**Report on 25th Research Scholars’ Meet (RSM-2013)**

The 25th Research Scholars’ Meet was hosted by the Department of Chemistry of VES College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Chembur-400071 on 15th- 16th February, 2013 in association with Indian Chemical Society (Mumbai Branch). This RSM was special for us as it was coincided with the Golden Jubilee Year of VES - our parent body and the Silver Jubilee of RSM.

We received 39 abstracts from various premier institutes, like BARC, IIT (Mumbai), Mumbai University (Kalina Campus), ICT, HBNI, TIFR and other prominent colleges. After scrutiny by the technical committee of RSM, these abstracts were accepted for presentation. Besides these abstracts there were three abstracts which were not meeting the RSM criteria and were returned to the candidates. The accepted abstracts were edited before publication in the abstract book. These abstracts encompassed all the branches of chemistry, viz. organic, inorganic, physical and analytical. Except four papers which could not be presented due to unavoidable personal reasons, all other 35 papers were presented in six technical sessions (17 papers first day and 18 papers on the second day) with lively discussion. Attempt was made to stagger all the sub disciplines of chemistry in each scientific session. Each research scholar was given 15 minutes time to present their doctoral work. All research scholars presented their work with a lot of enthusiasm and clarity. A large numbers of observers (~30 in number) from different colleges were also registered for RSM.

After registration of delegates and participants on 15th February, Inaugural function was held. Mr. Peter Hanik (President, Reliance Technology Group) was the Chief Guest while Dr. R.M. Iyer (Former Director, Chemistry & Radiochemistry Group, BARC and former Director, International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna) was the guest of honor. Mr. Hanik and delivered a thought provoking inaugural address and Dr. Iyer delivered highly motivational keynote address. They also released the souvenir which has the messages from the Education Minister, Gov. of Maharashtra, Vice Chancellor, Mumbai University, Presidents of ICS (MB) and VES, Trustee in-charge, VES College and the Principal of VES College. It also has all the abstracts printed along with the programme schedule. During Inaugural function all the past Presidents of the Indian Chemical Society (Mumbai Branch) were felicitated for their selfless service to the scientific community. A few of the past Presidents could not attend the function due to other commitments.

Dr. S.K. Aggarwal (Head, Fuel Chemistry Division and Associate Director, RC & I Group, BARC) was the Chief Guest for the valedictory function on 16th February. He gave the valedictory address. Prof. Alok Srivastava (Department of Chemistry, Punjab University, Chandigarh) was special guest on this occasion and also delivered a brief talk. All the research scholars were given participation certificate and a book entitled “A collection of interesting general chemistry experiments” by Prof. Anil J. Elias. At the end participants were asked to give their feedback. The feedback received, both orally and in the feedback form, has been very satisfying both from the scientific, organizational and as well hospitality view point.

The management of VES, Principal of VES College and the local organizing team of 25th RSM feel privileged and honored for the opportunity to host the RSM and place on record our sincere gratitude to the Indian Chemical Society (Mumbai Branch) and look forward to organize other scientific events in the future.

**Annexure –I**

**Scientific Programme of the event (in brief 100 words)**

The research Scholars’ Meet provides a platform to young research scholars to present their work before the scientific gathering, peers and experts, senior academic staff from scientific institutions & different researcher organizations. Hence this meet helps students to fine tune their projects based on suggestions received and has proved to be an “Enriching Learning Experience”

**Annexure –II**

Mr. Peter Hanik (President, Reliance Technology Group) was the chief guest delivered inaugural address. Dr. R.M. Iyer (Former Director, Chemistry & Radiochemistry Group, BARC and former Director, International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna) was the guest of honor and delivered the keynote address. They also released the souvenir containing abstracts of research papers and messages from prominent personalities. Dr. S.K. Aggarwal (Head , Fuel Chemistry Division and Associate Director, RC & I Group, BARC) was the chief guest for the valedictory function. Prof. Alok Srivastava (Department of Chemistry, Punjab University, Chandigarh) was special guest on this occasion. All the research scholars were given participation certificates and a book entitled “A collection of interesting general chemistry experiments”.