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Message

I am delighted to send this message on the occasion of the All India Seminar dealing with energy, environmental and disaster science. It is particularly noteworthy that this event is being organized by the School of Management Sciences (SMS), Lucknow, because institutions like SMS need to move into frontier areas of knowledge in the 21st century. It is becoming increasingly clear that the vast discipline of management science would need to cover strategies that go far beyond conventional decision making related to operations in a traditional sense which may only attempt to maximize profits in the short term in an enterprise. Business organizations are going to be increasingly subjected to changes in the global energy scenario, changes in the quality of the environment and the occurrences of disasters, both natural as well as man-made.

Prof. Jeffrey Garten, former Dean of the School of Management at Yale University and a good friend of mine, currently teaches a course in that University which focuses on global disasters, and how these need to be managed by and within organizations, wherever they may be located. I hope the School of Management Sciences, Lucknow, will also consider launching some innovative training programs and courses which focus on the subject of the seminar that is being held. As India moves towards a bigger place in the global economy it would have to deal with threats emanating from large scale changes in global energy supply, problems associated with the impacts of climate change as well as disasters of various kinds. When over a year ago there were serious floods in Thailand, production in the automobile industry of Japan was adversely affected, because many of the components required for automobile production in Japan were produced and supplied from Thailand. In a globalized world, events and disasters in one part of the world would have profound implications for other locations.

I would like to wish all success for the seminar being organized around this general theme, and I hope the insights and knowledge that the proceedings will provide can be used for further work by SMS to build a continuing body of knowledge on this general theme.

R.K. Pachauri
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