

## **Vote of thanks by Dr. Sunil Abrol, Secretary General, TCDPAP**

Greetings. It is an honor for me to speak on behalf of TCDPAP Secretariat in this inaugural function. TCDPAP is particularly honored for the opportunity which is given by SCAEF for organizing this function in Nepal. All of us have heard in the morning the success of this program in case of number of delegates, number of countries and the professionals that are represented. The best part of this program has been the inaugural program where we have the government of Nepal being fully represented. I think an event Mr. Boyd was asking me the difference between the West and the East. In the West, the people invite professionals to inaugurate conferences. In the East, in developing countries, we depend on governments, the ministers and the Prime Ministers to inaugurate conferences because that's where the support comes from. We thank you sir and the government of Nepal for encouraging TCDPAP and this event and supporting. This conference is one among the series of TCDPAP activities that happens annually. The last conference we had was in Seoul, Korea. Next one is suppose to be happening in Vietnam in 2010 and we hope to have these events year after year.

Our events are getting stronger and strengthening in terms of attendance, in terms of participation and in terms of number of papers and days we spend on that. TCDPAP for the benefit of some of you, is an organization which is primarily helping organization and consulting associations to promote the profession. We have taken initiatives particularly from the secretariat. In front, an action in terms of supporting this process, is education. We have started from the secretariat in India a number of education programs on consultancy profession. We have a two year program which is in a form of MSC consulting. We have started two other programs which are short courses, certificate courses in technical consulting and certificate consulting skills. The basic objectives of these programs are to build large human resource in the consulting profession. In addition to that we also undertaken capacity building and training programs which is aimed at both consultants and clients, depending on their requirements. Third, we work on, is in terms of selection of consultants. We are helping various governments, ministries and departments in selection of consultants through what we call as 'cost and quality based selection process' because we believe consulting is different from contracting. Therefore, consultants need to be selected on their expertise, knowledge, based on the quality they bring to the table rather than the cost. And the fourth area we help development of the profession, is in terms of providing data base of consultants across the countries. We trying to network between these data bases so that at one single forum we have data bases for all the 14 countries of the Asia Pacific Region. The idea is to help the governments, the clients and ministries picking up the best consultants from the region to develop their projects.

Sir, you and The Prime Minister talked about new Nepal and you also talked about the number of initiatives you are going to take up in terms of sectors like transportation, infrastructure, hydro sector and others in terms of requirements. I am sure, TCDPAP country members will be able to support your and help you in addition to SCAEF in developing those activities and projects. It is hearting to learn that the government of Nepal has taken initiatives of developing an Act, the Consultancy Development Act. It is

a great initiative. We secretariat in India, Sir, have gone through the process of developing (1) models for selection of consultants. There is a document which is a guideline, which is issued by Ministry of Finance, the Government of India that is the guideline which is initiated from the secretariat. In addition to that we have additional guideline which is in the form of Registration, Accreditation, and Grading of consultants. Again primarily is aimed at bringing quality in consulting. These are the kind of initiatives I am sure will add value to your Act which you are trying to bring in this country.

I would like to close by thanking SCAEF, thanking the government of Nepal and thanking all the delegates and participants including the media for making this inaugural function a success and we hope we have wonderful three days coming ahead of us.