



Prof. V. C. KULANDAI SWAMY - An Educationlist

Prof. V. C. Kulandai Swamy obtained M.Tech. from I.I.T., Kharagpur and Ph.D. in Hydrology and Water Resources, from the University of Illinois, U.S.A. Starting his career as a teacher and researcher, he was Lecturer, Asst. Professor, Professor and Dean of Post Graduate Studies in the College of Engineering (now Anna University), Madras. He has made outstanding contributions in Hydrology. A general equation developed by him and a model based on it for Rainfall Runoff studies is known as 'Kulandaiswamy Model' and is quoted widely in Hydrologic literature including publications by the FAO, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Research as well as the Handbook of Hydrology and a Text book on Applied Hydrology, published by the McGraw Hill Book Company (Ltd.), U.S.A. He was a member of the UNESCO Planning Group (1978) for the preparation of the Second Six Year Plan (1981-86) of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP). He was UNESCO Adviser / Expert (1979-81) in Hydraulics and Hydrology.

He was awarded the Leverhulme Fellowship by the Senate of the University of Western Australia, Perth for what the Senate termed as "High Academic Achievements in Hydrology"; was a member of the three member roving team

appointed by ESCAP, Bangkok (1976) for conducting in a number of Asian countries, an one month seminar and workshop on "Computer Applications in Water Resources Planning and Development". He has authored over sixty research reports and papers in the field of Hydrology and Education.

Later in his career, he moved to educational planning, development and administration and was successively Director of Technical Education, being the Head of Technical Education at the tertiary level for the whole State of Tamil Nadu; Vice-Chancellor of Madurai Kamaraj University (1978-79), a general University with over 100,000 students and about 80 colleges covering all disciplines; and Vice-Chancellor, Anna University, Madras (1981-1990), a University of Science and Technology and a centre of excellence. He was from May 1990 to July 1994 the Vice-Chancellor of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, India, whose annual admission for 1994 was 90,000 students and enrolment nearly 225,000. The Indira Gandhi National Open University is somewhat unique in that it has the responsibility for promotion, co-ordination and maintenance of standards of Distance Education Systems in India. He was the Chairman of the Distance

Education Council, a statutory body set up for coordinating the academic programmes and activities of over 50 universities, offering Distance Education programmes in India.

He has been a member/chairman of a large number of academic bodies, working groups and expert committees at the national and international levels in Hydrology, Technical Education, General Education and Distance Education. Mention may be made in particular of his membership of the University Grants Commission, India; All India Council for Technical Education, Joint Council for Vocational Education and Central Advisory Board of Education, India, being the topmost national bodies in educational planning and policy making in country.

He was also a member of the Executive Council of the Association of Asian Open University (formerly its Secretary General) and Asian Vice-President of the International Council for Distance Education (ICDE). He was the President of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and was for a brief

period President of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), London. He is currently the President of the Indian Society for Technical Education, New Delhi.

He is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers (India); Indian National Academy of Engineering and Indian Academy of Sciences.

He was the recipient of many distinctions and awards, some of them being the Ministry of Irrigation, Govt. of India, Gold Medal (1972); Sahitya Academy Award (1988) for his literary contributions : Indira Gandhi National Integration Award (1988) : and the Central Board of Irrigation and Power Diamond Jubilee Award (1991). The Institution of Engineers (India) conferred on him the recognition of one of the "Eminent Engineering Personalities of India" (1991). The UGC awarded him in 1994 the Swami Pranavananda Saraswati Award for Distinguished Service in Education for the year 1990. He was conferred the national honour of Padma Shri (1992) by the President of India for his contributions to 'Science and Education'.

