

**Ananth** joined IIT Madras as an Assistant Professor soon after graduating with Ph.D. degree in chemical engineering from the University of Florida, USA in 1972. He served IITM for 40 years and retired from IITM as its Director (2001-2011). In 2003 the University of Florida bestowed on him the R.W. Fahien Alumni Award for “distinguished professional contributions”.

Prof. Ananth has been consistently rated a good teacher. In December 2011, I&EC Research published the Ananth-Festschrift Issue (Volume 50, No. 23) in his honour. He is a Fellow of IChE and INAE. He was Member of both the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet and the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council from 2007-2011. He was a Visiting Professor in IIT Kanpur IISc Bangalore and IIT Bombay, Princeton University and the University of Colorado (USA) and RWTH, Aachen (Germany).

Prof. Ananth is the architect of the largest open-courseware in technical education in the world, the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (2003) and established the IIT Madras Research Park (2010) to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. He participated in the World Economic Forum as a member of the Global University Leaders Forum from 2007 to 2011.