scientific and technological matters of considerable concern at global level. These are submitted to respective governments.

It was a great privilege and pleasure for INSA to be invited to host the latest Summit of Presidents of Science Academies of G8+ countries during 7-9 March 2013. It was for the first time that this meeting was held outside the G8 countries. As a prerogative of the host academy, INSA had also invited African Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Science & Technology, Nepal and Academy of Sciences, Malaysia to participate in these deliberations. The following 14 Academies participated: (i) African Academy of Sciences; (ii) The Royal Society of Canada; (iii) French Academy of Sciences; (iv) German National Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina; (v) Indian National Science Academy; (vi) Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Italy; (vii) Science Council of Japan; (viii) Academy of Sciences, Malaysia; (ix) Mexican Academy of Sciences; (x) Nepal Academy of Science & Technology; (xi) Russian Academy of Sciences; (xii) Academy of Science of South Africa; (xiii) The Royal Society, United Kingdom; and (xiv) The National Academy of Sciences, USA.

The deliberations of the G-Science 2013 were focused on the following two topics decided by prior consultation:

- i) Driving Sustainable Development: *the role of Science, Technology and Innovation*; and
- ii) Drug Resistance to Infectious Agents – A Global Threat to Humanity.

Statements on the above two topics have been finalized after detailed discussions and deliberations at INSA in March and subsequently through correspondence with all the participating academies. These have been processed through Governing Councils of all academies. The signed formal statements are attached herewith.

The sustainable developments have been pursued vigorously all over the world keeping in view the Millennium Development Goals set by UN. It is high time to consider the post 2015 scenario and prepare for intense role of S&T to expeditiously achieve sustainable development in different spheres of human life as articulated in the statements.

Resistance to drugs is a major concern to the humanity and the need for development of new drugs is of global concern. These form the core of the second statement on drug resistant diseases.

It is our hope and wish that the leadership of G8+5 economies will provide adequate support to science and technology in both the areas to mitigate human sufferings.
