

## Academic / Research / Administrative / Leadership - Contributions

Dr. Tatavarti's practical contributions to the administration/leadership/management of organizations are linked to his firm belief that for an organization to soar above average, appropriate structures and systems are needed to attract the best and deploy them in complementary roles. Dr. Tatavarti believes that for any organization / institute to achieve excellence, the leadership/management needs to leverage the complementarity of members, who should be empowered to play to their strengths, thereby realizing synergy and creating value.

Prof. Rao Tatavarti has successfully donned the role of an Institution Builder / Administrator/ Leader / Director since 1989 at various governmental and private organizations - by efficiently building teams, motivating people to excel even under challenging conditions, and effectively facilitating the completion of tasks in time within the stipulated time frames and budgets.

Dr. Rao Tatavarti not only served in his primary role as a Senior Scientist at the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation from December 1989 to November 2008 but also concurrently served in many senior administrative and management roles of the management of laboratory with a strength of 700+ people. In July 1999, Dr. Tatavarti was promoted to Scientist E in DRDO, equivalent to the rank of a University Professor. Since 1999 to date Dr. Tatavarti was continuously shouldering leadership / administrative / management responsibilities at various laboratories, institutes, and nationally important R&D projects of the Ministries of Defence and Space and was instrumental in conceptualizing and creating national facilities, in addition to training and mentoring hundreds of students, faculty, researchers, scientists, and other personnel.

Dr. Tatavarti was responsible for conceptualizing and completing several National Defence Programs on Non-Acoustic Technology development for the Nation and also for creating state of the art Centre for Optronics and Oceanics Research facility at NPOL during his stint with the Defence Research and Development Organization, Ministry of Defence.

During his stint at DRDO, Dr. Tatavarti was also responsible for conceiving and building various facilities at NPOL's DROMI (Defence Research Officers Mess and Institute) and subsequently transformed the organization into an efficient and profitable service facility - to serve Defence officers and their families.

Dr. Tatavarti, during his stint as the Chief of HRD at NPOL, DRDO, was responsible for conceptualizing and implementing a roadmap for the human resources development involving 700+ scientists, technical and administrative staff to the satisfaction of both the management as well as the team.

From November 2008 to December 2010, Dr. Tatavarti served as a Senior Professor, Dean (Academic Research), and Director (R&D) at VIT University in Vellore, where he supervised and led a faculty strength of 1100 people and a research scholar strength of 900 people. Prof. Tatavarti successfully channeled the disparate goals and aspirations of 1100 faculty and 900 researchers of VIT University into quantifiable R&D outputs - by effectively designing and implementing a process agreeable to all stakeholders, which ensured the University to leapfrog itself into higher echelons regarding R&D, Publications, and Patent outputs.

From December 2010 to 2021, Prof. Tatavarti served as a Senior Professor, Dean, and Director at the Gayatri Vidya Parishad Institutes (GVP Engineering Colleges) and concurrently at GVP-SIRC, which is recognized as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation by DSIR, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India. He is now the Distinguished Professor and Director of GVP Institutes.

Proving the point that people - *irrespective of their backgrounds and conditions*, can be effectively transformed into an efficient workforce, *even under challenging and exacting conditions* - Prof Tatavarti was successful in creating a state of art Photonics Research Laboratory and a sub-sonic wind tunnel facility at GVP-SIRC, Visakhapatnam, and had effectively conceptualized, mentored and guided many faculty and graduate/ undergraduate students from various backgrounds and a multitude of institutions, to work on and complete nationally significant projects - thus not only providing a major push to the nation's efforts on indigenization of various cutting edge technologies, but also developing and training the future workforce for India (see, <http://www.qvpsirc.in/feedback.html>).

In 2013, Prof. Rao Tatavarti was invited to head the Andhra Pradesh Chapter of the *National Maritime Foundation* (a Think Tank of the Indian Navy) as its Regional Director (2013-2015), wherein he contributed significantly towards the advancement of India's Maritime interests. Since 2016 Prof. Tatavarti has been the Founder, Director, and Chairman of the CASTLE Advanced Technologies and Systems (CATS) group of companies. Prof. Rao Tatavarti mentors and guides various students/researchers from multiple institutes all across India and has been successfully running an internship program for young students who earn while they learn during their stint at GVP-SIRC, Visakhapatnam and also helps Prof. Tatavarti in the development of various technologies and systems having applications for the *Ministries of Defence, New and Renewable Energy, Railways, Shipping Surface and Road Transport, and Environment*. From 2020 – to date, Prof. Tatavarti is also serving as a Member of the Governing Body of Bhagavathula Charitable Trust, Visakhapatnam.