

Dr. S. R. Wate, Director, NEERI

Dr. S.R. Wate has taken over as Director of National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur with effect from 6 August 2010. Prior to his becoming Director, NEERI, Dr. Wate was working as Scientist 'G' and Head, Environmental Impact and Risk Assessment Division, NEERI, Nagpur.

Dr. Wate (born 22 December 1955) did his M.Sc. Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Nagpur University. His R&D activities related to environmental biotechnology were largely devoted to the application of metabolic activities of microorganisms to solve various environmental problems in the country. He was involved in various significant R&D activities such as biogas production from renewable resource, biodegradation of oil sludge and recovery of hydrocarbons, development and application of a biosensor for environmental monitoring, development of biochemical processes for treatment of wastewaters from petroleum industry, decolourisation of azo dyes using microbial consortium, development of molecular imprinting polymers for detection of polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons and development of novel organo-lanthanide materials for environmental applications. Dr. Wate has significantly contributed in designing and developing water safety plans with recourse to quantitative chemical and microbial risk assessment, grey water recycle plants in rural areas, wastewater treatment-cum-recycle systems for oil containing wastewaters and assimilative capacity based standards for discharge of treated wastewaters in Amlakhadi.

Dr. Wate has pioneered various projects related to environmental impact and risk assessment studies in India and abroad. These studies involved various industries such as petroleum, mining, fertilizer, sugar and distilleries, leather, pulp and paper, thermal power plants, oil refineries, iron and still, aluminum, copper, zinc, pharmaceutical, etc. He has also been involved in the major projects such as Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project and Kalpasar Project. By providing coastal and marine environment management plans and carrying capacity based development planning to the environmental regulatory authorities Dr. Wate has consequently helped in formulation of new environmental policies in India for such regions. He has coordinated several R&D and consultancy projects funded by The World Bank, UNDP, ADB, UNEP, WHO, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Science and Technology, Pollution Control Boards, Public Sector Industries and Multi-National Private Sector Industries. He has been World Bank Consultant on EIA to Philippines Government.

Dr. Wate has published 51 research papers in international SCI journals, 31 in national peer reviewed journals and presented 121 papers in International / national conferences. He has 2 patents to his credit. He has authored more than 590 technical reports of major developmental projects in industry and

infrastructure sector, and basic and applied R&D. He has contributed in 9 books too.

Dr. Wate has been a WHO Fellow for assessment of water supply and sewage treatment practices in developing countries. He has many such honours and academic distinctions to his credit. He has also visited many countries in connection with various R&D and consultancy projects.