

were also plans to attract publishers to the scanning of their out-of-print but in copyright book titles. Copyright concerns and publishers may prove the biggest hurdle and these would be increasingly known in the years to come.

People in both developed and developing countries have much to look forward to in this concept of 'Universal Library'. The spirit of sharing and better times ahead for many fund-starved institutions in India, where library facilities

are greatly inadequate, would be facilitated.

Nirupa Sen

Kalam addresses Space summit at the Indian Science Congress

It was a first that a Space summit was held in the history of the Science Congress. There was representation at the summit, part of the Indian Science Congress held in Bangalore, from many foreign space agencies including those from United States of America, France, Thailand and China. It was a first in that any President of India had not only attended the Space summit special session but also delivered the Space summit address titled 'Vision for the global space community: Prosperous, happy and secure planet Earth'. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, who had himself been a part of the Indian Space Research Organization had some suggestions for the global space community. He highlighted his dream of alleviating the pain and problems faced by people in this country and those facing similar problems elsewhere. One solution he felt strongly about was the use of space technology in addressing the problems of social relevance towards national developmental goals. Science and technological inputs are vital to a country's development. Efficient utilization of the existing knowledge leads to wealth

generation and this is where space technological tools play a vital role. Kalam said that 'space technology integrated with information and communication technologies would spearhead our march towards a knowledge society'.

Kalam reiterated that 'it is only international cooperation that can yield shared benefits beyond expendable launch vehicles and spacecraft in areas such as tele-education, connectivity for community development, etc.' He cited that global space market trends would show a decline in business volumes from the current US\$ 32 billion per year to US\$ 16 billion per year by 2010. The Indian concept of hyper plane, a fully reusable system, is an innovation in rocketry providing a payload fraction of 15%, drastically reducing the launch cost to 1/50 of the current cost elsewhere, he added. Hence he felt it was an opportune time for countries to join with India to launch major universal missions. A global effort was needed, said Kalam, for demonstrating low cost access to space. By building an integrated joint global strength, opportunities for attaining the

full potential of space research and building of a joint consortium of space industry could be plausible in the future.

Finally, Kalam asked the Space summit to address itself for initiating a movement towards a Common Minimum Global Space Mission with a 50-year perspective for international cooperation to tackle issues concerning impending human crisis for energy, water and minerals. This could be in the form of an International Space Force made up of all space-faring nations of the world willing to participate and contribute to protect world space assets, said Kalam. India having considerable infrastructure and experience in the use of space for sustainable economic development could lead from the front to establish a consortium of space agencies for future global missions.

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SciDev.Net completes one year

The SciDev.Net website has just completed one year of its formation. During the year 2002 several useful initiatives were undertaken by the organizers of this website. David Dickson, Director, SciDev.Net has stated that 'We would like more people to know about SciDev.Net and, in particular, about the free, weekly e-mail alert that we offer as a way of keeping up to date with new material on the website

(including the access that we provide to selected articles from *Nature* and *Science*)'.

The following excerpted text gives some details: 'The Science and Development Network (SciDev.Net) is an organization that promotes the communication of information about science and technology relevant to the needs of developing countries. Our main activity is running a web-

site <http://www.scidev.net> that provides a regularly updated source of news, views and information on topics ranging from climate change and genetically modified crops to intellectual property and the ethics of medical research.

SciDev.Net was set-up with the support of journals *Nature* and *Science*, both of which allow us to provide free access to selected articles each week. One impo-

stant feature of the website is 'dossiers' – collections of authoritative articles and background information on key science-related issues of direct interest to developing countries.

A free e-mail alert is available giving details of what has been posted on the website over the past week. To register for

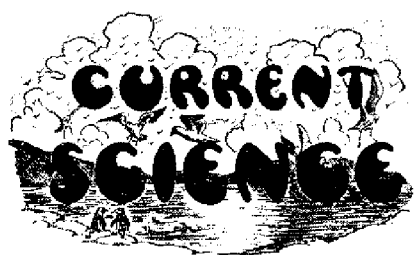
this alert, one may go to <http://www.scidev.net/register>.

The website also provides information about other SciDev.Net activities. These include the creation of regional networks in developing countries, linking together individuals and institutions that share our goals, and training workshops addressing

the task of capacity building in science and technology communication. To read an editorial summarizing our activities in 2002 and our plans for 2003, go to <http://www.scidev.net/archives/editorial/comment44.html>.

Amongst others, the website is supported by the Third World Academy of Sciences.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



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Tuberculosis in India

The Indian Medical Gazette has issued a special tuberculosis number this month. In the preparation of this number and in the selection of contributions for inclusion, the editor has had the assistance of an editorial committee of the Tuberculosis Association in India. The contributors include many of the best-known tuberculosis workers in India and the contributions deal with a number of aspects of this subject which is so vital to India's health, but the majority are clinical articles written by specialists for the benefit of the practitioner.

Two important papers deal with conditions that may easily be mistaken for tuberculosis but are not tuberculous in origin; Dr Ukil writes on chronic infections (non-tuberculous) of the lung, and Dr Frimodt-Møller and Mr. Barton describe a condition which they call 'eosino-

plile lung' that simulates tuberculosis very closely, particularly in its X-ray manifestations, and leads to much misdiagnosis. This latter condition seems to be particularly prevalent in India and has not been described in other countries.

The sufferer from tuberculosis is not immune from other chronic diseases and *vice versa*; the combination of two diseases usually adds considerably to the risks associated with either of the diseases singly. Pulmonary tuberculosis associated with diabetes is an example. Dr. Benjamin and Verghese point out that the prospects of the patient is not so fatal as it was a few years ago before insulin and many of the more successful measures of dealing with diabetes were introduced and the immediate results in their hands have been comparatively good. Dr. Jones, of the Wanless Tuberculosis Sanatorium, describes the treatment of spontaneous pneumothorax, a common 'accident' in tuberculosis, and Dr. Samuel, of the same institution, that of tuberculous empyema. Other articles are on diet in tuberculosis and on tuberculosis in women with special reference to the question of tuberculosis and pregnancy.

On the subject of tuberculosis organisation there are two particularly valuable papers, one on the control of tuberculosis in the USA, by Dr. Shah of the Public Health Department of the Punjab, who has recently spent some time in America, and the other, by Dr. Frimodt-Møller, the

Medical Commissioner of the Tuberculosis Association of India. There is much inspiration to be gained from America's experience and much to be learnt, but there is little that can be translated directly into terms suited to Indian conditions. Dr. Frimodt-Møller on the other hand outlines a policy that can be adopted in India immediately and is yet capable of expansion.

Finally, the editor, Dr. L. E. Napier, emphasizes the importance of the adoption in India of a fixed policy, as he points out that vacillation shakes the confidence of the lay public without whose wholehearted cooperation any policy will fail. He considers that we know enough about tuberculosis in general, and conditions in India in particular, to frame such a policy, whilst at the same time making allowance for future advances in our knowledge and improvement in local conditions. He supports Dr. Frimodt-Møller's recommendations with the proviso that the establishment of industrial colonies for ex-patients is perhaps not really suited to Indian conditions as they exist to-day.

This is the fifth year in succession that the Indian Medical Gazette has published a special tuberculosis number. This number constitutes a valuable contribution to the subject and will be found of great interest, not only to medical men but to all interested in this aspect of the welfare of India and her people.