

## **Dear Members,**

I attended the important event of North-East Chapter Opening and National Symposium and Workshop on “NER coal and Minerals: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities (NECMICO 2-14” at CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat. I know that the proceedings etc. will be circulated in due course of time from CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat. But after talking to many of our colleagues at Jorhat and being the Vice-President of IIME, I thought that it is better to share the observation of the following points with our Members:

1. The **North-East Chapter Inauguration** was done in a very dignified manner with a large gathering from all over India.
2. In overall, the qualities of papers presented by the authors are impressive. There were good free and frank discussions on each paper. The active participation of students was a refreshing experience.
3. The brain storming session held on the second day was indeed unique in the sense it focused on exploration of Minerals and coal in N.E. Region.
4. Most noteworthy and proud part of the event was the presence of large number of CSIR-NIEST scientists, including research scholars from all the divisions. of NEIST during inauguration of the North-East Chapter apart from the delegates from other organizations. It was a proud moment to IIME.

5. If I may take the liberty, the icing on the cake of those two days was the active and full participation (starting from breakfast to the end of all events) of two present Directors (Dr. D. Ramaiah of CSIR-NEIST and Dr. A. Sinha, CSIR-CIMFR), retired but still active Directors (Dr. P. G. Rao and Prof. T. C. Rao) and R. C. Boruah, Outstanding Scientist and earlier Acting Director, CSIR-NEIST. The participation of these dignitaries with whole heartily gives new energy to the Members of IIME particularly NE Chapter. IIME is grateful to all of them for setting great examples to youngsters.
6. I thank on behalf of IIME to CSIR-NEIST for providing marvelous local hospitality to all the delegates. It was monitored personally by Dr. D. Ramaiah and his Team.
7. I thank on behalf of IIME to Dr. B. P. Baruah, Secretary of NE Chapter to bring the IIME in North-East Region to new height. His contribution in this regard is remarkable.

Thank you all and hoping to see Great Days to IIME.

**Dr. S.K. Biswal**  
**Vice-President, IIME**