



ICC

CHEMICAL NEWS

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
INDIAN CHEMICAL COUNCIL

■ VOL. V ■ MARCH 2009 ■ NO. 9

■ Annual Subscription Rs.1,000/-
■ Price per Copy Rs.100/-





RAJMITRA B. D. AMIN MEMORIAL LECTURE

The 33rd Lecture under the Rajmitra B. D. Amin Memorial Lecture series was delivered by Padmashri Dr. S. Sivaram, Director, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune on Thursday, 29 January 2009 at Vadodara. The lecture was attended by more than 75 delegates.

Mr. Ravi Kapoor, Chairman – Gujarat Chapter, ICC welcomed the gathering and introduced the speaker.

Extracts from the welcome address:

Ladies & Gentleman we live in Trouble Times. The world is in a recession as never before. When it started mid 2008 we thought that India was insular and would not be affected. However, we have been proved wrong as our country drifts into a whirlpool of recession where growth gets affected with a multiplier effect to all.

The earlier capital inflow has been rudely substituted by capital outflow. India's GDP growth accelerated to an average of 9.3% over the last 3 years ending March' 2008 as compared to averages of 6.6% in the previous 3-5 years. This was closely linked with FDI where we received as average \$10 Billion in 2000-2002, \$21 Billion in 2003-2006 and a whopping \$38 billion in 2006 and \$ 95 Billion in 2007.

Since July'2008 we have witnessed outflow of \$8-10 Billion. Our Export Growth, which averaged 25% over last 2 years has decelerated sharply in the last quarter of 2008, industrial

production decelerated to 4.5% end September 2008 from a peak of 13% in the quarter ending January 2007. This trend expected to continue from now to June' 2009 and is the worst industrial performance since 1991.

The pandits predict a bull scenario of 6.3% GDP in 2009. 7.5% in 2010 and the bears talk of 4.3 in 2009 and 5.3 in 2010. On top of this, we have an election here and the above scenario takes this to be a neutral effect.

This single most important reason is lack of capital so where is all the money gone. It would be appropriate to quote a wise man who said " It is when we all play safe that we create a world of utmost insecurity". In fact this situation is far more complex but the result is that all are nervous and unfortunately, the chemical industry is in the middle of all negative effects of the recession. Traditionally our industry has been a brick industry with of course the specialty and the knowledge based segments deemed to play a much larger role for the future.

However wild fluctuations in price of crude, complete chaos in the Foreign Exchange, very high interest rates if at all cancelled orders from buyers. High cost inventories stuck in your throat, put together are perfect ingredients for a downward spiral of our industry.

If I have sounded too gloomy, allow me to switch to a paradox, vibrant Gujarat. As you may be aware this is a



Mr. Jai Hiremath, President – ICC, addressing the participants. Seated (L-R) are: Mr. Ravi Kapoor, Chairman – Gujarat Chapter, ICC; Mr. Rajiv Topno, IAS, Managing Director – iNDEXTb & Jt. CEO – Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority; Dr. S. Sivaram, Director – National Chemical Laboratory, Pune; and Mr. Scott Berger, Executive Director – Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS), USA.



Bi-Annual event and the 3rd in a line of hugely successful events hosted by the government of Gujarat. However, none like the last one, which was held a couple of weeks ago I will not dwell too much on this as we have Mr. Topno who will tell us more but would still like to mention that this was an event organized under the shadows of recession and pessimism. At the end of the event there were 8662 MOUS signed totaling a staggering \$243 billion, 600 foreign delegates from 45 countries were present with Japan as a partner country led by the Ambassador of Japan.

At ICC, we have always propagated the need for a synergy between industry, Government and Academia. This I believe has to be the way for the future.

Under the above tough circumstances and tough times to come:

- *I would like to welcome toughness and grit to last out.*
- *I would like to welcome innovations and resilience.*
- *I would like to welcome solidarity and hard work.*
- *I would like to welcome steely determination to find opportunity in adversity.*
- *I would like to welcome boys becoming men with less whining and more resilience.*
- *I would like to welcome more R&D and focus on knowledge-based industry and finally,*
- *I would like to welcome some more cash from the banks at good interest rates.*

To end I draw upon Socrates who said "Remember there is nothing stable in human affair, avoid undue elation in prosperity or undue depression in adversity".

Dr. Sivaram is a polymer chemist, mentor and science

manager of distinction. Dr. Sivaram has over forty years of experience in basic research, process/product R&D and S&T management, both, in industry and academia. He is widely recognized for his contributions to polymer science, technology development, institution building and management of innovation in publicly funded organizations.

An alumnus of IIT-Kanpur (M.Sc. 1967), he received his Ph.D in Chemistry from Purdue University, W. Lafayette, Indiana, USA in 1971. After a brief stay as a Research Associate at the Institute of Polymer Science, University of Akron, USA he joined the Research Centre of Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., at Vadodara, India. In 1988, he joined NCL as Head of the Polymer Chemistry Division. Dr. Sivaram built an impressive portfolio of polymer research activities at NCL, both, with Indian companies and global multinationals, making NCL a preferred destination for companies far and near to explore research collaboration through a partnership model. He also built a globally recognized research group in polymer science at NCL. Dr. Sivaram has to his credit many awards and recognitions.

Dr. Sivaram spoke on "SINEWS OF EXCELLENCE: THE EVOLUTION OF A SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION". He traced the history of NCL till today.

Some of the milestones that were highlighted were as follows:

- The foundation of NCL was laid on 6 April 1947.
- NCL declared open by Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of independent India on 3 January 1950.



A sectoral view of the audience.



