

EU/MS information and awareness campaign, New Delhi 28 Sept 2012

Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is indeed an honor as a newcomer as Ambassador of Sweden to India to be here for this important event on the theme of research and innovation cooperation between India and Europe.

Allow me to contribute with a few words on my own country, and what we can offer. Taken together, I am convinced that the EU and India have very broad complementarities and possibilities.

Sweden, for its part, is a **small country**, but strongly **connected** to the rest of the world.

Export of goods and services make up 50 % of our GDP.

14 % of our population is born outside of Sweden.

Sweden is a **knowledge economy** and the home of many well-known **innovations** that are the results from **research and development**, some of the well-known examples from the last centuries include the **centigrade scale, dynamite, adjustable spanner, refrigerator** and the **advanced ball-bearings**, just to mention a few.

So far the 21st century has given us innovations like **Skype** and **Spotify** from the hands of Swedish innovators.

Many **great companies** have grown out of these innovations, and today **Swedish brand names** like SKF, Volvo and IKEA are well-known all over the world.

When countries are evaluated on various innovation parameters Sweden usually comes out first, or at least among the top three globally.

The strong Swedish innovation climate has been enabled by a number of synergetic features of the Swedish society;

- The base is a **strong and universal education system** that fosters academic excellence, but also trains students in group-working skills that are essential in today's complex and interlinked society.
- **High priority for research**; Sweden spends 3.6 % of its GDP on R&D, this is among the highest levels of expenditure of any country.
- Excellent **research environments** have been developed at **research universities** as well as within our **companies**.

- An **open and international climate** in Sweden attracts talent and stimulates discourse.
- A **non-hierarchical culture** where the distance between the professor and the student is small and the relations informal.
- A strong focus on **cooperation, diversity and equality** in all aspects of society.

Together this creates a society where innovation is nurtured!

However, we also realize the need for **inflow of new ideas and perspectives**. In no other field is the **value that collaboration brings** better understood and proven than in research and development. Membership in the EU has been of immense value for us in increasing these flows. We have always been open to the world, and I believe that in an ever more globalized international environment we all have an interest in increasing global collaboration.

It pleases me to know, that the **volume and quality of Indo-Swedish research** has increased consistently over the past 20 years. And many of the joint research projects are performed together with researchers from other European countries.

Sweden and India signed an **MoU** in the field of **Science & Technology** in 2005 and since then several calls for proposals have been jointly formulated. At present **12 jointly funded Indo-Swedish research projects are running** in scientific fields like **Embedded Systems, e-Health and Tuberculosis**. We are very pleased with the collaboration with DST and other Indian research departments and agencies that have enabled this, and hope to be able to **continue and expand the Indio-Swedish research partnership** going forward.

The information and awareness-raising campaign performed by the EU and its member states during September gives us all an **excellent opportunity to interact with Indian researchers** across this great nation. We have an opportunity to present what is available and we are listening to the needs and interests in the Indian research community.

We hope that the efforts put in to this campaign will lead to **many more research collaborations** between researchers from India and those from Sweden and the rest of the European Union. This will undoubtedly lead to **increased scientific knowledge and applications that can improve the lives** of people in India, EU and beyond.