

Honoured for taking the science and engineering of thermal drying to greater heights

HOW DO you dry nanosize products, or wastewater treatment sludge? Drying in the industrial world is highly energy-intensive -- hence, knowing the latest technology is essential. Prof Arun Mujumdar's Handbook of Industrial Drying has been the globally acclaimed quintessential source of information in drying for the last two decades. The handbook is just one of his many publications in this field of research. Recipient of numerous international awards, Prof Mujumdar is honoured yet again, with the conferment of the Platinum Award by his alma mater, Mumbai University Department of Chemical Technology, now the Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT). He received the Award and citation from Dr Anil Kakodkar, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of India on 21 May 2009.

Prof Mujumdar, faculty member with the Department of Mechanical Engineering and also Director of Materials, Metals and Minerals Technology Centre at the Faculty, was instrumental in initiating and nurturing this field of research. Obtaining his Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering at Mumbai University in 1965, Prof Mujumdar completed his PhD at the McGill University. He started the biennial International Drying Conference series (IDS) in 1978 and is the only person in the world to have participated and presented papers in all of the sixteen IDS conferences to date. The citation goes on to say that "he has provided outstanding leadership and vision to the world in this field. What Prof Mujumdar has done for Drying is comparable to what Bird, Stewart and Lightfoot did for the field of 'Transport Phenomena'. This has opened up an entirely new multidisciplinary field to serious researchers and resulted in major energy savings and reduced environmental impact for almost all industrial sectors. He has brought together scientists of 50 countries and developed a meaningful university-industry partnership in the field of Drying."

ICT has also formally instituted a Professor Arun S Mujumdar Chair in Chemical Engineering with a significant endowment fund already in place. The Institute is seeking additional funding from industry – mostly those involved in manufacture of dryers and companies which use them in a big way.

“This was a pleasant surprise to me, as it will be the only Endowed Chair of its type at ICT,” said Prof Mujumdar.

Earlier, Prof. Mujumdar was selected as one of the International Biographic Centre’s Top 100 Engineers for 2009, credited to individuals who have fulfilled a “standard of merit in the eyes of their peers that is beyond the norm”.



Prof Arun Mujamdar with the Platinum Award and Citation awarded by ICT and presented to him by Dr Anil Kakodkar, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission of India.



Prof Mujumdar with Research Group members of the Advanced Drying Laboratory (ADL) at ICT led by Prof B N Thorat. Prof Mujumdar guided initiation of drying research at ICT and is a close collaborator of ADL since its inception in 2002.