

## “March for Science”

Message from Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

The phenomenon of ‘March for Science’ that is being witnessed around the world is truly remarkable. Scientists are usually shy and reclusive and avoid getting involved with the public and the media. In my opinion this new-found courage to come out into the open augurs well both for science and for society. It will bring science and society closer to each other and make both knowledgeable of and responsible for each other.

One of the stated aims of the March is to sensitise society to take interest in science and to support science. Science and Technology have a vast, mostly untapped potential to improve the welfare of people all over the world.

We urge the government, the private sector and the philanthropist to support science with funding as well as encouragement. Funders of science need to realize that the benefits of so-called applied science often depend on the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. Hence both basic science and applied science need to be encouraged simultaneously.

On our part, we scientists should prove ourselves worthy of this support and trust of society. Scientists should endeavour to be truthful and ethical in their pursuit of science. Scientists should attempt to conduct their work in as inexpensive a manner as possible. Scientists must make science a democratic and transparent process. We should communicate not just the products of our research but lay bare the process of science. Scientists should be modest and conscious of some inevitable biases that may come to play in our research.

We should all aim to make science an integral part of society rather than an esoteric, expensive activity performed by a handful of people.