

## About Dr. M. Baba

This volume is dedicated to the valuable contribution of Dr. M. Baba over his long career in science and its management. Dr. Baba began as a Scientist at Centre for Earth Science Studies (CESS) in 1978 and rose to the highest position attainable as Director in 1998. He retired on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010. It gives me great pleasure to recall my long association with Dr. Baba and to trace his contribution to the growth of science and the Institute.

Dr. Baba was introduced to oceanography during his M.Sc. degree at Cochin University in 1972. He continued his zeal for the sea by securing the USSR government scholarship to attend the Moscow Institute of Civil Engineering and obtained his Ph.D in coastal engineering and coastal processes in 1978.

Baba then served briefly at the National Institute of Oceanography in Goa and joined the Centre for Earth Science Studies in 1978. The Centre had been recently established at Trivandrum and so Baba's career in science and the Institute remained closely inter-woven over a long and successful association. The new Institute needed solid research programmes with the long term goal of serving science and society. He established a strong coastal oceanography group by establishing four coastal laboratories spread along the Kerala coast for continuous monitoring of the coastal environment. This laid the foundation and long-term data base for detailed studies on waves. Dr. Baba initiated studies on the temporal and spatial distribution characteristics of wave parameters, wave grouping, wave power, etc. Supplemented by deep and shallow water wave modeling, these studies were fundamentally important for the management of Kerala's coast and received considerable attention.

In his multi-disciplinary Institute, one pursuit of Dr. Baba was linking the offshore coastal oceanography with beach sedimentation processes. He championed alternate methods of coastal protection and integrated coastal zone management. He made marked contributions in restructuring coastal regulation as an effective tool for coastal management

throughout India. In recognition of his contributions, the Government of India maintained him as an expert member of the National Coastal Zone Management Authority.

As Director of CESS for 12 years, Dr. Baba gave direction to R&D programmes in earth system studies, natural hazard management, natural resources and environmental management. He held the reins at CESS in a turbulent period when funds were scarce and Indian coastal science was not well known overseas. But Dr. Baba was a powerhouse of energy and gave endless opportunities to his fellow scientists by succeeding to manage the Institute and to make it well known worldwide. He brought many highly respected scientists and managers to CESS and opened the way for greater freedom and international collaboration. He helped organize 19 conferences at CESS and provided leadership to numerous research projects. The Institute employed a total of 218 science and managerial staff at the time of his retirement.

What better compliment can a scientist receive than to know his professional opinion is highly valued? At the time of his retirement, Dr. Baba was a member of 26 different committees! Over his career, he served on another 51 important committees. After the 2004 tsunami, his professional opinion and advice were continuously sought on all aspects of tsunamis.

Dr. Baba is on the Editorial Board of several national and international journals. He has over 69 papers in Indian cited Journals and 21 papers in International Journals and has published 5 books.

We say thanks to Dr. Baba. The world has benefitted from his intensive efforts in science. His career is a model for all young people to emulate.

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