

## **INAUGURAL ADDRESS**

**Shri Hamid Ali Ansari, Honourable Vice President of India, Ms. Margaret Alva, Honourable Governor of Rajasthan, Shri Ashok Gehlot, Honourable Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Mr. Ugen Chewang, Auditor General of Bhutan, Ms. Bimala Subedi, Auditor General of Nepal, Representatives from other SAIs and Embassies of various countries, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my privilege to welcome all of you to the inauguration of the International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development here in Jaipur. We are indeed privileged to have the Hon'ble Vice President of India amongst us here today to inaugurate this institute. Sir, please accept our most sincere gratitude for graciously accepting our invitation to inaugurate this institute and spend some time with our officers. We remember with pride and affection, your visit to our National Academy in Shimla where the young officer trainees had the privilege of meeting with you. All the officers remember it as a high point in their careers. Your being amongst us today, represents your concern for the environment and provides us encouragement in our efforts to develop our professional expertise in the audit of environmental issues. We are indeed beholden for the singular honour that you have granted us.

2. Smt. Margaret Alva, the Hon'ble Governor has also been very gracious in accepting our invitation to join us today for

this inauguration ceremony. She has made enquiries about the future of this institute and capacity building measures of the department. I remember calling on Smt. Margaret Alva when she was the Governor of Uttarakhand at Nainital and was impressed with her concern for the environment when we were discussing the efforts undertaken for the rejuvenation of the Nainital Lake. Madam, we are indeed privileged to have you amongst us today.

3. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan is also amongst us today. I would like to place on record my deepest gratitude to him for the support provided to us in setting up this institution. I am thankful for the prompt response from you in helping us locate this site in 2009. The co-operation from the officials of the RIICO allowed us to acquire this site. I believe we could not have chosen a better place than Jaipur –a vibrant city with a rich heritage and glorious historical past-for this institute. In fact, the State of Rajasthan has been a front runner in the environmental protection efforts. The continuous efforts of environmentalists such as our friends-Shri Rajendra Singh and Shri Anil Mehta present here-have also contributed

a lot in this direction. Mr. Ugen Chewang, the Auditor General of Bhutan, Ms. Bimla Subedi, Acting Auditor General of Nepal, Mr. Nasir I-Rawahy, Dy CAG of Oman and Ms. Margerata Lassy of SAI, Estonia have travelled long distances to be with us. We have the representative of Iran with us. I am indeed honoured by their presence.

4. Environmental issues are among major factors facing global societies today. The UN and other major international organizations are continuously working on securing a more sustainable environment for our future generations. We are dependent more than even before on the healthy functioning of our ecosystems such as air quality, soil fertility and water resources. When we undermine natural processes, we expose the delicate ecological systems to risk. This is bound to affect the public health systems in various countries in the long run.

5. A clean & sustainable environment is the best gift we can give to our future generations. Resultantly, there has been an expansion in the number of programmes as well as expenditure by the government to protect and conserve the environment. The world today believes that trends towards

environmental degradation can be slowed, and even reversed, by active interventions through governmental and civil society efforts. The Rio+20 meeting held recently is evidence of this collective responsibility.

6. In this backdrop, the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India has been actively associating itself with the International Community of Supreme Audit Institutions to factor in Environmental concerns in our auditing. We, as public auditors, have to present to the government timely, relevant and balanced reports on environment issues along with constructive suggestions which will enable the administration in tackling this critical concern more effectively. Our oversight functions of government environment policies, programmes and projects help the executive in their endeavour to be pro active in this arena. The international community of public auditors has also been active in ensuring concerted action by its members in auditing the efficacy of state intervention in the area of environment. The International Organisations of Supreme Audit Institutions has constituted a Working Group on Environment Audit (WGEA). This working

group initially had only 12 member countries but has since grown to a membership of 70, making it the largest working group under INTOSAI.

7. CAG of India, being an active member of WGEA had offered to collaborate with WGEA to run international training programmes for auditors from all over the world here at this institute and have it function as a Global Training Facility. This was accepted by WGEA and I am happy to inform that the first training programme of the Global training Facility will be held, in this very campus, in November 2013.

8. Ladies & Gentlemen, the need for a Professional work force is a pre-requisite for any well managed organization. We in, Indian Audit & Accounts Department, are no exception to this rule. We have a professional body of officials who are rated among the best in the world in every field of auditing –be it Performance or Financial or Compliance audit. The capabilities of our officials and staff are on par with the best in the auditing world. They are the pillars on which the institution of the SAI, India is built. We have always attached great significance to the professional development of our Human

Resources. Continuing enhancement of the capability our officials and staff is achieved through our International training institute (iCISA) at Noida and various other regional training institutions spread across the country. We have been organising one course every year on Environmental Audit in iCISA, Noida for representatives of various SAIs. Now with these excellent facilities available here in Jaipur we will be able to increase such programmes.

9. Besides, enhancing the professional capabilities of our auditors we would also like to sensitize the general public and especially, the GenNext in being sensitive to the needs of the environment here at iCED, Jaipur by actively associating with educational Institutions. We would undertake research to add rigour to our environment audit processes. We plan to build partnerships with other organizations in the field so that we can harness their knowledge and expertise. I strongly believe that objectivity in audit, concern for environment, willingness to be a learning organization and to be collaborative in our approach will guide us on the path of professional excellence. We hope that in the coming years, iCED will become a world

class center in the area of environment audit and sustainable development issues.

10. It also gives me great pleasure to inform all our guests that this will be the first government building in the country to have a 5 star green rating as per GRIHA norms. The campus has a host of green features. This has been achieved with active co-operation from the CPWD. I take this opportunity to thank the CPWD authorities for the magnificent work they have done on construction of this building. We set difficult timelines and very demanding quality standards and I am happy to say that the CPWD engineers and contractors performed to our expectations. The usage of natural lighting, solar energy and geothermal cooling will help in saving energy. Use of local materials like red sandstone and marble from local quarries, fly ash bricks in construction has helped to cut down on pollution and transportation costs. We have also used energy efficiency features like insulation on walls/roofs, LED & solar PV cells. We hope to achieve carbon neutrality through these measures and be a really eco-friendly organization.



I am also very grateful to and appreciative of our own officers and staff, whose untiring efforts have established this facility. They not only possess excellence in their auditing standards but also in managing other challenging I am indeed proud of their professional capability.

11. Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of all the officials & staff of Indian Audit & Accounts Department, I take this opportunity to welcome you all to iCED, Jaipur.