

Science Diplomacy: A Platform to Think Beyond the Boundaries

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Recently, I attended ASM-AAAS-TWAS Regional Course for Science Diplomacy from 16 - 19 March 2021. This regional course on science diplomacy motivate me to write and express my views and the things which I learn during the course to the readers. Science diplomacy is basically a platform for scientific collaborations among nations to think beyond the boundaries and to address common problems faced by neighboring countries in order to build constructive international partnerships to resolve the common issues. As all of we know that science is a process of pursuing answers, while diplomacy is a process for dialogue and among countries and their citizens. There are three recognized aspects of science diplomacy:

- Science for diplomacy: Science for diplomacy is basically a science that is supporting diplomacy by providing a doorway to relationships between nations with shared goals and values.
- Science in diplomacy: Science building diplomatic relation in various diplomatic endeavors by addressing global or regional challenges.
- Diplomacy for science: Diplomacy for science defines that how diplomacy supporting science by building international relationship to foster robust collaboration and establish scientific network and to share expertise and infrastructure.

There are various challenges faced globally such as climate change, biodiversity, pandemic diseases, food insecurity, transboundary haze and economic instability. Transboundary haze pollution is the most debated agenda of 2020 after COVID-19. The transboundary haze is resulting from land and forest fires. It has also been considered as global role model for the tackling of transboundary issues. Any or all above three aspects of science diplomacy may be required to address science and technology related common issues in the smart partnership way.

Although, in this pandemic some countries temporarily close their borders to contain the spread of COVID-19, in broad term we need to change the current framing of health security. In this regard, we all need to understand the concept of science diplomacy and try to develop global partnerships among countries that effects collective health. Another aim of science diplomacy is to build a concept of one health. The concept of one health is not new but it has become more imperative in few years because human populations are growing and expanding into new geographic areas. One Health is a concept that demonstrated that the health of people is closely connected to the animals and our shared environment. One Health is a transdisciplinary approach working at the local, regional, national, and global levels with the goal of achieving optimal health between people, animals, plants and environment.

Science diplomacy is an attempt to achieve sustainable international relations that can be accomplished by strengthening international cross-border or regional corporations by facilitating an active learning and knowledge exchange programs particularly between low- and middle-income and high-income countries. Scaling up efforts in research and development by organizing R&D resources to relevant areas and formulating sustainable science policy response.

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