

The following speech was delivered by Dr Nat Gopalswamy (President of SCOSTEP) on 14 March 2012 during the Main Ceremony of the 10th Anniversary to Commemorate the Founding of SERC. The text was transcribed by G. Maeda from handwritten notes by the speaker.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Scientific Committee on Solar Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP), I would like to congratulate the *Space Environment Research Center* of Kyushu University on the occasion of its tenth anniversary.

SCOSTEP is one of the interdisciplinary bodies of the International Council for Science -- ICSU. SCOSTEP is responsible for running long-term scientific programs in Solar Terrestrial Physics including science, education, and capacity building. In particular, one agenda item is to involve scientists and students from developing countries.

Japan has been contributing enormously in achieving the objects of SCOSTEP. Japan has been a key player in many SCOSTEP programs such as SRAMP and CAWSES, to name a couple. Eminent Japanese scientists who help run the SCOSTEP scientific program in Japan and worldwide are present in the audience today.

I have known the SERC group since 2005, covering about eighty percent of their decade of achievements. The first time I met Prof. Yumoto was during an *International Heliophysical Year* workshop in the United Arab Emirates. There I witnessed his dynamism in promoting international collaboration in the field of Solar Terrestrial Physics. Ever since, I have worked with him under various capacities. I have always admired the enthusiasm, diligence, and dedication of his SERC group.

I know first hand that the SERC group has installed 64 magnetometers worldwide to probe the physical processes taking place in the geo-space, particularly in response to the variability of the sun. This is done under

the MAGDAS network which is one of the most successful instrument arrays under the aegis of the IHY and ISWI programs. The MAGDAS network consists of three chains of magnetometers: (1) the Japanese meridian chain, (2) the African meridian chain, and (3) the dip equatorial chain. This way, geo-space processes at high latitudes, mid latitudes, and low latitudes as well as the day-side and night-side can be observed. The observations are used not only to do excellent science but also education and capacity building.

I particularly commend the vision of the SERC group and Prof. Yumoto in directly involving undergrad and graduate students in MAGDAS instrument deployments. This provides an excellent opportunity for the students to learn a lot more than what they gain in the classroom setting. I have seen the MAGDAS group from SERC not only as a source of knowledge but also as a source of funding so scientists from developing countries especially from African countries can avail the opportunities of learning.

I must also commend the *ISWI Newsletter* published by Prof. Yumoto and edited by George Maeda.

Prof. Yumoto also worked hard in establishing the *International Center for Space Weather Science and Education*, which I think is the culmination of intense global collaborative activities under taken by the SERC group. The ICSWSE will no doubt be an important addition in achieving the objectives of SCOSTEP, so I gladly support the development of this space weather center to greater heights.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I once again congratulate the SERC group and wish them more and more service to the Blue Planet and its inhabitants. Thank you!