

Welcome Address

■ IDRBT Foundation Day Lecture Series, August 27, 2013

Girls, Boys, Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to you all.

We are very delighted and honoured to have amidst us Dr. Kalam, Former President of India, on the eve of our Foundation Day. When we met him a couple of weeks ago, he readily agreed to visit IDRBT and have a dialogue with our students and faculty. Thank you very much sir for sparing your valuable time out of your busy schedule.

Just see his schedule. His office gave me an appointment at 9 p.m. Still there were visitors even after me. Such is his passion and commitment. If more and more top scientists, academicians, successful business people commit such time, there would be a huge cognitive surplus which can change the face of India for good. We all know he is a source of great inspiration for youth, scientists, entrepreneurs, social workers, etc. He leads by example and is very passionate about our country's growth and security.

He has a vision for India to be a developed country by 2020. It is not just a dream or aspiration. He has a blueprint for every one of us to play a role in this noble and exciting mission. His own life journey is a classic example that definitively and positively answers the question whether India can become a developed country.

I don't know how many of you know his life journey. As a child, he used to distribute newspapers in Rameswaram. He would pick up newspaper bundles from Dhanuskodi railway station and help his brother in distributing newspapers and then go to school and then for tuition. Through hardwork, perseverance and dedication he went on to become a top space scientist and missile technologist.

In fact, India is in the comity of developed countries in the field of space science due to his efforts. When Rohini was launched in 1980, India was among the four nations globally who have satellite launching capabilities. If similar success is replicated in other strategic industries, there is no doubt India would be a developed country in all the dimensions. He has amply demonstrated the potential of our people and country to excel.

His book on Vision 2020 is a bestseller and was translated to several Indian and foreign languages including Chinese. It is a part of syllabus for some courses in colleges/universities. There is a student edition as well.

Dr. Kalam has a vision to provide health care for all. He has unveiled PURA to mitigate migration from rural areas to urban areas.

He has written about 16 books spelling out in great detail the developmental needs of our country and also specific actions required to resolve the issues. He has conceived so many institutions, ideas, put them into an action plan.

Sir, at IDRBT, we have a two-fold mission. One is to add to the body of knowledge through publications, papers in conferences and the second is to convert the available scientific and technological knowledge into practice through various products, particularly to facilitate and grow electronic payments in the country. The INFINET and SFMS are some examples. The NEFT has been scaled up from about one lakh a day to over 10 million a day.

Recently, we have set up a pilot project on community cloud using open source and already six banks have hosted some of their applications. We plan to roll out this service.

As a thought leader, IDRBT has started developing standards and frameworks to help the banking industry improve technology management and get better value from their technology investments. During the last two years, IDRBT has published eight frameworks and standards for use in banking industry. Another three are in progress.

We are involved with several international bodies to develop frameworks suitable to the needs of the Banking Sector.

For the first time, two of our students, One M.Tech. and one Ph.D are being deputed for internship in SUNY-Buffalo. During the past 3 years, have doubled the number of people working on research to 50 and we plan to double this strength in the next 2/3 years. We have increased our internship strength to 50 last year and next year we plan to increase the strength to 100.

Our focus remains on applied research with a practical bias and improves the efficiency and effectiveness and security of technology deployments/investments and encourages banks to innovate.

If Dr.Kalam envisioned health care for all and education for all, Dr. Reddy envisioned Banking for all. It is Dr. Reddy who conceptualized Pondicherry pilot project of opening bank accounts for all the adults and it was executed successfully even before the formal financial inclusion program was launched by Reserve Bank of India / Government. Welcome to Dr. Reddy.

Thirukkural: Whatever the depth of river/lake and whatever be the condition of the water, lily blossoms. Similarly, if there is determination to achieve a goal, man will always succeed.