Ratan Kumar Sinha

Secretary, DAE and Chairperson, AEC (Speech read out by Spenta Wadia)

It is a very important day in the history of International Centre for Theoretical Sciences of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (ICTS-TIFR), an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). I had been planning to be present here on the occasion. However, in view of certain unforeseen commitments requiring me to travel elsewhere, I have not been able to be here in your midst.

I am, therefore, conveying my sentiments on the occasion in a few words with a request to Prof. Spenta Wadia to have them read out.

The ICTS was set up to fulfil an important need in Indian science where visitor-driven schools and discussion meetings of various lengths of time are combined with top-quality research in various areas of the theoretical sciences. That this is a real need has already been vindicated by the volume of activities organized by ICTS in the few years (since 2006) of its existence: over 5000 people (majority students) participated in over 100 programs.

Its facilities also provide a platform for new research initiatives in Indian science e.g. ICTS today has a top group working on LIGO-India, a project supported by DAE and DST. In the future it is hoped that ICTS will host various workshops and discussion meetings dealing with areas of practical interest to the DAE. One possibility is to bring together members of the DAE family to discuss the ubiquitous role of mathematics and computation in the sciences as well as in engineering.

I have noted that through its various activities, ICTS is interacting with the scientific and research communities within the country and those coming from abroad. With the unique resources at the Centre, including the faculty and the students, I think ICTS should go further, through its outreach activities, with the objective of creating a scientific temper and aptitude for theoretical sciences in the educational institutions in the country, with particular focus on those in the neighborhood. ICTS can also take up projects for specific deliveries relevant to indigenization in development of mathematical modelling and associated software development needed for a range of scientific and engineering applications, including those of great relevance of the programmes of the Department. It is also important that the academic resources, the faculty and students, take active part in disseminating the wide ranging applications and benefits of nuclear energy and isotope technologies through their outreach programmes.

I would like to conclude by saying that the DAE is fully behind this new initiative of Indian Science and will support it so that it fulfils its mission.

My very best wishes for the future success of ICTS.