

K. R. Sreenivasan appointed Director, ICTP

The public information office of the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste, Italy (ICTP) announced through a press release on 5 November 2002 that Katesh R. Sreenivasan has been appointed the new Director of ICTP.

Abdus Salam, a well-known theoretical physicist and a Nobel laureate founded ICTP in 1964. The Centre operates under the aegis of the two United Nations Agencies: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and is associated with the Government of Italy which provides the major part of the Centre's funding. 'One of the main aims of the Abdus Salam ICTP is to foster the growth of advanced studies and research in the developing countries'.

Sreenivasan was born in India on 30 September 1947 and has been a US citizen since 1997. He received his B.E. (Mech. Eng.) degree from Bangalore University in 1968 with first rank and M.E. (Aero. Eng.) degree from the Indian

Institute of Science (IISc) in 1970 with first rank. Sreenivasan received the Ph D (Aero. Eng.) degree also from IISc in 1975. Subsequently he was a post-doctoral fellow at the Universities of Sydney and Newcastle, Australia (1975–1977), Research Associate and Lecturer, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA (1977–1979). Joining the Yale University in USA as an Assistant Professor, Department of Engineering and Applied Science in 1979, he was appointed to various distinguished professorial positions in the university in the departments of Mechanical Engineering, Physics, Applied Physics, etc. He was later Chairman of Council of Engineering. While he was the Director of the Institute for Physical Science and Technology since 1989 at Yale University, he has been the Distinguished University Professor, Professor of Physics, and Glenn L. Martia Professor of Engineering, University of Maryland since 2002.

Sreenivasan has been a Visiting Professor for over two decades at several eminent centers of learning and research

including IISc and Jawaharlal Nehru Center for Advanced Scientific Research, both at Bangalore, India; Goettingen, Germany; California Institute of Technology, Rockefeller University, School of Mathematics at Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton – all in US, Cambridge University, England and so on.

Sreenivasan's research interests cover fluid mechanics, turbulence, complex fluids, nonlinear dynamics, non-equilibrium phenomena, cryogenic helium, combustion, atmospheric phenomena, etc. He has authored or co-authored a large number of publications.

The awards and honours received by Sreenivasan include, amongst others: Humboldt Fellowship, Guggenheim Fellowship and Fellowships of American Physical Society, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Academy of Arts and Science, American Association for the Advancement of Science and of Third World Academy of Sciences.

Goverdhan Mehta named ICSU President-elect

The International Council for Science (ICSU) has announced the appointment of Goverdhan Mehta, Director of the Indian Institute of Science (Bangalore), to the position of ICSU President-elect.

Founded in 1931, the International Council for Science (ICSU), with its secretariat in Paris, represents the national science academies and international science unions of more than 90 countries around the world. ICSU works to identify and address major issues of

importance to science and society. By serving as an authoritative independent voice for international science and scientists, ICSU strives to stimulate constructive debate about matters that are vital to the wellbeing of society in the developing and developed countries.

Mehta is a leading organic chemist, has served ICSU in a number of capacities, including a recent term on the Executive Board (1999–2002). Previously, he held the positions of Chair of

ICSU's National Committee and Chair of the National Committee of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

Mehta's term as ICSU President-elect will officially begin in March 2003, 18 months prior to his taking office as President following ICSU's 29th General Assembly in September 2005. The current President of ICSU is Jane Lubchenco, a marine ecologist from Oregon State University in the US.