

Dr. M. A. Atmanand, currently the Director of National Institute of Ocean Technology has done pioneering work in the area of deep sea technologies in India. An Instrumentation and Control Engineer by profession, he took his undergraduate degree from University of Calicut in Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Masters and doctorate degrees from Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.

He lead a team of Engineers for the design and development of underwater crawler for sand mining from upto a depth of 450 m. He and his team developed the in-situ soil tester which was tested at a depth of 5200 m in the Central Indian Ocean Basin. It was under his supervision that the design of Electrical, Instrumentation and control system of the India's first Remotely Operable Vehicle was done. This was later tested at a depth of 5289 m water depth. Other areas include development of remotely operable boat for surveillance and bathymetry in restricted waters. He has also guided various indigenisation programmes for Ocean observation and under water systems.

His areas of interest include

- Development of underwater vehicles with specific reference to their control
- Development of components for deep sea applications
- Development of test protocols for testing of deep sea devices
- Project management

He has been involved in the following during his career

- International collaborative programmes with Germany, Russia and USA
- Member of Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) of United Nations
- Founding Chairman of IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society in India.
- Secretary IEEE Madras Chapter (2006); Member Executive Committee Madras Chapter (2007); Vice Chair Madras Chapter (2008)
- Senior Member of IEEE
- Member of Academic Council of Anna University
- Member of first court of Indian Maritime University

Dr. M.A.Atmanand has published 34 papers including International Journals, International conferences, National Conference and others. He has two patents to his credit. He has widely travelled in capacities like technology transfer, as part of delegations etc. to countries like Russia, USA, Germany, Portugal, Korea, etc.

He received the International Society for Offshore and Polar Engineers (ISOPE) Ocean Mining Symposium award in the year 2009. He received United Nations fellowship for training at National Research Laboratory for Metrology at Tsukuba, Japan in 1985 – 86.

Prior to joining NIOT, he was with the Fluid Control Research Institute, involved with various projects connected with flow measurement and control. Various R&D projects were executed for industries like ONGC, GAIL, IPCL, etc.