

## Editorial

### *A dream come true*

India has one of the largest networks of Science Museums and Centres in the world under the umbrella of National Council of Science Museums (NCSM). Besides, there are many other science centres, planetariums and natural history museums outside the administrative control of NCSM. All these institutions are actively engaged across the country in science communication through various modes. A substantial quantum of professional knowledge and expertise thus being generated deserves public attention, review and recognition. Launching of *Propagation*, the half yearly peer reviewed journal on science communication, is a dream come true for us in supporting the innovative and creative works of Science Museum/Centre professionals and science communicators by providing them a platform to share, validate and get their works recognized.

The first issue of *Propagation* includes twelve papers contributed by professionals in the field of science communication, scientists, science historians and popular science writers. 'Science Museums - Science Centre - Science City - What Next?' traces the evolution of science museums with a futuristic projection, 'Diamond: A Wonderful and Lasting contribution of India to Mankind' tells us the story of diamond mining and diamond processing in India since ancient times and the science behind these operations, 'Science Communication and Social Upliftment' draws the intimate relation between science and society, while 'Impact of Science Museums & Centres' reasserts the role of science centres in our society. Two important historical accounts which find place in this issue are 'Three Phases of Popularization of Science in Colonial Bengal' and 'Geomagnetic Studies in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century British India'. The paper 'Presenting Indian Science and Technology Heritage in Science Centres' reflects the efforts of the National Science Centre, Delhi to ensure easy understanding of this subject. Various activities of science centres and their exhibits form the subjects of the papers 'Captive breeding of Butterflies ...', 'Lightning wheels' and 'Communicating Multi-wavelength Astronomy ...', while the paper on 'Genomics' touches upon some important and contemporary issues. 'A tribute to Acharya Jagadis Chandra Bose', documents NCSM's activities on the occasion of his 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary.

We sincerely hope that the variety and richness of the contents of this issue will be of interest to readers. We welcome constructive suggestions for improvement and, of course, solicit contributions in the form of articles, studies, reviews, reports, short notes and letters on innovative concepts and important findings for publication in the future issues.

Jayanta Sthanapati  
Chief Editor