

On September 11, 2009, the Honorary Doctorate Degree of the University of Rostock was conferred to Prof. Dr. rer.nat. Qamar Rahman, Dean of Research and Development at the Integral University of Lucknow, India.

Prof. Rahman has a profound experience in toxicology, a field in which she is working on a wide scale. Her specific field of research is Environmental and Occupational Toxicology, in particular the toxicity of fibres, particles and nanoparticles. She is also engaged in toxicological risk assessment for Indian women at the workplace. Her activities have produced 126 papers (some with a high impact factor; 22 in Indian, 104 in international journals) as well as 12 project reports and monograph articles and 500 abstracts.

An extensive research on women and their occupational hazards was conducted, highlighting specific problems in different organized and unorganized types of industry where women workers are exposed to toxic chemicals (A film on the above subject made by her was selected as the best video film of its class by a board of the Government of India).

On the basis of the above mentioned experimental studies and epidemiological surveys a better understanding has been developed for the mechanisms of toxicity of particulate air pollutants. These include mineral fibres, particles and ultra-fine-particles to which a large number of populations are exposed environmentally, occupationally and domestically in India and in other countries. These studies are highly relevant for human health and the environment.

Prof. Rahman has a longstanding, close cooperation with Prof. Dietmar Schiffmann, Cellular Pathophysiology Division and Prof. Dieter Weiss, Head of the Institute of Cell Biology and Biosystems Technology at the University of Rostock.

Between 1998 and today she has worked at this institution two or three months in the summer and Prof. Schiffmann worked for several weeks during each winter time at the ITRC (Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, recently renamed IITR, Indian Institute for Toxicological Research).

During her stay in Rostock she has coached a number of students, among them two Indian candidates who finished their PhD with excellent success. Further, she has given numerous seminars and lectures.

The scientific results of the mentioned cooperation were presented by Prof. Rahman at many international conferences and seminars in the USA, Great Britain, France, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Germany. Thus she was a true “Ambassador of Science” for the University of Rostock and has done a lot for the reputation of our university.

In India, she belongs to the group of scientist who are internationally recognized because of their outstanding scientific and social impacts. Because of her open-minded way and her connections to many well-reputed scientific institutions Prof. Rahman may be named a true “Citizen of the World” and she is highly accepted as cooperation partner. In recognition of her scientific merits, she is a member of a number of high ranking committees. In 2003 she was elected as member of the Indian National Academy of Sciences.

She always took active part in different capacities for the progress of her country scientifically as well as for the social cause and for the progress of young scientists.