

Press Release

Science Academies and Societies Associations' Workshop on Science Breakthroughs: Paid News, Fake News and Ethics

19 February 2019, New Delhi: Reports of scientific breakthroughs appearing in the media always trigger the curiosity of readers. But, what if the news items are 'dressed up' or 'exaggerated'? These and other unethical practices in science news generation and dissemination are a global problem.

To brainstorm on the menace of paid news, fake news and ethics in science communication, the Association of Academies of Science in South Asia (AASSA), AASSA Special Committee on SHARE Communication, Indian National Science Academy (INSA), CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR) and the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) are jointly organizing a regional workshop on SHARE Communication, "Science Breakthroughs: Paid News, Fake News and Ethics" during 20-22 February 2019 at Hotel Shanti Palace, New Delhi.

The Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA) was established to promote solidarity and cooperation among the scientific and technological academies in Asia and Australasia with currently 34 member academies representing 30 countries.

The AASSA Special Committee on SHARE Communication is an initiative of AASSA to promote communication in Science, Health, Agriculture, Risk, and Environment (SHARE) in member countries through academies which came into being in 2015.

The Indian National Science Academy (INSA) is the apex body of Indian science representing all branches of science and technology.

The CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR), New Delhi is the premier institute engaged in scholarly communication to the scientific fraternity and public outreach of science for over six decades. The Institute is the only organization in the country that disseminates R&D information through 18 peer-reviewed journals and takes science to masses through its widely circulated popular science magazines.

About 50 experts including science communicators, policymakers and scientists from seven Asian countries viz., South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Nepal, China and India are participating in the workshop.

Varied topics including impact of fake news on science breakthroughs, misinformation in the digital age, dissemination of paid and fake news, ethical dimension, etc. would be deliberated upon during the three-day event.