

Press Release, Nov 2 -2017

International collaborations in the digital realm of e-governance would help countries to stay abreast technology trends, jointly evolve global policies, as well as catalyze the achievement of sustainable development goals by learning from each other's best practices.

Swiss-India relationship is a case in point. To commemorate seventy years old friendship between both the countries, Embassy of Switzerland, collaborated with Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) as its knowledge partners to conduct Swiss-Indian e-Governance forum on November 2, 2017 at India Habitat Centre (IHC), New Delhi. Spurred by emergence of Digital India Program (Government of India, 2014) and Swiss e-government Strategy (2016-2019), the deliberations of the event were focused on the emerging issues assailing e-governance spaces of both the countries including open data concerns, citizens' participation, accountability, and transparency. The high profile event was inaugurated, Dr. Andreas Baum (Ambassador, Embassy of Switzerland in India), Dr. T. Chatterjee, IAS-Retd (Director, IIPA), Sh. Shekhar Dutt, IAS-Retd (Former Governor of Chhattisgarh). The galaxy of speakers included e-government experts from both India and Switzerland. They were decision-makers from Swiss e-government strategy (Mr. Cédric Roy- Head of Programme office, e-Government Switzerland). The Indian government luminaries who spoke in the event had included Dr. N.C. Saxena, IAS-Retd., Former Secretary- Planning Commission, Shankar Aggarwal, IAS-Retd., Former Secretary, Ministry of Labor and Employment, Dr. Gulshan Rai, National Cyber-Security Coordinator-NCSC, Government of India- Prime Minister's Office, Brijesh Singh, IPS, Secretary, Information & Public relations, Government of Maharashtra as well as Dr. Neeta Varma, Director General –National Informatics Centre. Similarly, very interesting intellectual deliberations had also ensued on opportunities laid bare open by Disruptive Technologies and Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs amongst senior faculty from the academic community researching the subject in India (Prof. P.K. Joshi, JNU, Prof. V.K. Sharma, IIPA and Vice Chairman, Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority and Dr. Charru Malhotra, Associate Professor, e-Governance and ICT, IIPA). There were equally vocal statement of concerns on new opportunities laid bare open in the field of e-governance shared by the start-ups and media providing information/ solutions for e-governance from Indian entrepreneurs ,in various sessions of the event wherein the speakers included Prof. Jagdeep Chhokar (Founder NGO ADR), Ms.

Sangeeta Thakur (Group Editor, 9 on 9 media), Mr. Amit Shukla (Founder, EasyGov), Dr. Kazi (Digital Empowerment Foundation); from Switzerland startup ecosystem the speakers were Hannes Gassert (Civic entrepreneur, Board member opendata.ch), Daniel Gasteiger (Co-founder and CEO, Procivis) and Alenka Bonnard (staatslabor). The participation of the delegates to this exclusive, highly interactive event was only on special invite. Though only sixty confirmed delegates were expected, the event actually witnessed a huge turnout of almost one hundred and fifty high profile delegates from government, armed forces, academia, as well as start-ups representing both the countries. Amongst other learnings that emanated from the event, Swiss experts averred that the thrust of Digital India in using open-data as well as MyGov as well as the obvious efforts of GoI in bridging the last mile gap for a hitherto ‘unreached’ citizen is expected to benefit Swiss experiences. Similarly, Swiss success stories on use of Block chain technology in public domain and its innovative models of encouraging its startups could be adapted for India.

This unique event was successfully conducted by Dr. Charu Malhotra, Associate Professor (e-Governance and ICT), IIPA, New Delhi



Director (IIPA) Felicitating Ambassador of Switzerland in Inaugural Session of Swiss-Indian e-Gov Forum
From L to R : Dr. Charru Malhotra (Associate Professor , e-Governance and ICT, IIPA), Dr. T. Chatterjee, IAS-Retd (Director , IIPA), Sh. Shekhar Dutt , IAS-Retd (Former Governor of Chhattisgarh), Dr. Andreas Baum , (Ambassador, Embassy of Switzerland in India)



