

Materials Research Society of India (MRSI) Symposium and 27th Annual General Meeting of MRSI begins at CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat

The four-day program of Materials Research Society of India (MRSI) Symposium on 'Advanced Materials for Sustainable Applications' started off with a glittering inaugural program held at Dr J N Baruah Auditorium, CSIR-NEIST. The event which runs concurrently with the Annual General Meeting of MRSI during 18-21 February, 2016 is being hosted by CSIR-NEIST in collaboration with Tezpur University and IIT, Guwahati.

The inaugural function on 18 February, 2016 witnessed a full-packed auditorium graced by the presence of eminent personalities, stake holders, council members of MRSI, dignitaries, student participants & researchers from various parts of the country besides CSIR-NEIST fraternity. Dr G Sundararajan, Professor, IIT-Madras & Distinguished Emeritus Scientist, ARCI-Hyderabad and Dr Vijayamohan K Pillai, Director, CSIR-CECRI, Karaikudi & Acting Director, CSIR-NCL, Pune graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST & Chairman-Organizing Committee delivered the welcome address wherein he spoke briefly about CSIR-NEIST and the background of the Symposium. Challenges and solutions triggered by innovation in the field of Materials was something he stressed upon. Prof S B Krupanidhi, Vice-President & General Secretary- MRSI spoke about MRSI and said that it is dedicated to attract & foster young scientists & researchers by exposing them to the world of Materials Science and the various advancements taking place by holding such events. In his address, Dr Vijayamohan K Pillai spoke about the impact of MRSI in the scientific community for stimulating Materials Science & Engineering in India. He said that the current theme of the Symposium finds relevance with today's need of the hour which is to identify critical areas that need attention like energy, water, etc. with affordable materials.

Dr G Sundararajan encouraged the young participants to take full benefit of the event and interact with the experts and others for knowledge gain. Dr Suresh Das, President, MRSI & Executive Vice President, Kerala State Council for Science & Technology, Trivandrum spoke in detail about MRSI and its activities in his Presidential Address. Making a strong reference about the 'Valley of Death', Dr Das stressed upon the gap that exists between a Basic Researcher's interests and the interests of an Industrialist. He commented that the lack of interaction or simply put, the Death Valley that exists in spite of a healthy research invention in India and the potential industries interested in advanced materials can be addressed only by bridging the gap between these two mindsets. He pointed out the importance of applications of R&D to address problems like Energy. "Harnessing of Solar Energy needs to be increased substantially in India", he said while presenting a statistics which shows only 0.9% utilization of Solar Energy is used in India to produce Power while 22.8% from Renewable Sources, 16.6% from Hydro projects, etc. He urged everyone to play a role in addressing these gaps by developing materials having actual markets. Later, the Souvenir of the Symposium was released by the Chief Guest.

It is to be mentioned that the four-day Symposium will comprise of 9 Technical Sessions covering Award, Medal & Thematic Lectures by eminent scientists & subject experts besides 2 Poster Sessions which will cover Poster Presentation by students, researchers and scientists. The speakers will address subject areas like Superconductivity & Materials Science, Theoretical/Computational Material Sciences, Nano-Materials & Devices, Fine Chemicals & SoftMaterials, etc. The inaugural program concluded with vote of thanks offered by Dr P Sengupta, Convenor cum Organizing Secretary, CSIR-NEIST.

Besides the scientific fraternity of CSIR-NEIST, the Symposium is being attended by around 350 participants from various institutes, organizations, universities, etc. of the country.

Glimpses



Left: Release of the Souvenir by the dignitaries (from left), Dr D Ramaiah, Director, CSIR-NEIST & Chairman- Organizing Committee; Prof S B Krupanidhi, Vice President & General Secretary, MRSI; Dr Suresh Das, President, MRSI & Executive Vice President, Kerala State Council for Science & Technology, Trivandrum; Dr G Sundararajan, Professor, IIT-Madras & Distinguished Emeritus Scientist, ARCI-Hyderabad and Chief Guest; Dr Vijayamohan K Pillai, Director, CSIR-CECRI, Karaikudi & Acting Director, CSIR-NCL, Pune and Guest of Honour and Dr P Sengupta, Convenor cum Organizing Secretary. **Right:** Dr G Sundararajan delivering his address as Chief Guest in the inaugural program.



Dr Vijayamohan K Pillai, Director, CSIR-CECRI, Karaikudi & Acting Director, CSIR-NCL, Pune delivering his Address as Guest of Honour.

Dr Suresh Das, President, MRSI & Executive Vice President, Kerala State Council for Science & Technology, Trivandrum delivering his Presidential Address.