

CAMPUS

BUET's workshop on

Technological considerations in the development of Bangladesh

The Science & Technology Division, Ministry of Education, Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT, ESCAP) organized a 5 days workshop during July 5-9, 1986 on "Technological Considerations In The Development Of Bangladesh."

The APCTT have taken up a number of initiatives to study the technology policies and plans in twelve ESCAP countries including Bangladesh.

Based on these country studies a reference manual for technology policy planning is under preparation.

The present workshop was intended to present the main features of the Bangladesh country study and the reference manual to a wide cross section of senior S&T and planning personnel drawn from various organizations (Govt., Autonomous and Private) in Bangladesh.

Fifty-two participants from various Bangladeshi organizations and four eminent resource persons from abroad took part in the workshop.

Prominent among the resource persons was Dr H S Choi, former Minister for Science and Technology, Republic of Korea and Founder-President of Korean Institute of Science and Technology.

The workshop considered the existing development activities and resource endowments of the country and examined the technological considerations which need to be taken cognizance of during national planning process.

Additionally, the existing S&T infrastructure and policy initiatives taken so far for utilizing technology for development came under scrutiny.

Having considered various options and opportunities for using technology as a strategic variable for national development, the workshop unanimously adopted a set of action programmes and recommended their implementation in order to achieve technological self-reliance in a reasonable period of time. A brief summary of the recommendations are given below:

1. Integration of Technological Considerations in national Socio-Economic Plan and recognition of technology as an important strategic variable during the planning process.

(a) Technological needs and capabilities assessment

(b) Prioritization of thrust areas

(c) Monitoring and Evaluation of S&T Policy Implementation for meaningful outputs and continuity

(d) Technology Assessment (TA) (Promotion of TA mechanism at various levels).

3. Development of appropriate Human Resource, Adequate Infrastructure and Manpower:

(a) Manpower for mission-oriented R&D work

(b) Skill Development (Craftsmanship)

(c) Social Recognition & Award System for both S&T and skilled personnel

(d) Creation of Innovative S&T Climate which can foster technology development.

4. Development of Active Intermediates for Technological Advancement:

(a) Establishment of Linkages between: Academy-Production Sector

Local-Foreign Technologies Traditional-Emerging Technologies

Large-Small Industries R&D-Design & Engineering-Industry

Public-Private enterprises (b) Development and Strengthening of appropriate mission oriented Industrial Research Institutes

(c) Introduction of Contract Research systems

(d) Establishment of Information System, Data base

(e) Technology Financing Institutions

(f) Attaining effective bargaining power for purposeful technology transfer.

The participants were of the view that implementation of the above work programme requir-

es strong political commitment at the highest level.

The Government have recognized the need for industrialization and agricultural modernization for overall development of the country.

The role of technology in such endeavours hardly needs reiteration. The S&T community feel that the action programme outlined above can ensure successful absorption, digestion and utilization of technology in various sectors.

The highest political leadership may now wish to incorporate the main features of the programme outlined above in the national development process.

Incorporation of the technological considerations in the national development policy will be followed up by the S&T community in the formulation of detailed work programme.



VC BUET addressing the workshop.