



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



I am pleased to report about a number of different things, each one of which in its own way demonstrates progress and accomplishments for the Center. First, I and others in the Center are pleased to welcome Dr. J.P. Gupta as a visiting scholar at the Center starting June 2002. Currently a Visiting Fellow in Chemical Engineering at Loughborough University, UK, Dr. Gupta is on leave from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, India, where he is a Professor of Chemical Engineering. He did his B.Tech. (IIT, Kanpur, India, 1966), M.S.E. (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA, 1967), and Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA, 1971). He worked as a research engineer with UOP Des Plaines, USA (1967-68) in petroleum refining operations and taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA (1971-72) before joining IIT Kanpur in 1972. He has also been a Visiting Professor at the National Autonomous University, UNAM, Mexico City; the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA; and the National University of the South UNS, Bahia Blanca, Argentina, the last one as a UNIDO Expert. He has been a consultant to companies in India and USA. He has published/presented over 100 papers, authored 4 books and edited 2 books. He has presented papers, chaired sessions and/or delivered invited keynote lectures in Conferences on all the six continents. Dr. J.P. Gupta has accepted an offer from the Chemical Engineering Department and the Center to spend a year with us starting June 2002. He will be teaching a course for the department. In addition, he will spend his remaining time working with the Center graduate students on various research projects. Dr. Gupta has a long track record of outstanding work in the area of process safety. I believe that Dr. Gupta's visit here will be quite beneficial to the Center and the goals of the Center.

I am pleased to announce an agreement under which effective this year, all papers submitted for the Annual Symposium of the Center will be automatically

peer-reviewed for publication in a special issue of the Journal of Hazardous Materials. This is a significant milestone that is an indicator of the growing quality and impact of the Symposium papers. In addition, it is also important to note that as a result of this agreement, ideas and research accomplishments presented at the Symposium will have an even more far-reaching impact.

I am also pleased to announce that I have undertaken the responsibility for editing the 3rd edition of the FPLees' *Loss Prevention in the Process Industries*. The 1st and 2nd edition of this classic chemical / process safety tome "Loss Prevention in the Process Industries" was edited by Frank Lees. Since Frank Lees passed away, the publishers have asked me to help them revise the three-volume set by bringing it up to date with the regulatory and technological advances in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere in the world. While I consider it a privilege and honor to work on this masterpiece, I know full well that I need help getting this massive undertaking accomplished. In that respect I want to acknowledge the assistance being given to me by many people in the process safety community.

Finally, the Center in collaboration with Region VI of USEPA and OSHA held an outreach conference on April 16, 2002, in Houston, Texas at the Pasadena Conference Center. Approximately 200 attendees at the day-long conference heard presentations and participated in discussions on evolving issues regarding process safety management and risk management programs. Details about the conference are provided elsewhere in this newsletter. This conference indicates the power of collaboration between various stakeholder groups for the common cause of improvements in process safety. In addition, the presentations and discussions at the conference again underscored the fact that the process safety management program and the risk management program are still evolving and such conferences are essential for establishing benchmarks.

M. Sam Mannan
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