

SPEECH OF MR. KESHUB MAHINDRA, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, AHMEDABAD, AT THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION ON 30TH MARCH, 1979

Mr. Rajadhyaksha, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

May I welcome you to the fourteenth annual convocation of this Institute.

I am particularly happy that you could be in our midst on this occasion to address us. Your presence here is of particular significance to those graduating today. Most of them are on the threshold of embarking on some sort of a management career, as you did a shade over thirty years ago when you joined Hindustan Lever. Your professional record thereafter epitomizes success of managerial acumen and skill. You rose to be the Chairman of the company, but being restless by nature and I presume you found it intellectually unaspising to keep working on just a small canvas, you chose to prematurely retire from your company. You then set forth to work on a national plane - a canvas which no company can offer; you joined Government, first as the Chief Consultant, and later rose to be appointed a Member of the Planning Commission. It is but fitting that you should be our Chief Guest today to address these young men and women, for in you they have a model to emulate.

The Convocation at this Institute has traditionally been a day on which the curtain falls on one year's activity and rises again for the year to come. No two years have been the same. Since the inception of this Institute, we have believed in consolidating on our experience and venturing out to meet new challenges. We will continue to cater to various demands through our Post-Graduate Programme, Fellow Programme, which is our doctoral programme, and Management Education Programme. We are planning to increase the number of Management Development Programmes from about 25 to 40 in the coming year, and we are now attracting participants from other countries. We have entered into some collaboration agreement with Management Institutions abroad in Egypt and Tanzania. We will continue to develop other activities.

A new dimension to our activities next year will be the starting of a Faculty Development Centre. It will open its work by offering a one-year Programme for Development of Management Faculty.

The new Programme will not only offer the participants formal courses at the Institute, but it will also make it possible for them to work with our faculty as colleagues, to participate

and observe the Institute's academic process. This programme, I hope, will be one more step in satisfying the growing need for management teachers.

While we have an established reputation for innovations in our teaching programmes, I would like to feel that we have innovated one in the field of educational administration. Professor Ravi Matthai set the pace a few years ago when he stepped down, after seven years of outstanding service to the Institute as its Director and thereafter continued and still continues as an ordinary faculty member. This process was repeated again, for at the beginning of this faculty year Prof. Samuel Paul after very distinguished service to the Institute resigned as the Director and his mantle has now passed to Prof. Vijay Vyas, who requires no introduction from me. He is outstanding in his field of specialization and the Institute is indeed fortunate in obtaining his services as the new Director. What I believe we have developed and innovated at our Institute is a very fine and subtle process by which the new Director is selected. The task is not easy, for the process so developed calls for exhaustive consultations with the community at large and a deep involvement of the faculty