

## **GIST OF Dr. BHASKAR RAMAMURTHI'S LECTURE ON 21.12.2016**

Anna Institute of Management's first of the series of expert lectures was held at the 'Ponnarangam' Auditorium in its premises on 21.12.2016 by 5.30 pm. The topic 'Leveraging Technology to Harness and Hasten the Pace of Development in India' delivered by person of eminence Dr. Bhaskar Ramamurthi, Director, IIT-Madras, was attended among others by senior bureaucrats of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

After briefing the audience about the personal profile of the orator, Thiru. K. Skandan, IAS., Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Director, Anna Institute of Management and Director General of Training handed over the podium to the person of eminence Dr. Bhaskar Ramamurthi.

In his inimitable style of presentation, with the display of a PPT, he explained the interplay between emerging & new technologies and stated that the requisites of Government's decision to adopt new technologies would depend upon options such as the need to provide speedy, efficient, cost effective, sustainable and equitable service delivery to the public. To emphasis this, he explained with examples how technology's foray into infrastructure sectors like Telephone, Railways, Power and Water had been aided by the need to save time and cost, benefiting the common public.

Some of the key issues flagged by Dr. Bhaskar Ramamurthi were:

- Leadership decides what they want based on speed, cost, risk-level, sustainability, etc., Examples chosen were the Mobile Phones and Computerised Railway Reservation.
- There is collateral gain from technology, for instance which number was called and for how long.
- Technology can improve usage of resources for which STP for water treatment and recycling for secondary use was cited. He also emphasized

the need for policy interventions in this sphere citing the example of STP for water treatment in residential complexes where size specification of the STP to be installed is to be given by Government

- Another area of leveraging of technology cited was Rooftop Solar where existing ones are inefficient and cost being too high. Policy interventions are needed in the area of solar DC where fast-moving technology trends need to be adapted
- Dr. Bhaskar Ramamurthi's lecture highlighted the aggregation of data in useful formats. There is a need a to locate useful sources of data which do not violate privacy rights.
- Another useful area highlighted by the lecture was “Uberisation of multi-modal transport” using D2D smart phone-driven connectivity. Local shared electric vehicle from origin to nearest metro station was recommended in the lecture, which could be booked by smart phone.

During the interactive session to a pointed question from a senior officer on leveraging technology in imparting education, his reply was that till middle school, the pupils are best handheld by a teacher without any tools in imparting education. The teacher can upgrade his/her skills in the profession through technology, whereas technology *per se* may not be of much use until they cross middle school. In the case of higher education, it is already in vogue. As far as skill development is concerned he insisted that opportunities need to be created for a wide range of certification and cited examples such as paramedicals, geriatric care in the health sector.

He also clarified on some emerging technologies incubated in IITs and encouragement given to start-ups by aspiring techno-entrepreneurs.

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