

Concluding session

Concluding remarks

1. Prof. J.M.R.S. Bandara

I would like to stress on the involvement of universities in the validation and dissemination of traditional knowledge for endogenous development. The coexistence and acceptable coevolution of technology is possible efficiently only with the involvement of universities. However, university researchers would undoubtedly seek benefits and acceptance by the popular international refereed journals for dissemination of information, especially in the research output of postgraduate research degrees. Compas and ETC could provide access for publication in international journals, either by assisting in page charges or by expanding the existing Compas journal, LEISA, to carry an exclusive volume with research articles acceptable to the international scientific community. This would amount to generating knowledge, which is the major role of universities.

The university community should encourage a generation of new thinking in the use of indigenous knowledge for the benefit of the community that supports universities. One way of effective communication of the use of IK in today's context is to highlight the dangerous impact of modern technology which is responsible for the erosion of environment, biodiversity and human health. It would be appropriate to use more acceptable jargon in the dissemination of IK to allow space for coevolution and integration with modern technology as heritage studies or conservation of national heritage in respective countries. It is recommended that the university academic should design research proposals to create ample interest among university research students. However, popular articles in mass media would lay the foundation for such an interest.

Almost always, the common challenge presented to IK is of its inability to meet the needs and demands of the present day population, with special reference to feeding the ever increasing population. Research interest should evolve on these lines to meet the challenge of the present.

2. Mr. K.A.J. Kahandawa

Creating Enabling Policy Environment for Strengthening Traditional Knowledge Systems – The Role of Government and NGOs

What hinders the sustaining of traditional knowledge?

- Lack of knowledge among the policy makers about traditional knowledge
- The attitude of policy making bodies and individuals
- Unfriendly policies at national and international levels
- Lack of capacity of the stakeholders promoting TK level to influence policy

Stakeholders in this area of concern are

- The state
- Scientists — modern and traditional
- NGOs and
- Communities

What are the possibilities?

At the government level

- Acceptance of a national framework on revitalization of traditional knowledge
- Identifying capacity building needs for mainstreaming identified and initiating such a programme
- At the NGO and community level
- Implementation of education and awareness raising activities
- Implementation of capacity building activities – policy lobby
- Implementation of conservation / use activities
- Development of effective relationships with scientists in the above areas

How this can be operationalized?

By influencing policy authorities:

- Documentation of experiences
- Validation and information to be presented aimed at policy level (the information can be shared from India and other countries)
- Seminars and workshops – collaborative action with other countries.

By developing a resource centre:

- Information gathering and sharing – India, Nepal etc.
- Dissemination aimed at a wider audience

Support for communities

Organizing

- Capacity building
- Resource needs addressed
- Training

Cultural programme

Later in the evening the delegates enjoyed a cultural programme. A presentation was made by Sri Santhosh Nair and his troupe. The presentation consisted of dance performances in the *Bharatanatyam*, *Mobiniyattam* and *Kuchipudi* styles.