

Increased Indo-Icelandic Science Cooperation



COOPERATION ON EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION RESEARCH TO BE INITIATED

CALENDAR

An EFTA-India Joint Study Group will meet in New Delhi on 23-24 April 2007

Parliamentary elections take place in Iceland on 12 May 2007

OTHER NEWS

A Bilateral Agreement between Iceland and India on the Avoidance of Double Taxation was initialed in Reykjavik in March 2007

FACTS&FIGURES

GDP growth in Iceland in 2006 was 3,7%, with GDP per capita amounting to US\$ 39,257

Iceland ranked #4 in the World Competitiveness Yearbook 2006 of the International Institute for Management Development (IMD)

DID YOU KNOW?

Vatnajökull glacier in Iceland, a total size of 8,400 sq. km., is larger than all the other glaciers in Europe combined



Dr. Gunnar Pálsson and Dr. T. Ramasami

On 5 April 2007, the Ambassador and the Secretary of the Indian Ministry of Science and Education, Dr. T. Ramasami, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Earthquake Prediction Research between Iceland and India. The Memorandum foresees increased cooperation between Icelandic and Indian scientists,

is intended to strengthen this capability for the mutual benefit of both countries.

The signing of the MoU paves the way for the first phase of the cooperation. This will include the visit of two Indian geologists to Iceland and a reciprocal visit of Icelandic scientists to India, in order to draft a project proposal. The first phase will be led by two Partnership Coordinators; one nominated by the Icelandic Meteorological Office, the other by India's Department of Science and Technology. Other partners include the University of Iceland, the University at Akureyri and the Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the India Meteorological Department, the Wadia Institute

HIGHLIGHTS

Mutual visits by Indian and Icelandic geologists

Coordinators will write a project proposal

Several Indian and Icelandic institutions take part in the project

The aim of the MOU is to strengthen the capability of both countries to predict earthquakes more accurately.

with the aim of predicting earthquakes more accurately. In recent years, Icelandic geologists have developed a seismic system for the study of anomalies prior to earthquakes. The Indo-Icelandic earthquake prediction research

of Himalayan Geology, the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) and the Ministry of External Affairs.

The MoU follows the Agreement on Science and Technology between Iceland and India,

signed in Reykjavik by Iceland's Minister of Education and Science, Mrs. Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir, and the Indian Minister for Science and Technology, Mr. Kapil Sibal, on 19 October 2005.

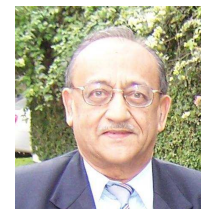
On the horizon

Iceland and India continue to explore possible areas of scientific cooperation, ranging from fisheries to glacier research. The signing of bilateral agreements on the protection of investment, avoidance of double taxation and on aviation is being prepared, with the aim of further strengthening the legal framework for trade and investment.

Iceland's Honorary Consul in Mumbai retires

Mr. Deepnarayan K. Hirlekar retired as Iceland's Honorary Consul General in Mumbai on 12 March 2007. He became Honorary Consul in 1971 and Honorary Consul General in 1979. On the occasion of Mr. Hirlekar's retirement, the Foreign Minister of Iceland, Mrs. Valgerður Sverrisdóttir, thanked him for his valuable work on behalf of Iceland and Icelandic interests in

India for thirty-five years, and observed that his sense of duty and devotion to Iceland had been widely appreciated among his many friends in the country.



Mr. D.K. Hirlekar

