NOTES

FIRST 'OCEANIBSA' MEETING DURING 14-16 SEPTEMBER, 2005
AT ANGRA-DOS-REIS, BRAZIL

India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) have entered into science and technology cooperation especially to promote applications of science and technology for the benefit of common man. Oceanographic and Antarctic research have been identified as one of the areas under the Science and Technology cooperation. It is well known that India, Brazil and South Africa have been coming closer on several fronts with a collective benefit perspective. The India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) initiative includes strengthening and coordinating oceanographic and Antarctic activities as decided at the first meeting of IBSA Science and Technology Ministers (New Delhi, 2004), and further endorsed at the meeting of the IBSA Working Group on S&T (Cape Town, February, 2005). Brazil convened the First Meeting of the IBSA Inter-Regional Alliance for Oceanography and Antarctic Research - I OCEANIBSA during 14th-16th September, 2005 at Angra-dos-Reis, Brazil.

The purpose of the workshop was to bring together institutions, scientific, technical and administrative experts to look at what is available already and what new developments are anticipated in the near future, review the status of implementation of selected international programmes in projects, that the three countries are currently engaged and recommend the framework at regional and national level needed to co-ordinate and implement an inter-regional alliance (network) in the area of Oceanography and Antarctic research. The workshop, thus, focused on the following objectives:

1. Establishing collaboration in ocean topics of mutual interest.
2. Exchanging of information on the nature and extension of key questions of the marine milieu in the three regions.
3. Identification of national arrangements and equivalent activities.
4. Encouraging the exchange of technological information.
6. Contribution to the technology transfer between IBSA and.
7. Promotion of exchange of experts among IBSA institutions.

The first IBSA meeting also focused on scientific research on the marine environment and identified the common international programmes and projects in which the three countries are currently engaged and the way they could be integrated.

The meeting was also intended to highlight the importance of the issues surrounding Antarctica, and indicate the degree to which IBSA can work together to improve its understanding. The intention was that the three countries work towards current understanding of the area and indicate where further research could to be done. Indian delegation to this meeting actively participated in the deliberations. Accordingly, presentations on Oceanographic activities, Marine Ecosystems, Training and Harmful algal blooms were made by Dr. B.R. Subramaniam (ICMAM, Chennai). The presentations on Antarctic Research, environment and Logistics were made by Dr. N. Khare (NCAOR, Goa) and activities under Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) were made by Dr. T. Srinivasan Kumar (INCOIS, Hyderabad).

The meeting noted the significant progress made by India in Oceanographic and Antarctic programmes.

Based on strengths and interests expressed by the representatives of IBSA governments, the meeting suggested several recommendations out of which most significant ones are briefly highlighted:

I Joint Research Programme of mutual scientific interest in the following areas:
- Harmful algal blooms
- GOOS esp for resource augmentation through PFZ augmentation
- Mitigation of impact caused by extreme events like hurricanes and cyclones
- Ecology of extreme marine environments
- Assimilating CODAE type boundary conditions into CODAE applications that have coastal implications for management decision
- Global climate research through observations in Southern Ocean and Antarctica.

II Exchange of knowledge and information through seminars, symposia etc., on designing coastal structures to minimize erosion and accretion, operational oceanography including development and use of buoys and satellite sensors, adopting ecosystem approach in Integrated Coastal Management, use of satellite data in...
modeling climate and weather, role of Antarctica in global climate change and disaster mitigation especially for extreme events

III Capacity building through training programmes in the fields of satellite data applications in coastal and ocean studies, habitat management and PFZ forecasts. Modeling of ecosystems, and inundation of sea water during storm surges and tsunami waves, and on moored data buoys for coastal and deep sea applications

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WHY DO SO MANY OF INDIA’S STARS LIVE ABROAD

Vir Singhvi writes in ‘TIME’ February 13, 2006

“In some ways, Lakshmi Mittal is the symbol of the new Indian confidence. Even a decade ago, who would have dreamt that the third richest man in the world would hold an Indian passport? Integral to the way in which Indians regard Mittal is that he is not a child of the diaspora, not some person of Indian origin who grew up in Leicester or New Jersey. He is, for want of a better term, an Indian Indian, the son of one of Calcutta’s leading businessmen, and still regarded as much a part of the Indian business scene as his father and brothers. A few months ago, when Mittal moved into his swanky new home in Delhi, the guests at the housewarming included a Who’s Who of India’s business and media elite, many of whom had known the family for decades. It’s now common to hear Indian businessmen hold up Mittal’s success as an example of what Indian financial and managerial acumen can achieve, given the right global opportunities.

Perhaps. But nobody asks this. Would Mittal have as successful if he had remained in India? Why do so many of our success stories—from conductor Zubin Mehta to economist Amartya Sen to author Salman Rushdie—live abroad? Is there something about the Indian environment that discourages achievement? Whenever globally successful businessmen have come back home, they have failed to replicate their international record. Even the Mittals are far more successful abroad than they are in India.

Some of this has to do with the mindset of India’s bureaucracy and the hangover of the old-license raj, with all its petty meddling. Then there is our traditional envy of success. Every child knows the story of the basket of Indian crabs. It did not need to be covered because every time an ambitious crab came close to the top, the other crabs pulled him down. It is no accident that many of the men who feature most often in our business magazines are nonresident Indians who live beyond the clutches of the bureaucratic establishment. But much of it also has to do with us. We are still a society that does not prize excellence and one that demands too little from our bureaucrats and politicians. Elections are still won and lost on populist slogans. Voters seldom reward good governance with renewed mandates. And Parliament and state assemblies are full of legislators with criminal records who neither believe in ideology nor bother about performance.

So while I am thrilled that the world is flooding to India, and pleased that Mittal is straddling the global steel business, I sometimes wonder why it is that Indians are more successful outside of India than at home. My fear is that unless we confront this paradox, we will be no more than a bulk market for canny foreigners, a country whose biggest success stories will always lie across the ocean.”

Our intellectuals, bureaucrats and scientists shall do well to take note of the points detailed in the note which projects a picture, which we in our own self importance fail to see — BPR