



**Dr. PLACID RORDRIGUEZ, FORMER DIRECTOR of IGCAR
KALPAKKAM PASSES AWAY**

Dr. Placid Rodriguez was born in Quilon, Kerala on October 5, 1940. He obtained B.Sc from Kerala University, B.E (Metallurgy) from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, M.S from University of Tennessee, USA and Ph.D from IISc and MBA from Indira Gandhi National Open University.

He joined the Department of Atomic Energy in 1960 and worked in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay till 1974. In 1974, he has moved to Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam (then Reactor Research Centre) as a senior metallurgist and established world class research laboratories for metallurgical research. He was the Director of IGCAR, Kalpakkam from December 1992 till October 2000. Dr. Rodriguez is internationally well-known for his R&D contributions in Mechanical Metallurgy, Welding Metallurgy and Nuclear Materials. He has guided and nurtured several young colleagues in the multidisciplinary fields of Science and Engineering for the advancement of fast breeder reactor technology in India.

He served as Chairman of Recruitment and Assessment Centre of Defence Research and Development Organisation in New Delhi from Nov. 2000 to October 2003. Since 2004, he has been Raja Ramanna Fellow at IIT Madras, Chennai and AICTE-INAE Distinguished Visiting Professor at NITs at Surathkal, Nagpur, Tirchirapalli & PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore.

He served with distinction as a member of Editorial Board of several reputed international journals in Metallurgy and Materials Science and was the Chief Editor of Transactions of The Indian Institute of Metals during 1987-1997.

Dr. Rodriguez has been a recipient of many *National and International awards*. Notable among them are National Metallurgists' Day Award of the Ministry of Steel and Mines, G.D. Birla Gold Medal of the Indian Institute of Metals, VASVIK Research Award for Materials Science and Technology, Platinum Medal of the Indian Institute of Metals, Life Time Achievement Awards of The Indian Institute of Welding and Indian Nuclear Society. He has been Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, The Indian Academy of Sciences, The National Academy of Sciences India and The Indian Institute of Metals.

Dr. Rodriguez, has played important leadership roles in the Professional Societies. He served as President of The Indian Institute of Metals, The Indian Institute of Welding and Indian Nuclear Society. He served as Honorary Secretary as well as the Vice –President of the Indian National Academy of Engineering.

Dr. Rodriguez has been a member of many national funding agencies for Science and Technology like Science and Engineering Research Council of Department of Science and Technology, Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences, and chaired the TIFAC Committee on S&T inputs to Small and Medium Enterprises. Dr. Rodriguez served as a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet.

He is survived by wife and two children.