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MESSAGE

I am glad to know that Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, in association with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Indian Association for Radiation Protection is organising the 56th Annual Meeting of the Working Group on Hot Laboratories and Remote Handling during September 8 - 12, 2019 at Mamallapuram. It is heartening to note that this annual meeting is being organized in India for the first time. Hot laboratories across the world have made valuable contributions in enabling peaceful uses of atomic energy. Remote technologies have a very large role in the various facets of atomic energy such as isotope production and handling, performance assessment of fuel and structural materials, fuel reprocessing and waste management.

In the Department of Atomic Energy, a modest beginning was made by commissioning the first hot cell facility in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in the year 1974 for examination of irradiated fuels from the thermal reactors. Considerable knowledge and expertise has been gained since then in the frontier areas of remote handling and hot cell technologies and presently they have come to maturity. Successful design, construction and operation of a series of inert atmosphere hot cells at IGCAR, Kalpakkam for examination of fast reactor fuels is a testimony to the level of maturity attained in this complex technology.

I am delighted to note that a large number of delegates from abroad are participating in this meeting to share their rich experience. I am sure that the deliberations of hot cell technologists and remote handling specialists would be highly fruitful and I wish the meeting, its participants and organisers all success in their future endeavours.

I accord a warm welcome to all overseas and outstation participants and wish them an enjoyable stay and pleasant memories.


(K. N. Vyas)

