

## **A Tribute to Prof. D.R. Sikka**

by

R. Krishnan, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune 411008, India

It is a great honor for me to pay my deep respects and humble tribute to Prof. D.R. Sikka, Former Director of IITM, Pune, who made pioneering contributions in advancing the science of monsoon variability and prediction in India. His scientific papers were among the first to clearly demonstrate the (a) Linkage between El Nino and Indian monsoon rainfall variability (b) Role of slow northward propagation of organized cloud bands from the equatorial Indian Ocean towards the Himalayas in modulating the Indian monsoon rainfall variability. These papers are landmark contributions in the field of Tropical Meteorology. His comprehensive report on Monsoon Drought in India (COLA/CARE Technical Report, 1999) is an informative and valuable publication that provides detailed account of various aspects of monsoon droughts in India during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Prof. Sikka was a strong personality with enormous knowledge on diverse aspects of tropical weather and climate, its variability and change on different space and time-scales. Even after his retirement from IITM, he was scientifically very active and chaired various important meetings. In many sense, he was a true visionary and provided solid guidance to various Atmospheric Science Programmes in the country. His vast knowledge and long scientific experience in IMD and IITM were huge inspiration for many young researchers, including me. At the same time, it was amazing to see his enthusiasm to learn new scientific developments and

keep updated on recent papers, even at advanced age. I had the opportunity to closely interact with Prof. Sikka, along with Prof. V. Ramanathan, after the Indian Ocean Experiment (INDOEX) campaign in 2001 at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, to bring out a scientific report. During the discussions with Prof. Sikka, I was totally astounded by his vast breadth and depth of knowledge on different topics in atmospheric science. Prof. Sikka was very well-read and had a great ability to grasp and comprehend things. Truly, Prof. Sikka was a great Guru for several Indian scientists and will be greatly missed. His loss will be a major void for the meteorological community. I express my deepest condolences to Prof. Sikka's family and offer prayers to the Almighty that his soul may rest in peace.