

Partnerships but not special packages will help Northeast states: Arup Misra

A plenary session on 'Science and Technology in Northeast India' was organised on the final day of the 104th Indian Science Congress at Sri Venkateshwara Univeristy, Tirupati. Experts from the North-East (NE) Region have given their views on it.

Prof. Gautam Biswas, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati spoke on the science and technology in NE Region, where he specified mainly on Assam. He mentioned about the technical and professional education, government funded institutions, central universities and NIT's. He spoke about the development of technologies like waste disposal, environmental protection and others. He also discussed about the problems they face like socio-political issues including major employment opportunities. He also stressed on the need to adopt vocational training in alignment with the existing courses, leading to enhancement of personal knowledge.

"The development of the northeast lies in building sustainable partnerships but not in special packages," Prof. Arup Misra, Director, Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC) pointed out. On his talk he said that the main focus should be building of skills and development of human resources.

Prof. Misra said that mainstreaming of academic, industrial and developmental processes should be done as a rule, but not as exception. He started by telling all the inventions made by Guru Prasad Das which are very innovative and enterprising. He then discussed about the Ahom Era in Assam and outlined the traditional knowledge which is used in building monuments, bridges etc. He also discussed about the ASTEC and Assam Energy Development Agency (AEDA) to formulate various policies on various aspects of science and technology. The major programmes of ASTEC and AEDA were also mentioned in his talk.

Dr. N.C. Talukdar, Director, Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati, discussed about the products, services, policy for science and technology education, innovation and implementation. He also mentioned about the citrus bio resources of Northeast India, banana diversity, zingiberaceae bio resources, germplasms of rice bean, morphology of 15 edible bamboos, herbs harvested from wild, and food values. He also highlighted the Jhum agro ecosystem shifting agriculture.

Prof. B.K.Tiwari, Professor & Head, Department of Environmental Studies, NEHU, Shillong, talked on opportunities for development of NorthEast India through interventions of science and technology. He explained about the priority sectors for science and technology which include forests, agriculture, biodiversity, water, climate change. After that he briefed about water scarcity in hilly areas, major challenges to be taken and the science and technology infrastructure and support from Government of India institutions and state government

institutions. He concluded with the statement saying that science should focus on conservation and use of natural resource for development of Northeast India.