

DG Blog

Dr R K Pachauri, March 15, 2011

I had gone to Coimbatore for three functions and then on to Bangalore to take part in the Vision Retreat of our Southern Regional Centre at Bangalore. This is the first time that the Bangalore centre has held a Retreat of this nature and I learnt a great deal by listening to colleagues there and interacting with them. The one perception that I acquired during our discussions there is that we in New Delhi need to treat our regional presence far more seriously. If we do not ensure proper interaction and linking up for a range of activities, our regional centres will be left rudderless, and will not really be part of TERI's mainstream. I shall provide details of several very useful suggestions that I received from colleagues there, but I want to highlight what I feel TERI should be in the future. As we have discussed earlier, much of the expansion of TERI will have to take place outside the National Capital Region on account of physical limitations here and also to see that we assume an essential regional character in our activities, which is highly relevant in the federal structure that India is. However, efforts in these locations will have to be effectively coordinated, and TERI must emerge and be seen as an institute that is pan-India in character and all its activities, quite apart from its global reach. One development that we have to create urgently is to link all our regional centres with effective audio visual connectivity. It is also essential for us to see that we interact regularly with colleagues on a structured and planned basis. This is something that Directors and Area Convenors will have to make a part of their normal functioning.

I also went over a week ago to Hyderabad where as you all must be aware, TERI has now 40 acres of land around which a boundary wall has already been constructed efficiently with the initiative of Mr M M Joshi. We are exploring some options by which a campus of TERI University and TERI can be established on that area of land, so that we have a major presence in Hyderabad as well. We would have to plan for connectivity right from the beginning, so that we can make the best use of our resources independent of location, such that access to teaching, working collaboratively on research projects is facilitated through the establishment of proper connectivity. Since we are living in a world which is changing rapidly, it is essential that we keep abreast of challenges and meet them effectively through proper planning and a carefully defined vision of the future. In essence, TERI has to address the requirement of physical presence in different parts of the world by changing our attitudes to locations outside Delhi and matching these with connectivity that promotes integration of all our activities across the globe. A change in mindsets and shift in focus has to be brought about with a sense of purpose and urgency.