

A MESSAGE FROM VICTOR F.B. DE MELLO:

As I look back at my 44 years of delightful worldwide associations within and through our geotechnical family, from India, through the Cambridge (U.S.) "hub-of-the universe", to South America, Europe, Africa, Middle East, Russia, Australia, and the world-embracing Asia, I cannot but reemphasize the zest at foregoing the lures of homogeneization and standardization, in learning to delight in our differences. Differences geological and ecological strike inquisitive minds with a tantalizing equivalence of curiosity, and diversity of effects: specialization is differentiation, and development sprouts from clashing-concerted, rejection-attraction, by specializations. The standard, if any, is of a matter-of-fact muted pride in differences pried by culture, history, and the inexorable chronology of growth, as a resignation to youth unfettered, challenging the domineering world of communications to continue as a boon in lieu of aging into a bond.

Free is the mind and creativity, unshackled from the understanding bondage of direct imitation. Let us forth, with the ingenious engineering of infinite benefit/cost ratio, aided by the vagaries of serendipity in the realm of intuitions and the commonest of sense: let us be guarded from the railroaded engine engineering, frequent sequel to the promise of the engine itself.

Tidor F. B. de Melh

Best wishes and kind regards