



Prof.P.Sivalingam
First Vice-Chancellor of Anna University
(1978-1981)

The Perarignar Anna University of Technology (now called as Anna University Chennai) was established as per the Tamil Nadu Act No.30 of 1978 and was inaugurated by the Thiru Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the then President of India, in the presence of Dr. M.G. Ramachandran, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 4th September 1978. During the inauguration function the Chief Minister introduced Prof. P. Sivalingam, as the 1st Vice-Chancellor of the New Technological University.

Prof. P. Sivalingam, had the privilege of being the first Vice-Chancellor of Anna University (originally named as Perarignar Anna University of Technology) during the period 4.9.1978 to 14.9.1981 FN. Prof. P. Sivalingam was born in a Melur Village of Madurai District on 3rd April, 1923. He had his Preliminary Education at Melur Village and intermediate education in American College, Madurai. He obtained his B.E. (Hons.) degree from College of Engineering Guindy and M.S. (Irrigation Engineering) from Berkley University, California, U.S.A. After his M.S. degree he worked in DENVER Colorado, U.S.A. for 2 years and returned to India in 1948. In India he worked as Junior Engineering at Patna, Bihar State. He then joined as Assistant Engineer at Bavani Sagar Dam in Tamil Nadu. He was, then, holding the post of Deputy Chief Engineer of P.W.D., Superintendent Engineer in Industries and Commerce. During the year 1968-69 he was appointed the Chief Engineer of Tuticorin Port. He was appointed as Director of Technical Education in 1969 and served in the post till 1973. In 1974 he was posted as the Chief Engineer

General of Tamil Nadu and was holding the post till 1977. Considering his enormous technical knowledge, skills and expertise, he was appointed as the 1st Vice-Chancellor of this great University.

He had visited U.S.A., Canada, Australia, Africa and South East Asian Countries. He had good fluency in English, Tamil, Hindi and Telugu. Prof. Sivalingam passed away on 11th July, 2006.

As a Vice-Chancellor of the new unitary type of University, he had a challenging task in the establishment of the University with the following objectives:

- (i) to provide facilities and offer opportunities for higher education in engineering, technology and allied sciences by instruction, training, research, development and extension and by such other means as the University may deem fit;
- (ii) to devise and implement a programme of education in engineering, technology and allied sciences that is relevant to the current needs of the society, alive to the long term requirements and responsive to the anticipated changes and developments, in terms of breadth of diversity and depth of specialization;
- (iii) to further the advancement of knowledge in engineering, technology and allied sciences; to prosecute and promote research; to disseminate and advance the knowledge thereon for the betterment of society and to bring about widespread awareness of the tools and methods continuously generated by the advances in engineering; technology and allied sciences; and
- (iv) to serve as a centre for fostering co-operation and exchange of ideas between the academic and research community on the one hand and the industrial and Government on the other and to promote entrepreneurship among the students.

As the first Vice-Chancellor he had taken initiative to obtain recognition of UGC for financial assistance from the University Grants Commission and the UGC in their letter No.F.5-10/70 (CD/CP) Vol. II dot. 31st July 1979 had declared this University fit for receiving financial assistance from the University Grants Commission and the Central Government. Under his leadership a comprehensive development sixth mid-term 1978-83 plan proposal was submitted to the U.G.C. He had paved a way for getting financial assistance from the various funding agencies. With his initiative, today we are able to get grants from various government organizations for our developmental activities.

To cope with this justifiable ambitious role, the University has launched bold and innovative approaches to promote very effective and efficient co-ordination among its constituent units (now the departments of Anna University Chennai) and to ensure optimal utilization of its human and physical resources. These innovations include the establishment of the following centres of excellence during his term of his office, as the first Vice-Chancellor.

- Centre for Water Resources
- Centre for Environmental Studies
- Centre for Human Settlements
- Centre for Appropriate Technology

The following four post-graduate diploma programmes, all specially tailored to the needs of the industry, have been instituted and offered, during the term of the first Vice-Chancellor.

- Remote Sensing
- Environmental Pollution Control Engineering
- Environmental Systems Engineering
- Solid Water Management Engineering

There had been persistent demand for hostel accommodation for the students. To meet the increasing demand he had initiated action for the construction of additional hostels in the main campus.

The important landmark in the developmental activities during his tenure, is the recognition of the departments of Civil and Electrical Engineering of the Faculty of Engineering as Centers for the Q.I.P., by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Prof. Sivalingam had a strong belief that only a planned action will have fruitful results. With this belief, he established a Planning and Development Cell in the administrative wing, to deal with matters on restructuring of the University set up, to formulate suitable development proposals and to monitor and evaluate the ongoing programmes and to initiate and suggest remedial measures based on feed back information and publication of this University.

During his tenure of Vice-Chancellorship, Dr. G.S. Laddha, Director, A.C. College of Technology received the honour of the first AMBROSE CONGRAVE AWARD FOR CHEMICAL ENGINEERS of the year 1980 instituted by the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers.

During his tenure the University offered 17 Undergraduate courses, 31 Post-graduate courses 7 P.G. Diploma courses and 3 M.Phil. courses and Ph.D. degree in all the Faculties.

The following new and diversified courses have been offered during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor:

- B.E. Industrial Engineering
- B.E. Electronics & Communication Engineering (Part-time)
- B.Tech. Automobile Engineering (Part-time)
- M.E. Irrigation Water Management (Full-time and Part-time)
- M.E. Production Engineering (Part-time)
- M.B.A. Business Administration
- M.Tech. Laser and Electro-Optical Engineering
- M.Sc. Medical Physics.

Prof. Sivalingam, who had the privilege of being the first Vice-Chancellor of Anna University for a short span of three years established the first Syndicate, Finance Committee, Academic Council etc. as per the University Act. He had high vision and dreams to bring the University to a world class institution of learning. His dreams and vision are being fulfilled by the Vice-Chancellors who took charge after him. Even after relinquishing the post of Vice-Chancellor, he had shown much interest in the development of this University by making frequent visits and participating in all the functions of the University till his last breath. Though he is not with us today we pay our respects to him and dedicate the enormous development that this University has envisaged today.