

TERI – Uni Research Climate Research School on Extremes

18th – 22nd September 2017

TERI University, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

Address by Ambassador Nils Ragnar Kamsvag

Dr Rajeevan, Dr Mathur, distinguished scientists, students, ladies and gentlemen!

It is a great pleasure for me to participate in the inauguration of this Climate Research School. The school started during the first phase of the cooperation agreement between TERI and the Norwegian Embassy. Realizing the importance of climate modelling, at a local level, TERI had proposed to set up climate modelling facility at TERI. The Uni Research and the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research in Norway provided technical support and the Embassy provided the financial support for setting up this facility. I am very happy to see that the climate modelling work at TERI is progressing well and the cooperation between TERI and the Uni Research is continuing.

The idea of these research schools is that the research is shared broadly and is not just confined within the domain of the partnering organizations. It is a matter of great pleasure that distinguished climate modelling scientists from other parts of the world are also present in this programme and will impart training to young students and scientists.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr Rajeevan and former Secretary Dr Nayak deserve special acknowledgement for their support and encouragement to this initiative of TERI. I must commend the Government of India that they have set up a separate ministry which focuses upon

- i) improving long term observations of atmosphere, ocean, and cryosphere,
- ii) developing atmosphere and oceanic phenomena forecast capability,
- iii) building prediction systems for weather, climate and extremes and
- iv) understanding interactions between components of Earth Systems and human systems at various spatial and temporal scales.

It is a matter of pride for the Norwegian Embassy that Uni Research from Norway is collaborating with TERI on this important area of work. Uni Research scientists have expertise on advanced climate modelling which is not just important for climate services, but also for greenhouse gas emission scenarios. Their research contributes towards both the work of decision-makers with regard to reducing CO₂ emissions and towards enhancing basic knowledge, including contribution to the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

A thorough understanding of weather, atmosphere, climate and monsoon phenomenon is very important for a country like India as these phenomena have profound impact on water resources, power generation, agriculture, economics and ecosystems in the country. The accuracy of the forecasts, however, remains a challenge. Continued research and developmental work for most realistic representation of physical processes along with their complex interactions need to be improved to achieve skillful prediction. It is also important to estimate the uncertainty that is associated with the analyses and the forecasts.

The global climate modeling in Norway is based on the Norwegian Earth System Model, NorESM. The model is developed in different research projects funded by the Research Council of Norway. The Norwegian Meteorological Institute and the University of Oslo are also key partners in the development and use of NorESM.

Norway considers climate change as the most serious environmental challenge that the world is facing today and approaches the climate change challenges in many ways. While the Norwegian research institutes are carrying out cutting edge research in the field of climate and environment, the Norwegian government actively participates in various multi-lateral climate and sustainable development conventions and adopts progressive policies and programmes for addressing climate change.

Norway was among the first States that ratified and formally joined the international Paris Climate Agreement. We are aiming for joint fulfilment with the EU in order to achieve Norway's climate goals for 2030. This will provide us with solid, binding and predictable European legislation for achieving our goal of 40 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 compared with the 1990 level.

Despite being a small country, Norway is undertaking great efforts to reduce dangerous greenhouse gases. In particular, our efforts related to International Climate and Forest Initiative, REDD+, receives a lot of attention internationally. Norway will continue to be at the forefront of efforts to safeguard climate and environment, and we will take measures to achieve the targets set out in the Paris Agreement. We are constantly striving to take a more coherent approach so that measures relating to climate and environment are integrated as far as possible into measures in the fields of health, sound natural resource management and business development.

In a world that is increasingly integrated, we are becoming more dependent on one another. Climate and environment, global health, and peace and security are the most important global public goods in the context of Norway's development policy. Building alliances and engaging in diplomacy across regions, and promoting human rights and respect for international law are other important aspects of Norway's development policy.

The Marrakech call is loud and clear: nothing can stop global climate action. The momentum for taking action to address climate change has been built, almost all Parties have communicated INDCs, and coalitions of thousands of cities, regions, companies and investors from across the world have announced voluntary commitments to support the implementation of the ambitious climate action.

At the same time, there is universal recognition that if we are to realise the goals of the Paris Agreement, we must all go further and faster in delivering climate action before 2020, enabled by adequate flows of finance, technology and capacity building. We are currently lagging behind, but together with our combined efforts we can bridge the gap between current emissions trajectories and the pathway needed to meet the long-term temperature goals and ensure adequate adaptation to the current and expected impacts of climate change. Such pre-2020 action must be delivered in a manner that supports the long-term global transformation required by the Paris Agreement.

At this note, I would like to end my talk. I am sure that all of you are looking forward to a week packed with interesting lectures and also hands-on training on climate models. I wish the event great success!

Thank you!