Second Santappa-Raghavan Memorial Lecture

by

Prof. M. S. Ananth

The Idea of a University
The university today is built on the ideas of the renaissance thinkers who made three basic assumptions: the lawfulness of the material world, the intrinsic unity of knowledge and the potential for indefinite human progress. They believed that the underlying unity in the diversity around us can be unraveled only by scientific inquiry across both the natural sciences (including medicine and engineering) and the humanities. It was von Humboldt in the nineteenth century who advocated the present model of the research university: while research brings passion to teaching, the latter rejuvenates the researcher and the two should therefore go hand-in-hand in the university. Traditionally, the major activities of the University have been teaching and learning and research. In the global knowledge economy of today, governments expect the university, inter alia, to help increase the gross enrolment ratio (GER) and to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship. In this talk, we review the traditional activities and discuss briefly the universities’ response to this expectation.
Prof. M. Santappa
Prof. M. Santappa (02.10.1923 – 26-02.2017) was a polymer chemist with double PhDs from University of London and Manchester University in UK. Prof. Santappa became the Director of CLRI on August 1, 1973 and continued until 1981. He was intimately connected with the programs, planning and organization of chemical and allied industries and actively involved with the research and development activities of the Institute. He served as a Vice Chancellor of Sri Venkateswara University and the University of Madras. He was an elected Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Sciences, India, Royal Institute of Chemistry and New York Academy of Sciences and a founder fellow of the Academy of Sciences, Chennai. He received the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, one of the highest Indian science awards, in 1967, for his contributions to chemical sciences. He was also the recipient of degree of Doctor of Science (honoris causa) from Andhra University, Madras University, Sri Krishna Devaraya University and Madurai Kamaraj University. The Society for Polymer Science, India has instituted an annual award, “Professor M. Santappa Award”, in his honor, which recognizes excellence in research in polymer chemistry.

Dr. Kondapuram Vijaya Raghavan
Dr. K. V. Raghavan (01.10.1943 – 12-10.2017) was a Chemical Engineer with a Ph.D. from IIT, Madras. After working in IICT, Hyderabad (then RRL) and RRL Jorhat, Dr. Raghavan joined CLRI during 1986 as Scientist ‘F’ and then became Director, CLRI in February 1994. He has initiated and developed two important R & D divisions Viz. Chemical Engineering and Cell for Industrial Safety and Risk Analysis. During his tenure as Director, he made significant contributions for the growth of the Institute in terms of external cash flow and strengthening Institutes base as Technology Reservoir. He took over the Directorship of Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad in 1996. On successful completion of this tenure, he was appointed as the Chairman of Recruitment and Assessment Centre of DRDO, Ministry of Defense, Government of India in May 2004. Dr. Raghavan was also a INAE Distinguished Professor since 2008 at IICT, Hyderabad. He also served in many prestigious committees. He was a recipient of several awards and recognitions including the NRDC Invention Promotion Award, Nayudamma Gold Medal of AP Akademi of Sciences, Fellow of the National Academy of Engineering, Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers (IICheE) and A.P. Akademi of Sciences and a Distinguished Fellow of University of Grants Commission (UGC).