N.1: Graduation Function of 12th Batch of BARC Training School, RRCAT

The Graduation Function Ceremony of the 12th batch of BARC Training School, Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT), Indore was held on Thursday, 26th July, 2012 at RRCAT, Indore. In this batch twelve trainee scientific officers successfully completed the orientation programme. Dr. Ratan Kumar Sinha, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) & Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India was the chief guest and gave away the course certificates to all the Trainee Scientific Officers (TSOs) and presented the prestigious Homi Bhabha Medal and Prize to Shri Shoubhik Chakraborty the topper of the batch.

Graduating TSOs of the 12th batch of BARC Training School RRCAT posing for a photograph with the Chief Guest and other dignitaries

Dr. Sinha began his chief guest address by congratulating the engineers and scientists of RRCAT for installing successfully a protein crystallography beam line in INDUS-2 which has been made continuous 24 hours operational last year. He appreciated that the contribution made by the centre towards addressing the real-life problems of scientific and social relevance. He also praised the research works that are being carried out in the field of high energy lasers for cutting, welding, and material processing for applications in nuclear power plants and also in manufacture of RF cavity which is an important activity of RRCAT. He also praised RRCAT's contribution in the field of laser based diagnosis of oral cancer. Dr. Sinha put on the record that he is very happy to see good progress being made in the material science specially towards addressing the issues related to our nuclear programme. He expressed his gratification for early lead in these important areas of science and technology.

Specially addressing to TSOs and young people Dr. Sinha gave an elaborate description of the mandate of DAE. He said that our main mandate is to develop nuclear power and for this we need to develop all associated technologies like -nuclear fuel cycle, reprocessing, and other technologies involving electronics, materials, accelerators, lasers, etc. which will provide support to develop a thriving nuclear programme. He also emphasized the important role of basic sciences in this programme for carrying out cutting edge research. He mentioned that our mandate is also connected with more basic societal applications like- health care, medicine, drinking water, and national security. We must be self-reliant in all the technologies, all the hardware, all the materials that are necessary for a sustainable nuclear power programme in our country. He stressed that we should recognize the history of the department and understand the turmoil it has gone through and take pride of what we have achieved in the field of nuclear science and technology. He further mentioned that in spite of earlier embargo, international community now recognizes India as a nuclear state. On mandate of the department he said that it is actually much bigger and very different from many other government departments as everything we do is being watched both nationally and internationally. This has increased multi-fold due to general awareness about nuclear waste and radiation hazard. He emphasized that it is our first and foremost duty is to remove the irrational fear of radiation which arise due to misinformation and educate common people because finally what we are doing is for the benefit of the society.

Dr. P D Gupta, Director RRCAT presenting memento to the chief guest Dr. R K Sinha, Chairman AEC and Secretary DAE during the graduation function.

Addressing the TSOs, Dr. Sinha congratulated and welcomed the new-members to DAE family and also thanked them for competing the selection procedure and opting to join DAE. He advised TSOs that they should work for national pride, self-reliance and take pride in what they do. In carrying out work, the effect on environment should always be taken into account. He urged TSOs to work for DAE's vision and programmes. He also advised TSOs to devote 80% of their time to work which they have been assigned to do and remaining 20% time they should devote on works which involve innovation and which they always wanted to do. According to Dr. Sinha the requirements for success are curiosity, solid understanding of the subject, focused effort, hard work, and accountability. He also emphasized the role of collaborations with both national and international organizations. At the same time he cautioned that the collaborations should be established judiciously on equal terms. He wished all the TSOs a very successful professional career.

Dr. P.D. Gupta, Director, RRCAT presided over the function and delivered presidential address. Welcome address was given by Dr. P K Gupta, Chairman, Training School Committee. Dr. Arup Banerjee, Head, Training School proposed a vote of thanks.

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N.2: CAT-I and CAT-II Stipendiary Training Programme

In order to meet the requirements of Scientific Assistants (CAT-I) and Technicians (CAT-II) of the various Research and Development Projects at RRCAT, a Stipendiary Training Programme (STP) was started few years back. The programme was started in four disciplines, i.e., Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Physics and is successfully functioning to meet the requirements of the centre. These CAT-I and CAT-II Stipendiary Trainees are selected through a written test followed by an interview and two years training is imparted to them. The training includes six months class room teaching and eighteen months on-job training. The classroom teaching consists of one month orientation course, one month general courses common to both CAT-I and CAT-II trainees and four months specialized courses relevant to their respective disciplines. During the on-job training, the trainees are not only learning the jobs, but also assisting the team at their respective job places with great enthusiasm. So far thirty nine (CAT-I: 20 and CAT-II: 19) trainees have successfully completed their training and are placed to various Divisions/Sections of RRCAT. Another fifty six (CAT-I: 37 and CAT-II: 19) trainees are undergoing various stages of their training.

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N.3: Seventh International Accelerator School for Linear Colliders-2012

The Seventh International Accelerator School for Linear Colliders-2012 (IASLC-2012) was organized by International Linear Collider Global Design Effort (ILC GDE), Compact Linear Collider (CLIC) and International Committee for Future Accelerators (ICFA) Beam Dynamics Panel, ILC-India Forum and hosted by Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore, India during Nov 27 – Dec 8, 2012, at Hotel Radisson Blu, Indore. This is the first time that an International Accelerator School for Linear Colliders was held in India. Hosting of the school in India has offered a unique opportunity for participation of a large number of Indian participants from various Indian accelerators laboratories.

Out of total 45 participants, 17 participants were from Indian institutions. The school curriculum was designed for two special courses namely - Accelerator Physics and RF Engineering. A highly experienced team of 17 international accelerator experts delivered lectures in the school. On November 30, 2012 the participants of School visited Indus complex and BARC Training School at RRCAT for hands-on-experiments program.

Participants attending the Seventh IASLC-2012 during Nov. 27–Dec. 8, 2012..