Kris Gopalakrishnan

Co-founder and former CEO of Infosys & Member, ICTS International Advisory Board

Good morning to everyone. Let me add my congratulations to Spenta Wadia and his team at the ICTS – all the people who have been involved in setting up this campus. I was telling Spenta that you will have stories to tell and books will be written about how this Centre was set up. This is all part of the story that you will be able to tell future generations of scientists who will come to this Centre. I want to welcome all of you, especially people who have come from far off places. As it was mentioned I am part of the Advisory Board. I am also part of the society in Bangalore, part of the IT industry. So let add my welcome to all of you.

As you know I am not a scientist. So it is a privilege for me to sit among this distinguished gathering of researchers and scientists. I want to talk about two things. One – Dr Bhattacharya talked about a meeting in Trieste even though one is only a three-hour bus ride away in India. I find this rather unfortunate. If you look around in Bangalore, we have several very high quality research institutions across the breadth of everything you can think of in science, engineering, biology, Ayurveda, yoga. There is the Indian Institute of Science, the Indian Institute of Management , NCBS, ICTS of course, JNCASR, CAM, there is the DRDO, the ISRO, Centre for Astrophysics. Then there is the Dairy Research Institute, the CPRI – so many of these institutions are there. Plus research laboratories of many multinational corporations spread all over. Especially in the area of IT. In fact IT started in Bangalore when Texas Instruments set up their first laboratory in Bangalore and set up a satellite link from here in 1985. That's when the IT industry started and the model for remote work and research really started leveraging technology. So my endeavor has been to try and create an eco-system here where the scientists and researchers can collaborate and they don't need to travel outside the country. Yes you are still far away from the city and sometimes it takes forever from one end of the city to the other but at least it's just a bus or car ride away. We should really try and make more of this happen. That's one of my projects – to get the scientists here in Bangalore connect with each other, create the platform for them to interact, get them to collaborate. So basically leverage the eco-system that exists here.

ICTS in some sense represents this – global collaboration. We in Bangalore should also look to opening connections with the best research institutions around the world. I am making an effort personally. And of course, ICTS, NCBS and the Indian Institute of Science are already making these efforts. There are a lot of scientists visiting, but we need a lot more of this

collaboration happening. Just like Bangalore made a name in Information Technology we can do the same in research.

Thank you very much Spenta for inviting me and I wish you all the very best.