



President's Office

Welcome Address by

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CHAIRMAN, GLOBALTECH ALLIANCE BOARD & PRESIDENT, NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

**2ND GLOBALTECH WORKSHOP: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: CAPACITY
BUILDING & COOPERATION**

Monday, 23 May 2011, 9.00 am
EiABC Campus, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

President, ETH Zurich, Professor Ralph Eichler,
Director, IIT Bombay, Professor Devang Khakhar,
Vice Provost, Georgia Tech, Professor Steve McLaughlin,
Scientific Director, Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and
City Development, Professor Dirk Hebel,
Workshop participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

I am very happy to be with you this morning and to address the second GlobalTech Workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Our Workshop, very kindly hosted by ETH Zurich and EiABC, is on the topic of Sub-Saharan Africa: Capacity Building and Cooperation.

The Global Alliance of Technological Universities (GlobalTech), an alliance of seven of the best technological universities, was launched at NTU Singapore in April 2009. Members of the Alliance are Caltech, Georgia Tech, Imperial College London, ETH Zurich, IIT Bombay, NTU and Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

All members of the Alliance share the vision and belief that one of the best ways to address global societal issues is through the joint and concerted development of solutions based on leading edge research in science and technology.

Since its launch two years ago, the Alliance has come together to discuss the role of technological universities in the 21st century, sustainability, exchange research ideas, and develop joint activities among faculty and students of partner universities. Several joint projects/activities are already underway and more are being planned over the next 18 months. Our third annual meeting will be held Wednesday in this very city, on 25 May.

GlobalTech was founded on a grand vision – a vision of the best technological universities in the world getting together to collectively tackle major world challenges. Coming from three dynamic regions of the world, we recognize that we must join hands with one another to address major global issues.

Africa can be compared with Asia in the 1950s, underdeveloped but with great potential. Japan led the way in Asia, recovering from World War II to become a great success story. The four little dragons of Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan followed. The giants of China and India are now in full gallop and taking their places on the world stage.

The fundamentals of education and hard work with good governance apply just as much to Africa as to Asia. It is time for Africa to break out of the stereotype of resource providers to tap their human resource. We look forward to the proceedings of the Workshop to enlighten us on the potential of Africa.

With this workshop we are taking another step forward by bringing like-minded faculty together to share “lessons learnt” from past and current collaboration and to identify topics for future cooperation. On the part of the Alliance, we hope the workshop will lead to stronger strategic partnerships with Africa and initiate new collaborations.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to ETH Zurich for organising the 2011 Annual Meeting and the Workshop on Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development (EiABC) for hosting us.

I wish everyone a most enjoyable and productive workshop.

Thank you.