- 1950 – 1960 were formative years mainly for creation of discipline oriented research divisions.
- Period of 1960 – 1970 was extremely important for NCL as it established its credentials as a world class research laboratory in the area of organic chemistry and chemistry of natural products.
- Period of 1970 – 1980 saw development of processes for fine chemicals and agro chemicals for Indian industry and NCL forayed into applied industrial chemistry.
- During 1980 – 1990 NCL developed facilities for research in catalysis and polymer science and processes based on heterogeneous catalysts were transferred to Indian industry.
- During 1990 – 2002 NCL products, processes and intellectual property find global markets and NCL established global research partnerships.
- Current activities involved improving organizational effectiveness and efficiency and renaissance in organic and pharmaceutical chemistry.

The total staff strength of NCL is over 1400 which includes 273 Research Fellows and 334 Project Staff.

Approximately 200 scientific staff is with PhD. NCL have excellent infrastructure for measurement science and chemical information.

Dr. Sivaram emphasized that NCL endeavours to create conducive environment for young scientists to carry on research work in the area of their interest. The presentation made by Dr. Sivaram was very much appreciated by all the delegates.

Thereafter Mr. Rajiv Topno, IAS, Managing Director, iNDEXTb & Jt. CEO –Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority, Govt. of Gujarat also made presentation about various facilities that are extended in Gujarat for the industry. (Reproduced in this issue) He mentioned that chemical industry is a very important sector in the economic development of Gujarat and he assured the industry that Government will extend full support for viable projects in the state.

Mr. Scott Berger, Executive Director, Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) made presentation on CCPS and its interest in working closely with ICC in India.

SEMINAR ON “CHEMICAL INDUSTRY – ADDRESSING SECURITY THREATS”

The recent terrorist attacks in Mumbai (on 26 November 2008) brought out very strong need to have review of all security practices followed in the industry and more so in chemical industry. Also ICC is seriously considering to include **Security Code in Responsible Care** program. The industry is lacking exposure as to what proper security means and what pro-active steps that are required to be taken and improve the security

at manufacturing sites. Measures that will be undertaken by the chemical industry in this behalf will also supplement the efforts undertaken by different Government agencies.

In this context INDIAN CHEMICAL COUNCIL organized a One-day Seminar on “**CHEMICAL INDUSTRY – ADDRESSING SECURITY THREATS**” on



Seminar in progress. Seated (L-R) are: Ms. Orna Sagiv, Counsel General – Israel; Mr. Jai Hiremath, President – ICC; Mr. S. S. Bheema, General Manager – South Pacific, ABS Consulting Inc.; and Mr. V.G. Bukkavar, Advisor – SHE, ICC.



Mr. S.K. Hazra, Chairman – SHE Expert Committee, ICC, presenting his paper at the Seminar. Seated (L-R) are: Mr. H.S. Karangle, Director General – ICC and Mr. Asaf Ashkenazi, Head of SHARVIT Division – ROTEM Industries Ltd., Israel.

Friday, 6 February 2009. The venue of the Seminar was Convention Hall, Y. B. Chavan Centre, 4th Floor, Gen. Jaganath Bhosale Marg, Near Mantralaya, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400 021.

Mr. Jai Hiremath, President-ICC, welcomed the consul General and other delegates to the Seminar.

Ms. Orna Sagiv, Consul General of Israel, Mumbai was the Chief Guest and inaugurated the Seminar. In her address, Ms Orna Sagive narrated the aspects of Homeland Security in Israel with special reference to Security in Chemical Facilities, Critical Infrastructure created for chemical security, etc.

Mr. Suresh Bheema, General Manager-South Pacific, ABS Consulting Inc. delivered the Key-note Address. He also dealt up on the Challenges of Security and Security Threats in Chemical Installations and ways and means of Combating terrorism etc.

Mr. Asaf Ashkenazi, Head of SHARVIT Division, ROTEM Industries Ltd., Israel in his presentation narrated the advanced industrial security measures are practiced in Israel.

During the Technical Sessions, following presentations were made by experts:

Chemical Industry – Security Threat Assessment & Ways to Deal

Mr. S. K. Hazra, Chairman - Safety, Health & Environment Expert Committee, ICC

CBRN Terror Prevention, Mitigation and Response Layouts from Preparatory Layer to Full Operational Deployment including Training, Drills, Exercises and Procurement

Mr. Asaf Ashkenazi, Head of SHARVIT Division, ROTEM INDUSTRIES LTD

Sweatware and Wetware – Occupational Hygienists Tools of First Choice

Mr. Deep Mathur, Country Manager - TRUSCOT CRISIS LEADER

Bio Terrorism

Dr. M. V. Rege, Member - Safety, Health & Environment Expert Committee, ICC & Occupational Health Specialist - LUBRIZOL INDIA PVT LTD

Some Thoughts on Threat Perception and Prevention

Mr. V. G. Bukkavar, Advisor – SHE, Indian Chemical Council.

Photos on the Cover Page

1. Mr. Ravi Kapoor welcoming the chief guests and audience at the Rajamitra B.D. Amin Memorial Lecture.
2. Dr. S. Sivaram delivering the Rajamitra B.D. Amin Memorial Lecture.
3. Mr. Jai Hiremath welcoming Mr. Scott Berger with a bouquet of flowers, at the Rajamitra B.D. Amin Memorial Lecture.
4. Mr. Jai Hiremath presenting a bouquet of flowers to Ms. Orna Sagiv at the Seminar on “Chemical Industry – Addressing Security Threats”.
5. Discussion Session at the Seminar. Seated are Mr. S.K. Hazra, Mr. H.S. Karangle and Mr. Asaf Ashkenazi.