

***Introduction of Key Note Speaker , Professor Sharma by Dr S.Sivaram, Convenor, Polymer'91, January 1, 1991, National Chemical laboratory, Pune***

Ladies and Gentleman; I have great pleasure in introducing Professor M.M.Sharma, today's key note speaker to you

Professor Sharma is India's most respected and well known chemical engineer, a world renowned scientist, a unique amalgam of a teacher, researcher, technologist, adviser, administrator, visionary and leader. His scientific accomplishments have been recognized, both, nationally and internationally and are too numerous to cite; the latest being Padma Bhushan and the Fellowship of the Royal Society. He is presently the Director of the prestigious and most venerable institution in Bombay, the University Department of Chemical Technology and the outgoing President of the Indian National Science Academy.

But more than all this Professor Sharma has a more intimate relationship with polymers. For the past two decades, with missionary zeal and forceful persuasion, he has guided the destiny of the petrochemical and polymer industry in India. His advice was sought and freely given when India's first naphtha/ gas crackers were set up in the seventies and eighties. He was instrumental in deciding product slates of these complexes. I have seen from close quarters the manner in which he argued for large capacities for LDPE, when the country was importing only a few thousand tons and for setting up manufacturing of LLDPE's in early eighties, when this polymer was just becoming visible in the world. India's commodity polymer industry owes a deep debt of gratitude to Professor Sharma. The vibrancy of the petrochemical industry in India today is an outstanding testimony to his vision. It is axiomatic to say that science and technology in any discipline grows only when industry takes roots. Professor Sharma by planting deep roots of a new industry in India has assured that the science and technology associated with this industry will grow in the years to come.

Ladies and Gentleman, I am delighted to present to you Professor Sharma today.

***Vote of Thanks by Dr S.Sivaram, Convenor, Polymers'91, January 1, 1991, National Chemical laboratory, Pune***

It is my pleasure to give a vote of thanks to all of you who have been responsible for making this day happen.

We embarked on this journey in October 1989 when the first seeds of Polymers '91 were sowed.

Ninety has been a year of much work for all of us and today we reap the fruits of our toil. The first of January 1991.

I feel inadequate in words to express my most heartfelt thanks to each one of you who have sacrificed much of your time for this day and have borne all tribulations with a smile. To all speakers., who have responded with enthusiasm, top our guests from other parts of the world, to all of you who made it here and many more who wanted to come, but could not make it, we say a big thank you,

To Professor Sharma, and Dr V.G.Gowariker, our honoured guests, I would like to express my gratitude for being with us

A special word of appreciation to Dr S.Varadarajan, who is here with us today. His presence is a source of great personal pleasure to me.

To the Chairpersons and member of the National Organizing Committee, I owe much of my courage and will to perform; their support has been invaluable.

To our well wishers from the industry - your generous support have enabled you to become a part of us, as hosts to this occasion.

The team work at NCL leaves me bereft of appropriate words. Your orchestrated efforts have been the proof of a heart warming attitude towards Polymers'91. I can only say that it is a homecoming and deep feeling of kinship.

In conclusion, I am reminded at this moment of the words of Wordsworth from 'Ode to Intimation to Immortality' that comes closest in essence and most appropriate

"Thanks to the human heart by which we live  
To me the meanest flower that blows can give  
Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears"

Thank you all from the depths of my heart