

PLENARY SESSION SUMMARY

Expanding Developmental Horizons through Education, Research & Innovation: Military Perspective

Prof (Dr) Atta Ur Rahman

President, Pakistan Academy of Science, Pakistan

Commencing the Plenary session Prof. Atta Ur Rahman presented the Military Perspective. He mentioned that military strength is connected with technology and economic strength. He further stated that the quality of the human resource is becoming the key factor of development. Development will occur through the interaction among three main components in the triple-helix i.e. The Government, the Universities and the industry. According to him Sri Lanka is transferring to a Knowledge economy. There are many new innovations and intelligent material that the world witness today as new technology advances. There is substance that two hundred times stronger than steel. There are new innovations in areas like *Aero-gel* that is heat absorbent and could be used in military with large combat compatibility. Nano-technology is another area that grows rapidly. Bullet proof jackets, medically used nano machines, nano helicopters used in construction industry etc. He further stated that there will be amazing material like e-cloth, and anti depressant with the help of nano technology. Cy-bugs that are used in

military intelligence is another area that is developing very rapidly. Mini Computers, Intelligent Stealth and many other new inventions will become a reality very soon. In the final part for his presentation he mentioned that Sri Lanka needs to have a clear vision to move forward. Professor Rahman presented the example of China where one of the universities produces more than thousand PhD degrees per year. His own research centre in Pakistan is involved in substantial research in the region and even it as a considerable demand by the students from western countries like Germany. He mentioned that Human capital, Innovation and Research are the most important areas to be funded by a government if a country is moving towards a knowledge economy. Professor Rahman further emphasized how Pakistan got policy discussion to increase the salaries of professor's four times than that of politicians but ensured the quality of the products of those academics in international standards. He ended up his speech saying that the real wealth of the nation lies in the strength of human capital.