

JAMSETJI TATA AWARD FOR LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT FOR QUALITY DR. JAMSHED J. IRANI CITATION

Distinguished metallurgist from Nagpur University with a doctorate from the University of Sheffield, UK, Dr. Jamshed J. Irani started his illustrious career as senior scientific officer in 1963 at the British Iron and Steel Association, Sheffield.

On his return to India in 1968, Dr. Irani joined Tata Iron & Steel Company (TISCO) as assistant to Director (R&D). Based on his outstanding work, he was appointed General Manager in 1979 and President in 1985. The liberalization of the Indian economy threw up many serious challenges and in 1992 the Board of TISCO appointed Dr. Irani as Managing Director.

Dr. Irani was one of the earliest leaders of the quality movement in India. He led a CII Mission to Japanese Union of Scientists and Engineers (JUSE) in 1989 comprising of 18 Chief Executives to study quality management from the Masters. This visit made a deep impact on Dr. Irani. It is also considered a watershed event in Indian manufacturing for it inspired CEOs to create what has turned out to be a quality revolution in the country.

Both an accomplished technologist and a manager, Dr. Irani has enabled TISCO to reinvent itself with a focus on quality and customer satisfaction, while becoming the lowest cost steel producer in the world with quality that competes in the international market. Dr. Irani has likened the transformation of Tata Steel to "Turning the Titanic". He said: "If the Titanic had turned, it would not have sunk."

Unassuming and humble, Dr. Irani has been widely recognized for his contribution to Indian industry. As a scientist he has been honoured with the 'Metallurgist of the Year' award in 1974 by the Government and with the prestigious 'Platinum Medal' in 1988 by the Indian Institute of Metals. His contribution to the international steel industry was recognized with the 'Twelfth Willy Korf Steel Vision Award' by the World Steel Dynamics and the American Metal Market.

In spite of his onerous responsibilities in Tata Group companies Dr. Irani has found time to lead various industry groups and has been President of CII and Chairman of its National Committee on Quality.

For his outstanding entrepreneurship, Dr. Irani was honoured with the Ernst & Young's 'Lifetime Achievement Award' in 2001. For his contribution to Indo - British partnership he was conferred an Honorary Knighthood (KBE) by Queen Elizabeth II of United Kingdom in 1997.

Dr. Irani continues to contribute his immense knowledge and experience in diverse fields even after his retirement. As the chairman of the Committee that bears his name - the J. J. Irani committee - he has made far-reaching recommendations on the reform of Company Law.

Tata Steel is renowned for its contribution to society. It also runs some excellent schools. Tata Steel now administers a quality excellence award for schools. It is called the J. J. Irani Award.

Dr. Irani has made contributions of great magnitude to his company and to the nation through the pursuit of quality management as an agenda on the table of the Board of Directors.

Jamsetji Tata Award is given to industry leaders who have made significant contribution to the Indian society through their work of leading an organization with an exceptional focus on holistic quality of management with humility, constancy of purpose, determination and setting an exceptional example to achieve outstanding results.

The Governing Council of ISQ is pleased to honour Dr. Jamshed J. Irani with Jamsetji Tata Award for life time achievement for Quality in successfully managing business through quality and contributing to the creation of quality culture in society, thereby bringing prosperity to the people of India.