

Niot director gets award from Union ministry of earth sciences

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CHENNAI: National Institute of Ocean Technology director M A Atmanand has been honoured with the National Award of Excellence in Ocean Technology by the Union ministry of earth sciences (MoES) for his contribution in the area of deep sea technologies in India.

His work includes leading a team of engineers in the design and development of underwater crawler for deep sea operation and an in-situ soil tester which was tested at a depth of 5200m in the Central Indian Ocean Basin for the first time in the country.

Atmanand was instrumental in designing and implementing a work class remotely operable vehicle (ROV) that can be used for assisting in mining operations, gas hydrates site for validation of presence of methane, pipeline inspection and others.

This was later tested at a depth of 5289 m. It was under his supervision that India's first polar under water mooring observatory and the Polar Remotely Operable Vehicle (PROV) were developed and tested. The mooring was established at Kongsfjorden in Arctic region. The Polar ROV was tested successfully at the Priyadarshini lake at Antarctica and used for observing the corals in Andamans.

He also led teams in many societal projects like shore protection at Kadalur Periakuppam in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, setting up of desalination plants at the Lakshadweep islands, ocean energy, cage culturing and others at various locations.

He spearheaded technology transfer of various systems developed at NIOT to public and private sector industries successfully. He has steered various indigenization programmes for Ocean observation and under water systems.

L Anburajan received the 'certificate of merit' of the MoES for his research in the area of deep sea microbial biotechnology and has developed recombinant technology for the production of anticancer enzyme, L-asparaginase and ectoine from marine symbiotic and deep sea bacteria. He was also instrumental in the development and technology transfer of "NIOT-Enterococcus faecalis Multiplex PCR detection kit" for rapid detection of virulent E. faecalis in water, food and environmental samples.