

05 October, 2017.

Dear Friends,

I have many good news to share from the last few months of hard work by many of our staff fructifying into many new activities and more importantly private projects. First, our Platinum Jubilee Celebration ended on 26th Sept. 2017 at New Delhi in a grand function where, our Honorable President was the Chief Guest. He appreciated Team CSIR and there were many good things to showcase. It is a matter of pride for us that, in the Scimago Institutional Global Ranking for 2017, CSIR was 9th amongst a total of 1207 Government Institutions, and in overall Global Ranking, CSIR stood at 75th among 5250 Institutions. CSIR is the only Indian organization which found a place amongst the top 100 Global Institutions.

Meanwhile, a lot of good things happened at CSIR-CECRI during the last four months. In order to disseminate information on our products and technologies to all our stakeholders and attract more industrial revenue, we organized an Industrial Conclave at Hotel Green Park, Chennai and showcased our ongoing R&D activities in which major industrial giants of CSIR-CECRI including Boeing, Airbus, Ashley Alteams, Royal Enfield, TVS and many other companies participated. I would like to thank the organizing committee, all other staff members, research scholars and project staff for their cooperation in organizing such a mega event. Consequently, we have many visitors (at least one per week) and many more private projects have been materialized resulting in enhanced external revenue. We have new projects from Tata steels, Reliance Industries, Sterlite, Oil India, and I have no doubt that our TTBD will strive to fulfill our commitments to CSIR HQ with the able guidance of our strategic business group. For Li-ion battery activity, we are in the final stage of discussions with at least four private companies and we hope to rope at least two of them quickly to start in a big way. Two of our FTTPs are likely to reach the end soon and we need to demonstrate cost-to-benefit ratio to the targeted clients. Our agile administration, supported by finance and purchase sections provides valuable platform for quick decisions and we have been able to do well in several areas due to this improved synergy, especially in utilizing ERP. However, the compliance for biometric attendance is weak in many sections and we may take several tough measures for those errant employees in the near future. Our Colony Affairs Committee and Staff Club need to be geared up more for precautions against stray dog menace and perhaps more prevalent dengue fever. We need to make more areas clean, despite the dire need to prune the temporary man power due to paucity of funds.

Under the CSIR Integrated Skill Initiative, we have conducted one month Skill development training programme for the benefit of youth of Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram Districts. A two day Faculty Development Programme was also organized jointly by CSIR-CECRI and Dr. Umayal Ramanathan College for Women. We also organized a three-day training programme in association with SAEST for young scholars and researchers. Many new activities are being planned in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Gujarat by our two champions of Skill Development and I am grateful for their commitment and hard work.

Many new Scientists have joined CECRI including Dr. M. Ashok, Dr. G. Anand Babu (Corrosion & Materials Protection), Dr. A. Balasubramanian (CSIR-CECRI Chennai Unit), Dr. M.U. Sreekuttan, Dr. S. Sudhakar (Electrochemical Power Systems) and Dr. Pandiaraj Manickam (Electrodics and Electrocatalysis). I welcome each one of them and request all staff to nurture them well so that they contribute significantly to the growth of this Institution.

Recently, we had an inspection by the Parliamentary Committee on Official Languages at Rameswaram, and the Hon'ble MP's appreciated the work being done in Hindi although we need to improve the use of Hindi in few sectors to match the progress. I request all our staff members to use Hindi more strongly in the relevant domain and all boards and banners need to be trilingual.

As a part of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) Foundation Day and conclusion of Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, with the aim of attracting young talents towards Science, we observed 'OPEN DAY' on 26th September, 2017. People consisting of general public, students of various institutions in around Karaikudi and from nearby districts visited our Institute and witnessed our scientific achievements and gained valuable insights on the ongoing R&D work. *Prof. Satishchandra Ogale*, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) delivered the CSIR Foundation Day Lecture.

On the occasion of 70th CSIR-CECRI Foundation Day Padma Vibhushan *Dr. Anil Kakodkar*, President, National Academy of Sciences, India, Chairman, Rajiv Gandhi Science & Technology Commission and Chairman, Technology Information, Forecasting & Assessment Council, Mumbai visited us and delivered the Foundation Day Lecture on "*Technology Vision 2035 for India*". He was very much impressed by our progress and highly appreciated our R&D activities. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our staff members whose coordinated efforts resulted in making these events a Grand Success.

I am thankful to the Electrochemical Society of India (ECSI) for selecting me as "*Honorary Fellow*". Hearty Congratulations to Dr. S. Sathiyarayanan, Sr.

Principal Scientist & Head PPMG for receiving the Mascot National Award-2017. Many of our colleagues brought laurels to the Institute including: Dr. S. Vasudevan, Principal Scientist nominated as Honorary Fellow of Australian Institute of High Energetic Materials (AIHEM) and also as one of the Editorial Board Members for the Journal "Journal of Industrial and Environmental Chemistry". Dr. Subrata Kundu, Scientist, received Honorary Fellowship of AIHEM and has joined as Editorial board member of 'SF Journal of Material and Chemical Engineering' published by Science Forecast Publications. Dr. S. Vengatesan received Honorary Fellowship of AIHEM. Ms. S. Premalatha, RGNF & AcSIR Scholar, received the Best Paper Award in the 2nd International Conference on Electrochemical Science & Technology organized by the Electrochemical Society of India and IISc, Bengauru, Mr. N. Sudhan & Mr. P. Vicky, B.Tech. Alumni won the FAER (Foundation for Advancement of Education and Research) Young Scholar Award 2017 and Dr. T. Siva, received the "Corrosion Awareness Award - 2017" for his contribution to the field of Corrosion Science and Technology. Hearty congratulations to all of them.

I am extremely delighted to welcome our new Research Council chaired by Dr. Ajit Sapre, Group President, Reliance Research Centre, Mumbai and hope that under his leadership our Institute will grow to greater heights. We also thank our outgoing RC chaired by Prof. Jacob, IISc for leading the Institute to glorious path.

Austerity measures were taken to overcome the financial crisis and I request all of your support and cooperation in this regard. I also came to know that some Ph.D. students are not getting their fellowship for the past few months, and we have instructed the Head, CSIR HRDG to sort out these issues at the earliest. We need to make sure that each CECRI Scientist is involved in one or more private projects and our average revenue earned from industrial projects (per capita) must double within next one year. This efficiency improvement needs support from all sections and we need to move at a rapid pace.

I once again thank each and every one for doing well and look forward for your unconditional support to achieve more important things in the near future.

Vijay