



Shri Vivek R Sinha, Addl Secy, Dept of Defence Research, inaugurating the Seminar on Defence Science Information Network. Others seen in the picture are (from left): Shri SS Murthy, Director, DESIDOC, Delhi; Prof SG Pitroda, Adviser, C – DOT, New Delhi; and Shri SN Mehta, Convener

SEMINAR ON DEFENCE SCIENCE INFORMATION NETWORK

A two-day Seminar on Defence Science Information Network (DESINET) was organized by DESIDOC on 17 & 18 February 1987 at Metcalfe House, Delhi. The Seminar was a follow-up action on one of the recommendations of the National Conference on Scientific Information for Defence held in February 1986. The objec-

tives of the Seminar were to work out the action plan for the establishment of the information network linking all the libraries and technical information centres under the Ministry of Defence. The Seminar was inaugurated by Shri Vivek R Sinha, Addl Secretary, Dept of Defence Research and Development. Prof Satyendra G Pitroda,

Adviser, Centre for Development of Tele-matics, New Delhi, delivered the keynote address.

About 70 participants from Dept of Defence Research & Development, Dept of Defence Production & Supplies, Ordnance Factories, Military Technical Institutions and Military Colleges, Defence Public Sector Undertakings and other Defence Agencies, participated in the deliberations of the Seminar.

While inaugurating the Seminar, Shri Vivek R Sinha emphasised the importance of information in decision making, research and development, industrial production, and other sectors which contribute to the national development. He urged the information scientists to take stock of available information to identify gaps, and to use the requisite technologies for collection and processing of relevant information. He said that the networks would be a solution to cope up with the shrinking budgets of libraries and information centres.

Prof SG Pitroda, while highlighting the importance of information in his keynote address pointed out that the key to information is not just collecting it but its processing and communicating to the ultimate users is also vital. He emphasised that the telecommunication technologies would play a vital role in information dissemination in future. He opined that about 75 per cent work of our executives in future would involve communication aspects.

Welcoming the delegates, Shri SS Murthy, Director, DESIDOC spelled out the purpose

of the Seminar. He said that in addition to working out the details of the information network linking the large number of libraries and information centres in the Ministry of Defence, the Seminar will discuss the problems related to computerised information, online cataloguing, searching of in-house and international databases.

Shri SS Murthy, Director, DESIDOC and Prof MV Gopinath, Documentation Research and Training Centre, Bangalore, were nominated as Chairman and Rapporteur General of the Seminar respectively.

Discussions went round the following topics emanated from 36 papers presented in the Seminar: (i) global and local area networks, resource sharing, storage and access to information, (ii) structure and types of network, (iii) security aspects, decentralised input and centralised output, hardware & software, updation of information, role of central, regional and participating units in the network, etc.

The proceedings were spread over the following technical sessions.

Technical Session I : Network Configuration & Structure and Aspects of Policy, Management.

Chairman : Prof S Sampath
Chairman, RAC,
New Delhi

Rapporteurs : Shri RK Biswas
SAG, New Delhi

Shri Ambrish Kumar
DESIDOC, Delhi

Technical Session IV: Manpower Development, New Delhi

Technical Session II : System Design and Analysis, Computer Configuration, Software Development etc.

Chairman : AVM RK Mehra
Director, DTSR,
New Delhi

Chairman : Shri BS Murthy
Director, Telecom-
communication Research
Centre, New Delhi

Rapporteurs : Shri Lakhan Singh
INMAS, Delhi

Rapporteurs : Shri Mohinder Singh
DLRL, Hyderabad

Shri RK Srivastava
DESIDOC, Delhi

Shri AL Moorthy
DESIDOC, Delhi

Concluding Session :

Chairman : Dr VA Kamath
Chairman, Library
Committee, Nehru
Centre, Bombay

Technical Session III : Resource Sharing, Distributed Data Processing, Links with other National and International Networks

Rapporteurs : Shri UR Sharma
DESIDOC, Delhi

Chairman : Prof S Parthasarthy
Director, Institute of
Information Studies,
Madras

Smt KK Mittal
DESIDOC, Delhi

Rapporteurs : Shri PG Krishnamurty
DESIDOC, Delhi

Shri SK Bhatia
DTD & P(Air),
New Delhi

Shri SN Mehta, Scientist E proposed the vote of thanks.

Shri Vivek R Sinha also opened an exhibition on computer and information products arranged on this occasion.

