

January 1, 2018

My dear CECRI Family Members,

2017 has been a great year for CSIR-CECRI due to many reasons. First, with deep commitment and hard-work of many of our staff, we could achieve an unprecedented revenue generation of eight crores, perhaps for the first time. This is partly due to the directive from the leadership but our strategic business development group also played a key role by suggesting divisional targets and many responded positively. The industrial conclave we organized at Chennai helped not only in enhancing the revenue generation but to transfer couple of technologies in corrosion prevention also. This indicates that by March 31st perhaps, our assurance to CSIR about revenue generation might be possible in the current financial year. Second and perhaps more important is the changes brought by the joining of about two dozen new scientists and other staff members which will obviously impact the contours of many divisions. I request all of you to provide a suitable ecosystem to nurture these talents so that their imagination and creativity could be translated to impactful outcome with high visibility for CSIR-CECRI. The great synergy existing between our Administration, Finance, Purchase, PPMG and TTBD will undoubtedly help them to implement their new ideas and we expect surprising results within one year as per CSIR's mandate.

Friends, we live in a fast-changing world and there are several disruptive innovations in our life primarily through the science and technology. There is an ever-growing network of connected devices making such changes in our personal, social and academic work with incredible computational capacity from clouds, and with deep insights from the big-data, embellished with our understanding from machine learning. All these will need wearable, flexible and almost invisible tiny power sources and electrochemistry will have new challenges in not only fabricating these and similar electrochemical sensors but in integrating them also. The subtle but blurring line between software and hardware poses additional opportunities and all these systems will have corrosion requiring new mitigation strategies not existing at present.

Let me once again recall the important events of the last wonderful year: we started 2017 with a technology transfer of Electrochemical defluoridation to Surya International Odisha and our scientists have found a method to recycle 3 lakh litre water per day for TAMIN. Our Honourable Minister's visit to CECRI was a great success as he launched our first version of NPK Sensor Kit and also inaugurated the 3D printing facility. Our Foundation day lecture was given in an inspiring manner by Dr. Anil Kakodkar and we had many similar events to demonstrate our intrinsic

strength. CSIR foundation day celebration of the 75 year old journey in the service of nation ended with the Honourable President as Chief Guest and many stellar contributions of CSIR were showcased.

A new RO plant was inaugurated in the laboratory and our Ph.D. students organized the first Kalam Young Researchers Conference (KYRC)-2017. Our Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor also had visited CECRI to help us in many things and we had also signed MOU with many industrial houses including RIL, WIPRO, Vedanta, Tata Steels, ILFS, etc. We also forged international linkages with Deakin University and also with the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Australia for Joint Ph.D. programme in Science, Technology and Engineering along with student exchange. With the leadership of Dr. Ajit Sapre, Group President, Reliance Research Centre, Mumbai, we had successfully concluded our first meeting of the newly constituted Research Council. Our skill development group has taken many excellent initiatives and consequently we are one of the top CSIR labs in the Skill India programs with official approval from the Skill Ministry. Our Ph.D. and B. Tech. students and many staff members have brought many coveted honours like Mascot award, CRSI bronze medal, Tamil Nadu Scientist Award, and I am grateful for all for enabling their creativity. Many of our staff also received promotion and I would like to congratulate all of them irrespective of their grade and cadre. Please do not feel complacent as in our system we all are interdependent and promotion always means additional responsibilities and more serious commitment.

A lot of disciplinary measures were taken for smooth functioning of the institute. I request all of you to strictly follow them (biometric attendance, digital transactions, use of CECRI e-mail only for official communication, etc.) and contribute more for the sustained growth of the Institute. We have many dream projects ranging from the electrochemical reduction of carbon dioxide, to commercializing CSIR Li-ion batteries, farmer-friendly NPK sensors, Missile Coatings to repairing the century-old water tank of Kolkata Municipality to Dams in Krishnagiri, Gas Turbine Station in Mannargudi and we need to work with more efficiency and vigour to make a big impact. New activities must be taken up keeping our collective strength and social impact in mind avoiding all duplication activities.

Let me once again wish one and all a happy and prosperous 2018! I am sure that with your sincere trust and support we will have a great year ahead with wonderful achievements.

Vijay
