

Acceptance Speech by Professor Ganeshi Lal, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha on being conferred Honorary Doctorate Degree by Hanseo University, Korea

President and Founder, Hanseo University, Mr. Ki-Sun Ham, Dean of faculties, Management and Senate of the University, Members of the faculty and the academic community, Distinguished guests, Dear Students, Sisters and Brothers

I am truly honoured and humbled to accept this honorary doctorate degree conferred on me by the Hanseo University. I am really touched by the overwhelming reception extended to me. I value it as a sign of friendship and regard of the people of Korea for India, Odisha and for me. I feel happy to reciprocate with greetings and good wishes from myself and from the people of Odisha.

The endeavours, initiatives and contributions of Hanseo University to the cause of education have been quite impressive. It has been inspired by the vision that only an educated and enlightened citizenry can play an important role in the future development and progress of Korea. Visit of students of Hanseo University as part of student exchange programme to Odisha is greatly appreciated as it brings an element of diversity that enriches students' experience. For me, it was a great pleasure of meeting and interacting with students of this University. As Chancellor of Universities in Odisha, I am aware of the importance and positive impact of such collaboration and partnerships and I am confident such interaction will facilitate our continued engagement.

Education is not just about memorising facts and figures. Education is for self-transformation and bringing consciousness. India is a country with varied and rich cultural heritage. Great Indian educationists came with their individual ideas and philosophy of education to place education system in a perfect frame. Ideas of Swami Vivekananda, the great Indian spiritual monk have a deep philosophical value. It relates to the development of the total man, and not just the outer man of flesh and blood, but the inner man of flesh and spirit, extending towards the infinite world beyond space and time. His philosophy of education has been supported by that of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, a respected personality in Korea for his poem 'Lamp of the East' when he also opined that, "The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existences." So our effort and focus on education should be on cultivation of virtue, disciplining of mind, strengthening of moral will and formation of positive character.

It is well said that "there is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship." And I am grateful for the academic friendships that transcend borders and distances, for the friendships that allow us jointly to explore the world in which we live, and for the friendships that enable us to share together in our successes.

With these words, I once again thank the University for bestowing upon me this honour. I look forward to your continued friendship and fruitful exchanges with Odisha and India. The youth are the future leaders of our respective country. May you flourish and take your nation to new heights of progress and prosperity. I wish all of you every success in your academic journey and a very bright future. Thank you

Jai Hind