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## National Award for Ocean Science & Technology

### Dr. R. Venkatesan



**Dr. R. Venkatesan** has 35 years of experience in field of ocean technology and is currently working as a Scientist G & Program Director - Ocean Observation Systems, National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) Chennai. Recently he was recognized by two UN organizations World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and UNESCO IOC for his outstanding services in global ocean data collection. He also received prestigious MTS Lockheed Martin Award and as a chair of MTS India section he received outstanding Section award.

He earned his M. Tech Degree from Karnataka Regional Engineering College and Ph.D. from IISC, Bangalore. He then continued his academic pursuit to complete courses in Marine Environmental Pollution and Management as well as International Business Management from IIFT New Delhi. He is also an adjunct professor in IIT Kharagpur IIT Bhubaneswar and IIT Madras.

Dr. R. Venkatesan, has contributed to many technological developments that were found necessary for the successful data collection and transmission as well as enhancing its utility for a variety of new applications. It was under his leadership that the first Indian Arctic moored observatory – IndARC, was designed. The IndARC was successfully deployed by India on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014 and helped in collecting Arctic data for 2 continuous years for the first time. This is a major milestone in expanding India’s capability in collecting real time oceanic data from the Arctic region using indigenous technology. For this outstanding contribution he received the National Geoscience Award from Hon’ble President of India.

He also established a mooring design team and enabled data collection during cyclones like Phailin, Hudhud, Vardah etc which helped in obtaining a better forecast for these events. Several technological breakthroughs were achieved in designing of mooring in order to withstand hostile conditions at sea. Under his guidance and leadership the new Indian tsunami buoy named Sagar Bhoomi was established to provide real time water quality data to Indian Tsunami Warning Centres. Out of 11 countries having tsunami buoys in the world, other than USA, India is the only country to have developed tsunami buoy system. He has also helped in the development of Prakruti, a Met Ocean Buoy system with the capability of transmitting data from sub surface sensors in real time using Induction mooring principle under the Make in India program. This system is designed in-house and the mooring withstood all cyclones during the last 6 years and there was never a mooring failure.

Dr. Venkatesan has contributed to the success of Ocean Observation Programme, which has completed two decades and has received world class recognition. He has received laurels from other Ministries and Departments. He is also representing India in many International Committees.

He was elected to a prestigious position in Steering Committee Member for GOOS of UNESCO IOC Paris nominated by Government of India and also two more international committees of DOOS & OceanSITES. He is a member of Joint task Force of SMART cables by UN organisation ITU Geneva WMO and UNESCO IOC. He also worked as the regional coordinator for South Asia and was posted in Colombo under United Nations Environment Programme UNEP.

Dr. Venkatesan is a recipient of 11 distinguished awards at the national and international level. He also started the Marine Technology Society in India. He has to his credit around 100 papers in peer reviewed Journals in addition to around 135 papers in conferences. He has also co authored 2 and filed 6 patents.

His international positions include Steering committee member for Asia Pacific in GOOS UNESCO IOC, DOOS OceanSITES; Chair of ITP Data buoy Cooperation Panel UNESCO IOC and WMO Chairman MTS Materials committee and at national level Chairman IEEE OES India Section; Chairman of MTS India Section; Chairman IEI Kancheepuram; Vice President of NACE South India section; Member of committee for SME by Confederation of Indian Industry; Member of Defense Manufacturing committee of ASSOCHAM.

In recognition to his outstanding research contributions in the field of Ocean Science and Technology the Ministry of Earth Sciences honours Dr. R. Venkatesan with the “National Award in the field of Ocean Science and Technology” for the year 2018.