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Inauguration of IPUA Virtual Technical Center



IPUA Virtual Technical Center was formally launched on 25th May 2016 at Hotel Courtyard Marriott, Pune. The inauguration was done by the renowned polymer scientist and CSIR-Bhatnagar fellow at NCL and former Director of NCL Dr S Sivaram. Dr Sivaram also launched brochure and Handbook prepared by IPUA Technical Center. Other distinguished guests for the ceremony included Prof Ashwini Kumar Nangia, Director of CSIR-NCL, Dr Ashish Lele, Head of Polymer Science and Engineering Division, CSIR-NCL and Dr V Premnath, Director of Venture Center at NCL Innovation Park. The event was well attended by IPUA members, Executive Committee members, Service providers, Technical experts and other polymer and plastics related professional bodies in the region along with some guests from overseas.

Dr Nivedita Sangaj, CTO of IPUA Technical Center welcomed the

guests and participants. Mr Rahul Gautam, Chairman Emeritus of IPUA gave welcome speech and gave a brief introduction of IPUA to the audience. In his talk Mr Rahul Gautam mentioned the versatility of polyurethane, various value chain partners of polyurethane industry, polyurethane global and Indian market pointing out the scope for growth of the industry. He also shared various difficulties faced by Indian Polyurethane Industry including import dependence for raw materials, inadequate water and electricity supply especially in rural areas, high transportation costs, and inverse duty structure urging help from government in resolving some these issues. He further touched upon various initiatives taken up by IPUA through various arms such as Indian Insulation Forum, Spray Foam Alliance of India, Safety Health Environment, PU Tech magazine etc to enable the industry members to create awareness about polyurethane and develop specific

plans to increase the consumption of polyurethane. He further shared various activities of IPUA such as Fire Safety Audits, Collaborating with Ozone cell in eliminating the usage of ozone depleting blowing agents in polyurethane rigid foam process, promotion of energy efficient insulation solution, and promotion of polyurethane sleep products etc. He then shared vision of IPUA in setting up Technical Center to provide technical services and support to polyurethane industry members.

Dr Ashish Lele highlighted the accomplishments and capabilities of polymer science and Engineering division of NCL and urged the industry members to make use of expertise and infrastructure at NCL for advancement of technical knowledge for industry members. He gave a snap shot of the various activities done by NCL in terms of contract research done for Transnational and Indian companies

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and the number of patents filed etc. Dr V Premnath shared the idea of inception, initial draft and two-phase plan of IPUA Technical Center. He further highlighted the purpose of Venture Center and facilities available at the Center. Prof A.K. Nangia shared NCL's vision in promoting Industry-academia

and technical advancement and extended support from NCL for promoting IPUA Technical Center. The formal launch of www.ipuatc.com website was done by Dr Sivaram. Dr Sivaram and Mr Mukesh Bhuta then released a Brochure and Handbook. Brochure contains details about various services and resources offered by IPUA Technical Center and the handbook lists various test standards with brief description about each test and the list of subject expertise for the

Dr Sivaram in his key-note address gave an interesting history of polyurethane and its evolution

over the years. He also highlighted versatility and uniqueness of polyurethane for its widespread usage in many applications. Dr. Sivaram took the audience through the history of Polyurethane discovery, chronologically explained the various application development with the product over the time, went through the various segments and industries where it is being used.

Dr Sivaram stressed on two important issues of polyurethane industry- sustainability and recycling. In sustainability he shared recent research topics like use of CO₂ as a feedstock as well as renewable feedstock, use of non-isocyanate routes for polyurethane. He stressed on the waste generation and adapting circular economy promoting requisite advocacy and education in recycling of polyurethane. He urged all the members to look into recyclability aspects of polyurethane

during the product development stage itself considering the durability of polyurethane, waste created from cradle to grave and increasing population. Dr Sivaram further talked about future ready and cluster approach to innovation. He concluded by lauding Mr Mukesh Bhuta and Mr Rohit Relan for their initiative to set up a technical center for polyurethane industry and wished all the very best!

Mr Swapnil Gawade, Co-founder of STARTEZ gave a live demonstration of use of IPUA Technical center website showing various features in it. STARTEZ represented by M/s Swapnil Gawade and Sanchit Waray have done all the initial ground work required for designing and developing the website of IPUA Technical Center. Mr Murali Mohan Secretary of IPUA proposed vote of thanks before conclusion.