

Obituary

Dr. Iqbal Hussain Qureshi (1936-2012)



Dr. Iqbal Hussain Qureshi, known as I. H. Qureshi in the scientific literature, was born on 27 September, 1936 in Ajmer (former British India) and obtained his early education there. After the creation of Pakistan, his family moved to Hyderabad, Sindh. He obtained his BSc in 1956 in MSc (Chemistry) in 1958 from University of Sindh with Gold Medals. Also, he did MS from University of Michigan, USA in 1962 and PhD in 1963 from University of Tokyo, Japan.

Dr Qureshi joined Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) in 1960, and worked at the Atomic Energy Centre, Lahore where he established the Radiochemistry Laboratories. In 1967 he availed a post doc at National Bureau of Standards, Washington, DC, USA and during 1969 he obtained a specialized training in the area of uranium and plutonium separation from Denmark. In 1972, he was posted at Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science & Technology (PINSTECH), Islamabad in its Nuclear Chemistry Division. He remained at PINSTECH till 1991, and then was appointed as Member (Technical), PAEC. Later, he was promoted to the rank of Senior Member, PAEC. He retired in September 1996 and was given the life time honour by PAEC as its Scientist Emeritus and continued his research for some years at PINSTECH before moving to Karachi.

Dr. Qureshi made seminal contributions to the development of laboratories at PISTECH and became the Head of its Nuclear Chemistry Division in 1972. As a result of acquiring world class facilities for trace element determination in various materials, using neutron activation analysis, the PINSTECH's Analytical Chemistry Laboratory was recognized as a reference laboratory of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna. Also, by having high quality chemical analysis facilities at PINSTECH, Pakistan was able to test radioactive emissions of the first Indian Nuclear Bomb.

In 1984, Dr. Qureshi became the Director of PINSTECH and continued the journey of his contributions at a much larger scale. Several mega projects were initiated during his 7-year tenure as Director, PINSECH, like the installation of a zero-power reactor, the second research reactor, the upgrading of the %MW research Reactor PARR-1 to higher power of 10 MW and its stainless steel lining, and fabrication of the 250 KEV nuclear accelerator. During this period, I worked with him as the Associate Director, PINSTECH. In 1991, as Member (Technical) of PAEC, Dr. Qureshi became responsible for several laboratories of the Commission all over the country. I took over him as the Director of PINSTECH and completed of the projects which he initiated.

Dr. Qureshi had earned several scientific honours, i.e., Gold Medal of Pakistan Academy of Sciences in 1988, the Fellowship of Pakistan Academy of Sciences in 1994, *Khawarizmi Prize* of Iran in 1997, *Sitar-i-Imtiaz* in 1992 and Shield of Honour by the Pakistan Nuclear Society on being elected as its President.

Dr. Qureshi was a very duty conscientious scientist throughout. He was very polite in his behavior and addressed even his peons with a respectable and polite tone. He was a versatile person and loved music and even played *sitar* on occasions. Also he was an ardent player of tennis and continued the game regularly even after his retirement. He was a very hospitable person and we had several occasions to be entertained on his dinner table. He has left behind a widow and two talented sons, one a neurosurgeon and the other computer specialist.

Dr. Qureshi expired peacefully on 8th December 2012 in Karachi with a sudden problem of breathing. With the demise of Dr. Qureshi, the country has lost an eminent chemist, an honest and a beneficent administrator and a man of exceptional traits. May God bless his soul with a peaceful place in heaven.
Ameen.

Prof. Dr. N. M. Butt