

For Immediate Release: February 8, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

Prof Nigel Mason OBE, Professor of Molecular Physics, University of Kent, UK addresses IIT (ISM) faculty members and students on the issue of Global Scientific Challenges and responsibility of Scientist in presenting them to public audiences; Discusses crucial issues like, Global Warming, risk of new pandemics and exploitation of resources, during the online talk delivered as part National Science Day Lecture Series.

Prof. Nigel Mason OBE, Professor of Molecular Physics, University of Kent, UK. delivered a lecture through online mode on February 7 at around 6 p.m. in situation room of Department of Physics of IIT (ISM) as part of a 2nd lecture of the lecture series organized by Department on National Science day.

The title of the talk was Global Scientific Challenges and responsibility in presenting them to public audiences. The 45 minute lecture series was followed by the interaction session with the audience, comprising of large number of faculty members and scientists of the department. Professor Bobby Antony, Professor of the Department of Physics conducted the programme while live streaming of the programme was also conducted via the official YouTube Channel of the institute.

Addressing the gathering Mason said, “Many of the major social and political challenges facing the world today can only be addressed by a global community of scientists”. He also laid focus on Global warming, energy supply, risks of new pandemics, and exploitation of natural resources as part of a just a few examples where no single nation or government can make decisions without consultation and collaboration.

In his talks he further said, “Such decisions should, indeed must, be made with consultation and engagement of scientists. In turn, governments may then state that their decisions are made on basis of these discussions.

During the lecture he discussed the crucial issues posing before us like-how do scientists inform policymakers? What is the personal responsibility of each scientist and the scientific community as a whole to ensure such advice is both accurate and reported accurately? How does the scientific community address fraud and misrepresentation of science? What is the role of scientists and the scientific community in directly informing the public on scientific matters even if they are unpalatable truths?

Professor Nigel is an outstanding scientist working in the field of molecular physics, physics of electron, ions and ionized gases including plasma. His activities in the field of radiation physics and astrochemistry are significant and focused on the study of electron and ion processes taking place in the atmospheres of Planets, Asteroids and Comets.

He is author of several books and hundreds of scientific publication. Such research has led him to take leadership roles in many national and international research programmes and currently chair



भारतीयप्रौद्योगिकीसंस्थान (भारतीयखनिविद्यापीठ), धनबाद Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad

the Europlanet, Europe's largest forum for planetary sciences. He is also on the steering committee of European Autobiology Institute and member of European Astrochemistry, Radiation Chemistry and nanolithography, networks and programmes. Outside Europe he has close links with emerging space community in India and Electron Physics Communities around the world chairing the Dissociative Electron Attachment- DEA club. He also chairs a family trust, 'The Sir John Mason Academic Trust Established in the honour of his father, a distinguished scientist and pioneer of the study of cloud physics.

To celebrate National Science Day 2023 (NSD 2023), Department of Physics of IIT (ISM) is organizing various scientific events spanning over two months based on the theme, "Global Science for Global Wellbeing" to create awareness among students and others. The inaugural ceremony NSD 2023 was held on January 24 in the Situation Room of Department of Physics during which Prof Dhiraj Kumar graced the occasion as chief guest.

Rajni Singh

Dean (Media & Branding)