National Conference on Rare Earth Processing and Utilization-2014 (REPUT-2014) : a report

The Two day national conference on “Rare Earth Processing and Utilization-2014” was jointly organized by Rare Earth Association of India, Indian Institute of Metals-Mumbai Chapter, Materials Research Society of India-Mumbai chapter and Board of Research in Nuclear Studies. The conference was held at Multipurpose Hall of Training School Hostel, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai, during May 2-3, 2014. The event provided a scientific communication platform for scientists, engineers, technologists and industry working in the areas of science, technology and applications of rare earths and contributed towards the scope of further development in new technologies and applications of rare earths in India.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Ratan Kumar Sinha, Chairman, AEC and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India. Dr. R. N. Patra, Chairman, National Organizing Committee & CMD, IREL gave overview about the theme of the symposium and highlighted the importance of rare earths industry in the country and role they play in various advanced technology areas. Four technical sessions consisting of 17 invited lectures covering the entire spectrum of rare earths prospecting, processing and utilization in India was arranged. There were 50 contributory papers which were presented in the poster session. A panel discussion chaired by Dr. S. Banerjee, Homi Bhabha Chair Professor, HBNI with members from different parts of the country in the field, was held to discuss the roadmap for rare earth processing and utilization in the country.

In order to encourage young scientists working in the field of rare earths, two best poster awards were given. The first prize was given to Dr. S. P. Radhika, CLRI, Chennai, for the poster entitled “Introducing multifunctionality into rare earth pigments: Coupling benign and cool” and the second award was given to Dr. Pushpal Ghosh of Dr. H. S. Gour University, Madhya Pradesh for the poster entitled “Facile preparation of quantum cutting NaGdF₄:Eu³⁺ nanoparticles from ionic liquids”.

The organizing committee sincerely thanks BARC management for providing necessary support required for successful completion of the national conference REPUT – 2014.

Inaugural talk by Dr. Ratan Kumar Sinha, Chairman, AEC and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India.