

Date: June 12, 2018
Circulation: 60,000

Edition: Goa

Language: English
Page: Online

Scientists' Goa meet will boost Indo-US ties: Consulate General

Posted by: June 12, 2018

NT NETWORK

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ship Ronald H Brown which is a world-class oceanographic and atmospheric research platform and which has traveled worldwide, supporting scientific studies to increase understanding of climate and the ocean with its highly-advanced instruments and sensors, arrived in the state and is presently berthed at the international cruise terminal of Mormugao Port Trust (MPT) at Mormugao Harbour.

Speaking to media persons, US Consulate General (Mumbai-India) Edgard D Kagan claimed that the visit of NOAA Ship Ronald H Brown to Goa will strengthen ocean, weather, fisheries and climate science collaboration between India and the US. He also has said that India and US scientists meet in Goa would help to improve the bilateral ties between the two nations.

“Five primary laboratories onboard the ship provide nearly 4,000 square feet of dedicated mission space, with additional space on deck to support up to nine laboratory vans. The ship is equipped with a suite of scientific sensors, including a multi-beam echo sounder, sub-bottom profiler, acoustic Doppler current profiler, acoustic positioning system and Doppler radar,” said Kagan.

Kagan also said that the ship’s combined atmospheric and oceanographic sampling capability allows scientists to observe dynamics at sea, and to determine how those dynamics affect climate and global weather patterns. At 274 feet, Ronald H Brown is a largest vessel in the NOAA fleet, claimed Kagan.

While having a round onboard ship, an official of ship told media persons that operated by NOAA’s Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, the Ronald H Brown is staffed with 28 operating crew, including six NOAA Corps officers and personnel within the engineering, deck, stewards, survey, and electronics departments. The ship can carry up to 32 scientists and endure up to 60 days at sea with a range of 11,300 nautical miles and a cruising speed of 12 knots.

Home ported in Charleston, South Carolina, and commissioned in 1997, the ship is named in honour of late Ronald H Brown, the first African American to serve as Secretary of Commerce.

Brown made it his mission to generate jobs and provide opportunities for ordinary Americans – and he was an ardent supporter of the NOAA fleet. He was killed in a plane crash on April 3, 1996 while on a trade mission to Bosnia, added the official.