

Brief bio-data of Dr V. C. Kulandai Swamy

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, USA Starting his career as a teacher and researcher, he was Assistant Professor, Professor and Dean of Post Graduate Studies in the College of Engineering (now Anna University), Madras : has made outstanding contributions in Hydrology. A general equation derived by him and a model based on it for Rainfall Runoff studies is known as '**Kulandaiswamy Model**' and is quoted widely in Hydrologic literature. 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) and UNESCO Adviser/Expert (1979-81) in Hydraulics and Hydrology. He has authored over sixty research reports and papers in the field of Hydrology and Education.

Later, he moved to **Educational Planning, Development and Administration**; was successively Director of Technical Education; **Vice-Chancellor, Madurai Kamaraj University** (1978-79); Vice-Chancellor, **Anna University**, Madras for three successive terms (1981-90), and Vice-Chancellor, **Indira Gandhi National Open University**, New Delhi (1990-94). Currently he is the Chairman (Honorary) of the **Tamil Virtual University Society**.

He has been a member/chairman of a 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 of a few Member, University Grants Commission Member, Executive Committee, (UGC) for two terms – All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Member Joint Council for Vocational Education ; Vice-President of the International Council for Distance Education (ICDE) for Asia ; President of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) ; President of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), London for a brief period; President of the Indian Society for Technical Education, New Delhi for two terms.

He is currently, among others, Chairman, Tamil Academy, Chennai; and Vice-Chairman, International Association for Tamil Research with registered Head Quarters at PARIS and Chairman, Tamil Language Promotion Board, Ministry of Human Resource Development, GOI.

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

He has long been interested in modernising Tamil to serve as a medium for Science and Technology. His consistent advocacy of **Script Reform in Tamil** for easy learning deserves particular mention; he was made the **Chairman of a Committee** constituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu **for Script Reform**.

He is a recipient of many distinctions and awards: Honorary D.Litt / D.Sc. from seven

Universities i.e., D.Litt (Honoris Causa), University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka for his literary contributions, 1980; D.Sc. (Honoris Causa), Alagappa University, Karaikkudi, Tamil Nadu, 1997; D.Litt., (Honoris Causa), Pondicherry University, 1997; Ph.D., (Honoris Causa), Jawaharlal Nehru Technical University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, 1999; D.Litt. (Honoris Causa), Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, 2000; D.Litt. (Honoris Causa), Karnataka State Open University, Mysore, 2002; and D.Litt. (Honoris Causa) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad, 2002; **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 University Grants Commission (UGC) conferred on him **Pranavananda Award** for 1990 for Education.

Besides being an educationist and technologist, he is a writer of standing in Tamil and was the recipient of the national honour of **Sahitya Akademi Award for the year 1988**. The Government of Tamil Nadu chose him for the prestigious **Thiruvalluvar Award for 1998** which carries a citation, a medallion and a cash award in recognition of his contribution to Tamil literature.

The Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver, Canada honoured him during its Decennium Celebration and ‘Pan Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning’ (1-5, March 1999) at Brunei by making him an **‘Honorary Fellow of the Commonwealth of Learning’** in recognition of his outstanding contributions to distance education and open learning in India and in the Commonwealth countries.

He was conferred the national honour of **PADMA SHRI** (1992) by the President of India for his contributions to ‘Science and Education’ and **PADMA BHUSHAN** (2002) for his contributions to ‘Engineering and Science’. He was one of the two chosen by the Senate of IIT Kharagpur for the **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD** among the 35000 odd Alumni, instituted and conferred in its 49th Convocation in 2003.