

## **Minister's Speech**

### **5<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION SYSTEM DESIGN AND INTELLIGENT APPLICATIONS (INDIA 2018)**

**19 July 2018**

**Intercontinental, Balaclava**

I am extremely privileged and honored to be given the opportunity to address this august gathering of intellectuals from different parts of the world. Seizing this opportunity, I must congratulate the administration, faculty members as well as all the staff members of Université des Mascareignes for organizing the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the international conference on Information System Design and Intelligent Application, INDIA 2018, which I must acknowledge to be a great event not only for the university itself, but at the same time, for all academicians of our nations taken together.

I also extend my thanks to the facilitators of INDIA conference group and Springer for extending their valuable support to our researchers.

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Technological advancements achieved over the decades have taken us to the age of wireless communication where any two individuals from any parts of the world can communicate between themselves. This has been a consequence of one major innovation that of the Internet that has so successfully converged the peoples of entire world into a single community.

Its Applications have pervaded all aspects of human life. Innovation continues to be made in the global communication environment and even beyond mere human-to-human communication. We have today witnessed the emergence of Internet of Things (IoT) as a new paradigm

of global communication that is capable of facilitating device-to-device communications, totally free from human interventions. These transformations have been possible as a result of immense efforts put in by researchers and scientists all around the world.

**Dear Participants,**

In this modern world, where so much of a premium is placed on education as a driver of change and innovation, research has emerged as the central focus. This is hugely significant in the world of Higher Education and our country is obviously not an exception to this rule. It is good to note that local Higher Education Institutions possess rich potential in fostering research in the field of science and technology. From the theme of the conference, I can perceive that the field of Information technology has now become mostly oriented around intelligent systems which are being successfully implemented in practically all fields of human life.

Intelligent computing has formed the backbone of optimization of different real world processes pertaining to science, technology, engineering, and management and so on. For example, soft computing techniques such as artificial neural networks, evolutionary computing techniques, machine learning techniques etc. are more often being used for the optimization of productivity of industrial processes, the prediction of stock market operations, for machine designs related to mechanical and electrical engineering and so on.

All these different methods put together form a global branch of IT called Artificial Intelligence that encompasses the methods of replication of human behavior in a machine. Computer scientists do

presume that, with the implementation of AI, the computing power can be significantly enhanced as can the operational efficiency of IT related activities as a whole.

This, **Ladies and Gentlemen**, necessitates sizable number of qualified personnel in this field. And here the onus, the responsibility falls upon higher education institutions of the country. The time has come for AI as a subject to be offered at the under graduate as well as post graduate levels.

More and more research projects relating to this field are invited from local researchers and academicians.

Our government is very much conscious about this; this is why our PM Hon Pravind Jugnauth who is also the Finance Minister has highlighted the significance of investing in Artificial Intelligence, Cryptography and Financial Technologies in the recently (2018/2019) budget.

Speaking of research we must concur that, it is a global process and accordingly collaborative research has to be the norm. Collaborative research may equally be inter-institutional such that it can lead to increased productivity and heightened efficiency. In this context, I would make an earnest request and plea to all institutions to come together in fostering innovations in all concerned fields. Rest assured that government is ready to extend the necessary support in all aspects.

Moving further, this research collaboration should not be limited to our country alone: rather, we should also partner with institutions of higher educations from other countries. Cross-border research has become the new mantra. Taking this opportunity, I must thank our friends from India and other countries for their valuable contributions.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It would be incomplete to speak of research if we choose to ignore its social implications. Obviously it is needless to mention that all innovations carried out in one field or another is always motivated by the need to improve the lot of mankind.

However, research outcomes must keep in view the needs of the society. I believe we all agree that more than 80% of research work conducted by the scientists around the globe is mostly academic in nature.

Nevertheless, practical implementation of the research findings is necessary for it to be useful. Research leads to knowledge creation and the very outcomes of that knowledge are thwarted if they are not put to sound use, at the service of humanity.

And this applies for all Innovations that must be such that they meets social needs. I also realize that Research is a costly venture. I agree that Research funding is major concern for researchers, scientists and academicians all over the world. Our government is very much concerned about this important aspect as well and we have made it a matter of urgency to allocate financial resources to different institutions of higher education so that these resources can be used in procuring experimental equipment as well as for other expenses to be covered.

Hopefully, in the course of discussions, Mauritian Researches will give you an apercu of the massive investment my Ministry is making in research schemes through the Tertiary Education Commission.

I need to mention that such allocations are not only limited to public institutions, rather they can also be hold good for private ones too.

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am very much thankful to Springer for being a partner along with INDIA Conference group in the organization of this prestigious event in Mauritius. I would also invite you to conduct more of such conferences to encourage and give a fillip to the intellectual community of our small country.

In addition to this, may I also propose the administrations of different local universities to partner with Springer so as to publish journals and magazines that will create more opportunities for our researchers to disseminate their work among the global research community.

Finally, let me congratulate all the authors, participants, attendees, guests, media and all others for making of this event a great success.

May your efforts lead to fostering a new spirit that will help the cause of both research and the people who will enjoy its fruits.

My best wishes for a successful Conference to all of you.

***Thank you.***