

Preface

On behalf of Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, it is our pleasure to welcome you to this 56th edition of HOTLAB meetings, the first to be organised in India. Mamallapuram, where this event is being organised, is located in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, and is a UNESCO world heritage site of historical significance. Ample evidence for this can be seen in the many historic monuments and monolithic rock carvings, dating from 700 to 900 AD. It is situated close to Kalpakkam, a site of technological significance, with nuclear power generation, and research and development facilities for fast reactor science and technology.

The excellent response received from the HOTLAB community across the world has been gratifying. Over a hundred and thirty professionals, scientists, engineers and technologists from across the globe have converged to Mamallapuram to deliberate on Eighty-plus presentations, interact, exchange notes and network. In the spirit of the Working Group on Hot Laboratories and Remote Handling, the technical programme has been organised into Ten sessions encompassing every aspect from development of new shielded facilities with remote handling capability, their use for post-irradiation examination of active materials using various analytical and mechanical property evaluation techniques through remote handling, keeping track of inventory and managing wastes, while ensuring safety and radiological hygiene and finally refurbishment of ageing facilities. Sixteen reputed manufacturers of hot-cell related equipment, instruments and technologies from India and abroad have also come on board to show-case their latest products and innovations. We are grateful to the institutions and companies that have come forward to sponsor this prestigious event, including travel grants and presentation awards.

We trust that you would find the technical meetings an enriching experience on the professional front, and that this visit to this part of India gives you moments to cherish on the personal front.



(G. AMARENDRA)

Chairman, Organising Committee

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