The Interview

Dr. Malay Kumar Karmakar
Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute – CMERI - Durgapur, India.

By Margarita M. Llano G.

Professor MALAY KUMAR KARMAKAR, a scientist from India, who obtained a Fellowship (money granted for advanced study or research), decided to come to our University and stayed with us for almost four months. He works for the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute - CMERI - in his hometown, Durgapur. This is a premier R&D Institute in the field of Mechanical Engineering under “Council of Scientific & Industrial Research” sponsored by the Government of India in New Delhi.

His PhD Thesis is titled Thermo Chemical Fluidized Bed gasification of Biomass. He chose to work for the Environmental Research Group (Grupo de Investigaciones Ambientales, GIA in Spanish), as his area of research is related to Fluidized Bed/Circulating Fluidized Bed Systems, Combustion & Gasification of Coal and Biomass for power generation, Heat Transfer & Fluid Engineering, fields in which Colombia and our University “is ahead of many other countries”, according to his own words.

A young and polite professor who enjoys his experience in a country so different from his; this scientist did not hesitate to answer some questions for Universitas Científica Magazine.

What languages do you speak?
Bengali, Hindi and English.

Why then coming to a Spanish speaking country?
To explore.

What does a person who doesn’t eat meat, eat in a country like ours?
There are many other things to take for surviving other than meat… A human being is vegetarian by birth.

Are you married?
Yes, I have a wife and a 10 year old boy.

Was your wedding arranged?
Yes… and I am proud of it and feel very happy. (According to local costumes first, both families gather to discuss the convenience of the wedding, then they introduce the future groom and bride which may or may not agree to this wedding).

What is the most important existential question you have ever asked yourself?
Who am I?

Where does a person of your beliefs go when he wants to discover (self awareness) something?
To a place where I think it is appropriate for my spiritual growth.

When you consider a project, what is your main idea?
To my mind, the main idea of considering a project is as follows: If the project is of the basic research type, I go for it. In case of a project based on applied research, one has to see the future prospect, the economic aspects, marketing, and also probable users.

What are your 3 favorite books from the personal, professional and scientific point of view?
a) “Discovery of India” by Pandit Jawaharlal Nerhu. b) “Ghare-Baire” (The House and the Outside World) by Rabindranath Tagore. c) From the scientific point of view…there are many books… difficult to name only one.

Which was the last book you couldn’t read and why?
“Fluidization”, a book written by Kunii...couldn’t finish it because of my other “pre-occupied” activities.

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