

ASTF FORUM, TOKYO.

Friday, 05.10.2007 : 10.30 A.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Session 3 : Natural Disasters, Society, Development, Science and Technology

Theme : How to establish partnerships in Asia.

Effective and Focused Bilateral and Multilateral S&T Partnership

Tissa Vitarana

Development among the countries of Asia is very uneven. Some like Japan lead the world while others are among the world's poorest. The latter are plagued by social unrest and their capacity to cope with natural disasters is weak. It is not only a poverty (financial) gap. It is a science and technology gap. The partnerships must focus on bridging this S&T gap effectively and appropriately.

The partnerships must bridge (a) the scientific knowledge gap by exchange of students, teachers, scientists and experts and by improving library facilities and ICT and (b) the technology gap by enhancing local research capacity and capability, providing and maintaining modern equipment and regularly supplying chemicals, transferring appropriate technology, promoting research collaboration and workshops. Partnerships are required between universities and research institutions, backed by governments and the private sector.