

**Address by Tarun Das at  
Exim Bank Annual Commencement Day  
10 March, 2005 : Mumbai**

Dr Rubens Ricupero, Mr Venkata Subramanian, ladies and gentlemen

There are 2 major reasons for my presence here today nearly 1000 miles from New Delhi where I live, work and where I have come from, this evening – very specially.

Morning – Mr Kamal Nath

Evening – Mr Ricupero

The reasons are 1<sup>st</sup> the high value I place on an Institution of Excellence and, second, a Nation – Brazil – and a person Dr Rubens Ricupero who command my highest respect.

A country, a society, an economy – its people – need strong institutions to sustain growth and development and help to ensure that the right things are done.

The Export Import Bank of India is one such Institution whose evolution, strong tradition, professional culture and outstanding staff led by its able chairman Mr T C Venkat Subramanian is at the centre of our economy and international trade. So when Mr Venkatat Subramanian wishes my presence, it is special honour for me. It is a command.

The second reason is equally important – Brazil – which I hope, will provide next Director General of WTO and Dr Rubens Ricupero, who is to deliver the Annual Commencement Day Lecutre now.

What an amazing record of contribution, through leadership and rich achievement is reflected in the person of Dr Ricupero.

- ) A lawyer by profession
- ) A teacher of experience
- ) An author of repute
- ) A diplomat of wide experience
- ) A former Minister of Finance who led Brazil's economic stabilization progress
- ) Secretary General of UNCTAD for 9 years
- ) A significant contribution to developing country cooperation in international trade.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

- ) a man of Quality of our times.
- ) a man of wisdom
- ) a man of knowledge
- ) a man of vision

These are facets of a leader, which we, in India enormously respect, and value. Plus a very close friend of India. A true friend of India. So it is a very special pleasure and privilege to present to you this

evening the former Secretary General of UNCTAD, to deliver the EXIM Bank Annual Commencement Day Lecture – the man who, in the 90's brought the developing world closer together.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I give the floor to Dr Rubens Ricupero