



A brief report on

Indo-French Workshop on Phase Change Thermal Systems

29 November - 01 December 2016
Khajuraho, India

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A joint Indo-French Workshop on Phase Change Thermal Systems was organized by Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur and INSA-Lyon France, from 29 November - 01 December, 2016 in the historic temple town of Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh. The workshop was sponsored by the Indo-French Center for Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA/IFCPAR) and was jointly coordinated by Prof. Sameer Khandekar (Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Kanpur) and Prof. Frederic Lefevre (Center for Thermal Sciences, INSA-Lyon).

The aim of the workshop was to bring together Indian and French experts on a common platform and share the state-of-the-art on topics related to phase-change thermal systems with academia and industry, especially focusing on fundamentals and specific terrestrial applications in defense sector, nuclear power and space thermal management technology. The workshop was attended by fifty Indian participants, including faculty and doctoral students from IITs, NITs and other technical schools, and industry catering to defense, space and nuclear sectors. There were seven participants from French universities, including teaching and research staff. The proceedings of the workshop, including sessions management was completely managed by participating graduate students of IIT Kanpur. The workshop led to intense networking among the peers and discussions on future possibilities of cooperation. A total of 19 invited lectures and four guest lectures were delivered. In addition, 32 posters were presented by the students in four separate sessions.

The inaugural address was delivered by the Chief Guest Dr. Mukesh Kumar (Director, CEFIPRA), encapsulating the joint R&D eco-system which operates under the aegis of CEFIPRA/IFCPAR. The guest of honor at the workshop was Dr. Sandrine Maximilien, an attaché for science and technology at the Consulate General of France, Mumbai. She delineated on the breadth of opportunities and incentives for Indian researchers to conduct joint projects with French counterparts. Dr. Srinivasa Kaveri (Director, CRNS India), through his Skype talk gave an overview of the CRNS initiatives in India and presented a roadmap for furthering cooperation between French and Indian researchers. Prof. P. K. Panigrahi, Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering and Prof. K. Muralidhar, Dean of Faculty affairs, were also present during the workshop.

Some photographs of the event are attached below.



Group photo of the participants



Dr. Mukesh Kumar being felicitated at the inaugural session



Dr. Sandrine Maximillian addressing the gathering



Prof. K. Muralidhar, Dean of Faculty Affairs during his lecture



Prof. Sameer Khandekar during the inaugural session



Overview of the venue