



Dr. Srikumar Banerjee: Metallurgists and Materials Scientists par excellence

Dr. Srikumar Banerjee, a pioneer in the fields of atomic energy and nuclear materials, was born on 25th April 1946 in Kolkata. He received his Bachelor of Technology degree in Metallurgical Engineering from IIT Kharagpur in 1967 and subsequently passed out of 11th batch of BARC Training School in 1968. Dr. Banerjee started his research career in the erstwhile Metallurgy Division of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and led research and development activities in the fields of crystallography, structure - property correlation of various materials of interest in nuclear engineering, martensitic transformation, rapid solidification, shape memory alloys and effects of irradiation on materials. Dr. Srikumar Banerjee guided all the development activities leading to finalization of the fabrication route for Pressure Tubes for Indian Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors. His fundamental work on establishing microstructure and metallurgical parameters, effects of fabrication parameters and correlating it to material properties of the final developed product helped the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) projects in use of several materials and components with fundamental understanding and confidence.

Dr. Srikumar Banerjee became Head, Metallurgy Division in 1990; Associate Director in 1997 and Director - Materials Group in 2002. Dr. Banerjee served as Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre from 2004 till 2010 and then took over as Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy. Post retirement, he continued as a Homi Bhabha Chair Distinguished Scientist, Chancellor of Homi Bhabha National Institute and Chairman of Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences. He also served as

Chancellor of the Central University of Kashmir from 2012 till 2017. Dr. Banerjee contributed to R & D programs of several institutes in the country as a member of their Research Councils/Governing Boards.

Dr. Srikumar Banerjee was a prolific writer and published around 300 papers in journals and several books to his credit. In recognition of his pioneering contributions, Dr. Srikumar Banerjee was bestowed with national and international awards and honours. He was conferred Padma Shri by Government of India in 2005. He was fellow of all the science and engineering academies of the country and that of World Academy of Science, Italy.

He also participated and encouraged activities of bodies like Electron Microscope Society of India (EMSI), Materials Research Society (MRSI) and Indian Institute of Metals (IIM). He was chairman of the Mumbai chapter of IIM in the 1980s and later on became the President of IIM in 2008. During his tenure, one of the most successful Annual Technical Meeting (ATM) was organised in the Nehru Centre, Worli in Mumbai.

Dr. Srikumar Banerjee had led the R & D activities in diverse fields in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and mentored several scientists and engineers. From fundamental to applied research and development of components for nuclear reactors to being an institution builder, Dr. Srikumar Banerjee interacted and motivated many scientists and engineers and he leaves behind an indelible mark and an everlasting impression on all of us.