

DR. PLACID RODRIGUEZ

05.10.1940 to 31.08.2008

We deeply mourn for the sudden demise of Dr. Placid Rodriguez, former Director, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research.

We fondly recall the immense contributions made by Dr. Placid Rodriguez in terms of building the capability, capacity, robust and caring management systems at the Centre. His efforts and contributions have greatly shaped the Centre in maturing as a premier R&D institution in multidisciplinary areas of Science and Engineering.

As an internationally renowned expert in Material Science and Metallurgy, Dr Placid Rodriguez made pioneering contributions towards elucidating polycrystal work-hardening, dynamic strain aging, welding metallurgy of steels, structure-property correlations, deformation and fracture mechanisms in creep, fatigue, stress corrosion cracking, environmental degradation, NDE science and technology, etc. His professional canvas was wide, rich and dynamic. Apart from this, he had taken great efforts in mentoring, nurturing and caring for the professional growth of his colleagues at the Centre. He was an exemplary mentor and motivator.

During his tenure as Director, IGCAR for the period 1992 to 2000, he played a critical and significant role in all-round development of the Centre. His efforts enabled achieving significant progress in the operation of the FBTR and laying necessary foundation for the design and manufacturing technology of 500 MW(e) Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor, now under advanced stage of construction by BHAVINI at Kalpakkam. He worked with passion and zeal to improve the quality of life in the township by way of better schools, hospital and amenities for the residents of Kalpakkam.

Dr. Rodriguez's era at the Centre is an example of excellent leadership with human touch and personal warmth. He embedded the concept of decentralization. Many scientists, engineers at Kalpakkam campus are beneficiaries of his knowledge, wisdom and mentoring. Several young colleagues, mentored and nurtured by him, have matured and are leading several important programmes of the Department and the Country. His contributions towards popularizing metallurgy amongst the school students are praise-worthy and had led to the nucleation of Prof. Brahma Prakash Quiz, which is truly national in character and spirit. He made significant contributions towards making the materials community in the country a closely knit and eminent family. He continued to guide the activities of Atomic Energy even after his retirement through his professional interactions and timely advice.

The Centre owes gratitude to him for his contributions in putting the Centre prominently on the national and international maps. His eminence, passion, mentoring and strong commitment to the cause of fast reactors would be remembered for decades to come by the Centre, Metallurgy and materials community, Department of Atomic Energy and by his friends, peers, engineers young scientists & engineers and the staff at Kalpakkam campus of the Department of Atomic Energy.

May his soul rest in peace and we offer our deepest condolences to his family members.