

WORKSHOP ON GRID TECHNOLOGY

October 20 - 22, 2003

Concluding Address by Prof. Riazuddin

It is a matter of great honour and privilege for me to welcome you to the concluding Session of the Grid Workshop and Tutorial. I am particularly grateful to Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad for having agreed to be the Chief Guest at this session. He has been a moving spirit in the establishment of the National Centre for Physics and for bringing CERN – Pakistan Collaboration to a fruitful stage. His presence today shows his keen personal interest in the promotion of science and technology in the country. Our thanks also go to CERN for co-sponsoring the workshop. We are most grateful to Prof. L. Maiani, Director General of CERN for inaugurating this event and to Dr. Diether Blechschmidt and John Ellis, who have done so much for our collaboration with CERN to grow with time. We are also thankful to Dr. Flavia Donno and Dr. Heinz Stockinger for conducting Grid Tutorials in an interactive manner.

Our special appreciation is to the participants of the Workshop, for their eager involvement in the various activities of Grid Workshop and Tutorial. This activity as you know consisted of two main activities – first one on Grid Workshop where we have seven excellent presentations and second consisted of

10 presentations as well as Interactive Tutorials. In these activities, the participants listened to distinguished lecturers, updated themselves with the emerging trends in the fields, and got hand on training in tutorials enhancing their skills in Grid related tools. The sharing of views and frank exchange of ideas, in itself, is a success of Grid Workshop and Tutorials. The fact that now NCP has become a pioneer in deploying a first Grid Test bed in Pakistan is a matter of great satisfaction for all of us.

As noted by F.J. Dyson “Science originated from the fusion of two old traditions: philosophical thinking, which supplied concepts for science and skilled crafts, which supplied tools. Until the end of the 19th century, science and craft industries developed along separate paths. Frequently they borrowed tools from each other, but each maintained an independent existence. Only in the 20th century Science and Craft Industries become inseparably linked”. There is no better example of this than information technology revolution as exemplified by Internet computing of which Grids are the next phase. In July 2003 issue of Physics Today a question has been raised in an article by Thomas N. Theis and Paul M. Horn from IBM: Why do information technology companies support exploratory research in Physics and allied fields? Their answer: “because of the need to bring new technology quickly to market. Ultimately, even long-term research is all about speed”. In fact there is great potential to discover exciting science at the interface of Physics, Biology and Computer Sciences. The past few decades have

also seen information move to the Centre of Physics; World-wide web and now Grid are examples of this.

As Professor Salam said “Scientific knowledge is a shared heritage of all Mankind. East and West, South and North have all equally participated in its creation in the past, and, we hope they will in future. This joint endeavor in sciences is one of the unifying forces among the diverse people in this globe”. Science cannot flourish in isolation and as scientists we have to be in an international environment. By holding conferences, symposia and summer colleges and through its visitors program, the National Centre for Physics is trying to provide such an environment.

In the end I thank Dr. Hafeez Hoorani, Mehnaz Hafeez and their team for their excellent job. I also thank all the lecturers, who traveled long distance to share their knowledge with us. I also thank the participants who took very active interest in the activities of the college. Lastly I should express our deep sense of appreciation to PAEC, NESCOM and COMSATS for providing support and help in organizing Grid Workshop and Tutorial.

We have finally come to the close of this remarkable activity. As you all prepare to level, let me remind you that as scientists we work in an international community. And that is why we can work in every culture and be useful to each other. On this spirit of fraternity among our community I conclude.

I wish you safe journey to your homes.

