

## **Welcome Address by Mr. Karamat Ullah Chaudry, the President, TCDPAP**

Greetings. on behalf of TCDPAP and on my behalf as President, I am honored to address you eminent participants of the Conference.

Gentlemen and Ladies! This prestigious event which has attracted professionals from 16 countries has been organized by SCAFE and I thank them for it. I think a very big hand is due to them. I have had an opportunity to attend several TCDPAP conferences and the way this has started I am sure it is going to be a fantastic conference. SCAEF Nepal being the nodal point of TCDPAP and representing the full spectrum of consulting architects and engineers in the country. TCDPAP and FIDIC ASPAC together have assembled a panel of international experts from countries in the Asia Pacific region and also from Central Asia this time and other areas to address key issues that affect professional consulting services in the context of globalization. At the conclusion of this conference surely we will be in a much better position to understand what globalization is all about. What its impacts are? What are its challenges and how do we go about surmounting those challenges. Globalization is a fact of life and no matter what we do we have to learn to swim with the tide and if we can't learn to swim then we will be the eventual losers. Developing countries are the small players in world economies striving to compete with giants. There is therefore need to strategize through effective approaches to face the onslaught of globalization.

Major changes of globalization are the changing environment, fast growing new technologies, new methods of communication, information dissemination and borderless training. Small nations will be vulnerable but TCDPAP under the FIDIC umbrella can work with member countries on meaningful programs of development. You may be aware that TCDPAP is a body whose program is promoted by UN ESCAP for developing engineering consultancy capabilities at national, sub regional and regional level in Asia and Pacific. It works towards promoting cooperation among the countries that are the members. One of the great benefits of such conferences is that we keep on bumping into each other and it is not just hellos and byes. It is actually networking. I can tell you from my own experiences, I am a Managing Director of NESPAC, which is the largest consultant in Pakistan. We have staff over three thousand and because of these conferences I have met with a gentleman from Bangladesh, a gentleman from Azerbaijan who is also here and we have done projects together because of these conferences. So I think, this is one of the greatest advantages of meeting each other. Sorry I also have to mention about the gentleman Mr. Pasit from Thailand. I think more clapping is needed. Because it is at these conferences that we get to know each other intimately and then when we go back there is an email which says 'thank you very much, it was a lovely time' and there is a reply email which says, 'thank you very much, it was great meeting you' and eventually there is an email, 'hey, there is a project' and that's when the fun starts and then you start working together. So I think what we need to do in these three days is to get to know each other, get to know the projects which we can do together and this network is what globalization is all about. At the end, I am sure that this conference will provide ample opportunities to all of us to understand globalization and its challenges and what we as consultants have to do about it. And at the end of it, I am sure we will be the winners and at the end of this speech let me thank our excellent hosts Mr. Amatya and his team who has done a wonderful job. So far, I am sure there will be even better job in the next three days. Thank you very much.