

21 May 2007  
Keio University

Keio University 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project  
**Indian Government and Keio University to co-host an international workshop:  
“Light Path to India” in Delhi**  
To promote collaboration in advanced research projects among Asian countries  
utilizing the latest Information Technology

Keio University will co-host “**Light Path to India**”, an international workshop to discuss the roles of ultra high-speed network in R&D and satellite Internet based Distance Education, as part of its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary project. The workshop, hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology of India, will take place on **Friday, 25 May** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR) Conference Facilities, National Agriculture Science Centre Complex e** in New Delhi, India.

### 1. Brief Overview of the Workshop

Development of information technologies has played a vital role in international collaborative researches which require large scale data transmission capacity. Today, in the fields such as space science, astronomy, medical studies, nuclear energy, high energy physics and new digital media, an ultra high-speed network facility which connects the world has become increasingly important. This workshop will focus on developing a leading-edge information network to connect Asian countries including Japan and India to enable the countries in Asia to participate in advanced research activities using ultra high-speed Internet network.

The workshop will also focus on the SOI (School on the Internet) Asia project hosted by Keio University in association with the WIDE (Widely Integrated Distributed Environment) Project \*, a network of distance education of higher education institutions based on satellite Internet technology. The project, hosted by Keio University with co-operation of 26 partner universities in 13 countries, achieved significant success in connecting universities with satellite Internet network to share lectures, to improve the level of higher education in Asia, and to train and develop human resources specializing in the information technology field. At the workshop, a session on distance education will be held, and the possibility of forming a partnership with educational institutions in India will be discussed. This project attracted attention after the Indian Ocean Earthquake for providing distance lectures to Universitas Syiah Kuala in Indonesia which was seriously damaged by the earthquake and tsunami.

### 2. Main Lecturers

- Kapil Sibal, Minister for Science and Technology of India
- Representative of the Japanese Embassy
- Jun Murai, Vice President of Keio University, Professor of the Faculty of Environmental Information, Director of WIDE Project
- Subodh Bhargava (may be substituted), Chairman of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (a global Indian-telecommunications company)
- Kees Neggers, Managing Director of SURFnet (national research and educational network of the Netherlands)
- Representative of Indian Institutes of Technology(IIT), University of Delhi, and Indira Gandhi National Open University(IGNOU)

# Light Path to India: R&D Network and Distance Education Workshop

Friday, 25 May 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR) Conference Facilities, National Agriculture Science Centre Complex  
<http://www.icar.org.in/welcome.html> Office Block, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, New Delhi 110 012

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0900 – 1030	<b>Session 1: Opening</b> <i>Opening</i> <i>Welcome speech</i> by Hon. Minister of Science and Technology <i>Greetings</i> by Representative of Japanese Embassy <i>The present state of Japan India cooperation</i> by Prof. Aftab Seth <i>Keynote speech</i> by Prof. Jun Murai, Vice President, Keio University, and Director, WIDE Project <i>Keynote speech</i> by Mr. Subodh Bhargava, Chairman, VSNL <i>School of the Internet Project</i> by Prof. Keiko Okawa, Keio University
1035 – 1100	Coffee break
1100 – 1230	<b>Session 2: R&amp;D Network</b> <i>Light Path to India</i> by Prof. Jun Murai <i>R&amp;D Network in Europe &amp; towards Light Path to India</i> by Mr. Kees Neggers, Managing Director, SURFnet <i>VSNL and R&amp;D Network to India</i> by Mr. Subodh Bhargava, Chairman, VSNL <i>IIT and R&amp;D Network to India</i> by IIT
1230 – 1400	Lunch
1400 – 1530	<b>Session 3: Parallel Sessions</b> <b>R&amp;D Network Track</b> <i>Technical discussion</i> chair: Prof. Jun Murai <b>Distance Education Track</b> <i>Distance Education in University of Delhi</i> by Prof. Singh <i>Distance Education in IGNOU</i> by Prof. Uma Kanjilal <i>Keio Global Campus and SOI Asia</i> by Prof. Keiko Okawa Discussions
1530 – 1600	Coffee break
1600 – 1700	<b>Session 4: Closing</b> Report from R&D Network track Report from Distance Education track Closing

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This workshop is invitation only. Press members are welcome. Please register to [m-koho@adst.keio.ac.jp](mailto:m-koho@adst.keio.ac.jp) in advance. A reception hosted by Hon. Kapil Sibal, Minister for Science and Technology is being scheduled in the evening after the workshop.

\* About WIDE Project: Made up of more than 100 organizations including various corporations and universities, the project aims at a global connection between computers and all other equipment and construction of a highly public information infrastructure that will contribute to society in a variety of fields.

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If you would like to attend / cover the event or if you have inquiries, please contact:

Akiko Kurata (Ms), Hideyo Kawagoe (Ms.)

Office of Communications and Public Relations, Keio University, Japan

Email: [m-koho@adst.keio.ac.jp](mailto:m-koho@adst.keio.ac.jp) Tel: +81-3-5427-1541 Fax: +81-3-5441-7640