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प्रतिष्ठित वैज्ञानिक एवं निदेशक

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#### **Message**

It is a great pleasure to welcome the delegates to 56<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the International working group of hot laboratories and remote handling during September 8-12, 2019 at Mamallapuram. It is appropriate that IGCAR is organizing this first ever meeting held in India coinciding with its 48<sup>th</sup> year of formation and is in the threshold of entering the commercial phase of fast breeder reactors.

IGCAR is presently one of the few institutions worldwide to pursue a vibrant fast breeder reactor programme with closed fuel cycle facilities. The importance of technologies associated with shielded facilities were recognized right from the conceptual stage of FBR programme and a comprehensive hot cell facility was established in IGCAR co-locating it with FBTR for post-irradiation examination of in-core materials. The facility has paid rich dividends by providing valuable data on the irradiation performance of the unique, high-plutonium mixed-carbide fuel used in FBTR facilitating burn-up enhancement. With PFBR in advanced stage of commissioning and an integrated fuel cycle facility being built adjacent to it, there is a need to consolidate the expertise gained over the years in remote technologies for deployment in the upcoming facilities. Metal fuel proposed for future fast breeder reactors will necessitate improved remote handling capabilities in all fuel cycle activities including fuel fabrication.

I am glad to note that there is an overwhelming response and around ninety overseas delegates are participating in the meeting. The papers proposed to be presented in HOTLAB 2019 cover wide ranging topics such as development of new shielded facilities, mechanical and analytical characterization techniques, ageing management and refurbishment of hot laboratories, development of remote handling equipments, waste management, safety and radiological hygiene, etc. which are highly relevant. I wish the meeting and its participants all success. I also wish the delegates from abroad and outstation participants a pleasant and comfortable stay.

(Arun Kumar Bhaduri)



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