

INDIA DAY, Budapest, May 10, 2013

Megnyitó beszéd vázлата (kötetlen formában hangzott el)

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to BME – Budapest University of Technology and Economics.

It is a great privilege and pleasure for me to greet among us His Excellency **Gauri Shankar Gupta**, the ambassador of India in Hungary. I am sure that many of you remember that he delivered the lecture “Ancient Wisdom and Modern Science” with great success in the same building / room of BME on February 22 this year. It is nice to see you here again.

Professor Gábor PÉCELI, the rector of Budapest University of Technology and Economics defined in 2008 the student and professor exchange as the first priority of international politics of BME.

We have a balanced exchange in Europe, for example with about 400-400 incoming and outgoing students.

Lately following to politics of the Hungarian government as well BME is more active toward Non-European countries.

Just a few examples from these days: We taught more than 100 Vietnamese specialist-students in nuclear technology. BME will welcome about 250 students in the framework of the Brazilian program “Science without Borders” in the next semester.

In our Indian relations we have great reserves, opportunities. Here I present once more only an example. The results of the 2nd round of CAMPUS Hungary exchange program were declared a few days ago. There were 168 BME applicants. Among our 136 winners only one student goes to India (for a practical placement).

Budapest University of Technology and Economics is one of the 6 Hungarian research universities. We were happy to hear from His Excellency that the Indian – Hungarian research funds were doubled recently.

For us Hungarian people India is connected with its famous poet **Rabindranath Tagore**. As we are at a university, allow me to cite his famous words about the education:

„The *highest education* is
that which *does not merely give us information*
but *makes our life in harmony* with *all existence*.”

The Nobel Prize winner Indian poet is even closer to BME students, professors, as our university resort, flats built by the trade union of professors are in Balatonfüred a few hundred meters from the bust of Rabindranath Tagore and the tree he planted in 1926. Allow me to finish this short opening speech with the last words of his poem just below his bust:

(first in Hungarian) “*A költő szeretett, amíg élt*”,
(and in English) “*The poet did loved while he lived*”.

I wish you / us a nice India Day.