

Education now must be borderless: APJ Kalam

Former Indian president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Monday suggested establishment of 'borderless relations' among countries in respect of education, technology and science to lay the 'foundation of development towards the 21st century,' reports BSS.

"The education in the 21st century should be 'borderless,'" Kalam, himself a globally reputed scientist and promoter of education, told the convocation of University of Information Technology and Sciences (UITS) in the capital.

"If science and technology has to provide upliftment of our humanity, if the research and development are in areas with porous borders among them, if the problems of the world know not of geographical borders, the education that becomes the foundation of all our science and technology, research and development, must of necessity has to become 'borderless,'" he said.

The former Indian president said in the last century, most nations understood that science and technology was the best vehicle for economic uplift while science and technology was primarily used to provide "customized solutions to their local needs".

"(But) today the problems faced by nations are no longer, a concern of them alone as humanity is devoting more and more attention to climate change, energy, water, disease free world, economic turbulence and terrorism etc," he said.

He said these were issues of concern for the entire world and "the solutions for which are beyond any individual nations or group of nations".

Kalam also proposed formation of a joint Bangladesh-India ICT complex from where experts, professionals and entrepreneurs in information technology sector could harvest maximum regional benefit.

The former Indian presi-

dent said, he believed that virtual integration and collaboration in education, science and technology would be the driving force for the future economy and development.

"In the last century, most nations understood that science and technology was the best vehicle for economic upliftment. However, Science and Technology was primarily used to provide customized solutions to their local needs," Kalam said.

Today, he said, the problems faced by nations are no longer a concern of them alone as "humanity is devoting more and more attention to climate change, energy, water, disease free world. (See Back Page Col. 3)

Education now

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of developing a Digital Bangladesh.

"Virtual integrity in learning should be explored through use of modern technology," he said recommending establishment of regional relations in communication and agriculture sector.

"Communication tools like mobile technology could be explored in building greater regional relations so the countries can make a virtual relation to exchange know-how in their desired sector," he said.

Kalam stressed the need for more research particularly in agriculture sector as he saw that the land and other natural resources were declining in the region to leave more room to the growing population.

Also he referred to the

economic turbulence and terrorism etc while these are concerns of the entire world and the solutions for which were beyond any individual nations or group of nations.

Chancellor of the university President Zillur Rahman presided over the convocation, held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference, which was renamed today as Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Kalam, known as an advocate of the action plan to develop India into a knowledge-based superpower and a developed nation by the year 2020, appreciated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's vision for 2021 and the target

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ever-growing energy needs in the region and suggested reducing dependence of fossil fuels and utilize renewable energy like solar power.

The former India president emphasised on "leadership with vision" to translate the dream of next century into reality adding that such leadership should be supported irrespective of their political identities.

Later interacting with students and faculties of the premier Dhaka University Kalam suggested Bangladesh and Indian leaders to resolve the water and other outstanding issues through talks.

"The competent leaderships in the two countries could solve the outstanding water and other issues," he said while interacting with faculties and students of premier Dhaka University on the second day of a three-day Bangladesh tour.

Kalam, however, added that "river crisis is a global crisis" and it requires a broad based discussion. Speaking at the convocation, Bangladesh President Zillur Rahman told him that he believed as the goodwill ambassador, Kalam would carry our wishes to the "brotherly people of India."

"I firmly believe the pending unsolved issues between the two countries would be solved through dialogue and negotiations," Rahman told the convocation of the University of Information Technology and Sciences (UITS) as Kalam joined the function as the main speaker.

Kalam also proposed formation of a joint Bangladesh-India ICT complex from where experts, professionals and entrepreneurs in information technology sector could harvest maximum regional benefit.

Himself a connoisseur of poetry and music, Kalam said Bangladesh's national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam inspired him a lot by his message for unity and fight against poverty and inequality while he recited from Nazrul amidst huge applause.

The prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs Gowher Rizvi, Chairman of the UITS board of directors Mohamed Mizanur Rahman and UITS Vice-chancellor Abdul Aziz also addressed the convocation.

President Zillur Rahman later said, outstanding issues between Bangladesh and India would be resolved through dialogues and negotiations as India is the trusted friend and next-door neighbour of the country.

"We firmly believe the pending unresolved issues between the two countries would be solved through dialogues and negotiations," he said.

He extended his warm greetings to the former Indian President, saying Dr Kalam had played a very important role in developing peace, prosperity and stability in South Asia.

"I fervently hope that the entire mankind, particularly the people of the region would be benefited through your knowledge and wisdom which is dedicated to humanity," the president said.

Rahman informed the former Indian President that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has announced the 'Vision 2021' with a view to translating the country into digital Bangladesh by 2021, when the country will observe Golden Jubilee of her independence.