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भारत सरकार के प्रमुख वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार
एवम्
डी.ए.इ. – होमी भाभा प्रोफेसर

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The President's Message

Alvin Toffler once said that ``Yesterday Violence was power, today Wealth is power and tomorrow Knowledge will be power''. Paraphrasing Toffler, since technology is the common thread in all this, I would say that ``Technology is power''. One of the most prominent of pervasive technologies today is cyber technology. On the one hand, cyber world is a great enabler for good governance, and assures speedy and reliable access to and delivery of data and information. At the same time, there is vulnerability to attacks. The impact of such attacks on critical infrastructures like power, banking, and military communications, could be potentially devastating. An organization working towards the goal of securing the cyber infrastructure of our nation is hence very vital. With this goal in mind, the idea of setting-up the Society for Electronic Transactions and Security (SETS) was mooted by Late President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, when he was Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India and was implemented later through the Office of the PSA.

The main goal of SETS is to act as a premier organization researching on technologies useful for the Nation's current cyber security needs and also future preparedness and acting as a translational research centre, as a bridge between various players like govenment agencies, industry and academia. I introduced the term `directed basic research', by which I mean basic research in an area where the knowledge generation would benefit society or industry or country's strategic interests in the long term. I find SETS also to be an apt example for illustrating the usefulness of `directed basic research' in cyber security.

At SETS, cybersecurity research covers applications, network and information security, as well as disaster recovery. It boasts of strong research teams working in areas of cyptography and cryptanalysis, hardware security and network security. These are areas which are likely to impact the future of cybersecurity, including quantum key distribution, physically unclonable functions, big data, blockchains and game theoretic techniques.

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I am also happy that SETS also advises various government agencies on related matters and provides training in state-of-the-art topics.

It gives me great pleasure in introducing this unique organization to you.

(R. Chidambaram)
5th January, 2018