

REMINISCENCES

S. P. Gupta

Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad 380 009, India (spg@prl.ernet.in)

I met Prof. K. Rower first time in May 1973 at Konstanz, Germany during the Scientific Assembly of COSPAR. This was the occasion when he completed his 60th birthday. It was amazing to see how nicely he was organizing the whole COSPAR meeting. After this meeting, I visited his institute in Freiburg/Br. When I came back to India, I wrote him a letter asking him whether I can get an opportunity to work with him as a Post-Doctoral Fellow. He responded immediately and asked me to apply for Alexander Von Humboldt Fellowship. Based on his advice, I applied for this prestigious fellowship and I was awarded Humboldt Fellowship to work under Prof. Rower at the Institut fur Physikalische Weltraum Forschung, Freiburg (Now it is Institut fur Mess Techniq).

From 1975 to 1977, I worked with Prof. Rower on ionospheric physics and Laboratory plasma physics problems. For these two years I enjoyed my work. My family (my wife and two children) had great time during this period of our stay in Freiburg. We had a lot of sightseeing in nearby area of Black Forest. Several times, Prof. Rower invited us to his home. During these two years, I learnt a lot not only in space science but in social life as well. My whole outlook towards life changed after I worked with such a great personality.

In 1979, Prof. Rower and Frau Rower came to Bangalore, India to attend the COSPAR Assembly and I went to Bangalore with my family. Later on, in early 1981, he and Frau Rower came to Ahmedabad. It was a lifelong desire fulfilled. I invited them to our home and we had a lot of sightseeing programme.

During February 1983, he visited India to attend Radio Beacon Symposium in New Delhi. During the same time he also visited PRL, Ahmedabad, a second visit to Ahmedabad and third visit to India.

With his guidance we started a collaborative Indo-German rocket flight programme to investigate the equatorial ionosphere. This programme was started in 1985. Under this programme, two rockets were flown from Sriharikota (14°N, 80°E dip 13°) one in May 1987 and another in April 1993. We got very good result on these flights which were conducted during noontime. Later 3 more rockets were launched in 1998

during nighttime to study spread-F.

In October 1993 I attended the 80th Birthday celebrations of Prof. Rawer at Trieste in Italy. During the last three decades, I had several opportunities to meet Prof. Rawer in COSPAR, URSI meeting or during my Freiburg visits. Prof. Rawer commands very high respect in our country as a ionospheric scientist. Some institutes in India have invited him to review the scientific work and for advice on future guidelines. It is a great privilege to work under such a great person and a good human being. It is a great honour for me that I am a member of task team IRI working group. The IRI project was started by Prof. Rawer. It is a great event that this year we are also celebrating three decades of IRI project. I, on behalf of my family wish him all the best on his 90th birthday and best wishes for Frau Rawer.