A cultural programme was organized on the evening of 17 February 1987 for the benefit of the participants.

EXCERPTS FROM THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS*

The scientific information has a decisive role in research and industrial production which contribute to the national development. In Defence, information assumes great importance. Since information is power, many of those who collect information do not like to part with it. We often make frantic efforts in searching information which is already available and hidden somewhere within the organization. Therefore, it is necessary to properly organize the available information and monitor the rapidly growing new information. Advanced information technologies have to be used for acquiring and organizing the scientific information which could eventually result in change of role of those involved in information work from that of traditional librarian to information manager.

With the shrinking budgets of information centres, there appears to be a need for adopting new strategies for coping with information explosion. Suitable networks could be established by linking various libraries and information centres in the country. While doing this, proper steps

should be taken for standardisation of activities and training of personnel.

In establishing a Defence Science Information Network (DESINET) there is a challenge as well as an opportunity. The challenge is the establishment of such a network linking all the libraries and information centres of the Ministry of Defence across the country by using sophisticated information and telecommunication technologies. The opportunity is to prove that the information science is not just acquiring documents; it also involves a gamut of advanced technologies, and the contribution of information scientists is as important as others in our organization.

With the determination and perseverance, the goal of forming the Defence Science Information Network can be achieved. The DESINET should cater not only to information dissemination but also to provide the base documents. Its services should also be made available to the civilian sector, wherever possible.

* *The Inaugural Address was delivered by Shri Vivek R Sinha, Additional Secretary, Dept of Defence Research and Development.*

EXCERPTS FROM THE WELCOME ADDRESS**

The Seminar on Defence Science Information Network is a follow-up action on one of the major recommendations of the National Conference on Scientific Information for Defence organized by DESIDOC in February 1986. In this Seminar, it is expected that the various aspects of planning and implementation of the network will be discussed. This requires the support of not only information personnel but also of top management in the Ministry of Defence. In this context, DESIDOC is fortunate to receive such support from various authorities in the Ministry of Defence.

With this support, DESIDOC is able to make substantial progress in computerization of major scientific information activities and reach the users of this information online.

The proposed DESINET will be cooperative in nature with equal opportunity to every network member. The presence of Shri Vivek R Sinha, Addl Secretary, Defence Research and Development and the chief guest, Prof SG Pitroda, Adviser to the Dept of Telecommunications at the inauguration of the Seminar, has provided the network the necessary managerial and technical support.

** The Welcome Address was given by Shri SS Murthy, Director, DESIDOC.

EXCERPTS FROM THE VALEDICTORY ADDRESS**

India is taking a leap forward from a passive type of Defence research and development activities to providing meaningful scientific and technological support to Armed Forces. We can no longer continue with the arrangement of licensed production. Without technological freedom, political and economic freedom do not serve their purpose. Unlike the fight for political freedom, the enemy is often unknown for technological freedom. Over the years the experiments conducted by India towards self-reliance in technological production have made us strong. We are now talking about such technologies and projects in which we aim to provide major hardware for Defence Services. Thus we are slowly building a kind of supportive relationship with the Services to meet their specific requirements.

To keep this tempo we need to get into technologies with a great future and which are appropriate to our needs. Although it is not possible to develop all such technologies within the country, we can achieve them

through collaborative efforts and pooling our resources and capabilities. We need to link our R&D laboratories with the production agencies on one hand and the user inspection agencies on the other into a "mammoth national team".

Knowledge or information is one of the important ingredients in this process. Information either positive or negative has relevance. The information systems and networks have become increasingly relevant in the present collaborative phase of our Defence R&D.

In the context of information dissemination, keywords are becoming extremely relevant. Information should be available to every scientist working in any laboratory. The role of libraries and librarians has changed. The technologies of computer, xerox machines and the use of satellite in transmission of information have enormously changed the information handling practices. The libraries and technical information centres should form a national

** *The Valedictory Address was delivered by Dr VS Arunachalam, Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri.*

information grid to provide information not only to research laboratories but also to military teaching institutions. More than that information is to be provided to the military itself for developing tactics based on technology. Information activity can no longer be considered as secondary. In fact, as we progress in technology, information is getting tightly controlled. Techno-

logies are being locked up in advanced countries for no meaningful purpose. Even the information is getting locked up. The need of the day is to search methods for digging out these technologies and information. Information along with other systems inputs leads to building self-reliance in science and technology specially related to Defence.