

## **Dr. Erik Jacquemyn honoured with Kalinga Chair**

Professor Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST) felicitated Dr. Erik Jacquemyn, Science Communicator from Belgium, with Kalinga Chair, as part of UNESCO Kalinga Award supported by DST.

The felicitation ceremony was organized at Technology Bhawan, New Delhi, in presence of H.E. Mr. François Delhaye, Ambassador of Belgium to India.

Kalinga Chair award was introduced by the Government of India in 2001 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Kalinga Prize. As holder of the Kalinga Chair, the winner travels to India for a period of two to four weeks as the guest of the Government of India. The Chair also comprises a token honorarium of US\$ 5,000.



Dr Eric is a teacher, researcher and author with a degree in electro-mechanical engineering from the Catholic University Leuven, Belgium. He is a leading expert in the field of science communication and popularization.

Dr Eric created, initiated and developed numerous activities and projects aiming at bringing science and technology closer to the general public and youngsters in particular. Some examples from a very long list include Flanders Science Week, Science Festival, Science Trucks, Science Kits, Travelling Science Theatre, Interactive scientific puppet theatre, Activity books, Interactive

calendar, Table-top Experiments Booklet, Technology Club for girls with spirit, competitions video and television productions.

The UNESCO Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science was created by UNESCO in 1951 thanks to a donation by Shri Biju Patnaik, Chief Minister of Orissa and Founding President of the Kalinga Foundation Trust of India. Awarded every two years, it includes a US\$40,000 prize and a UNESCO Albert Einstein Medal.

The purpose of the Prize is to reward the efforts of a person who has had a distinguished career as a writer, editor, lecturer, radio/television programme director or film producer, which has enabled him/her to help interpret science, research and technology to the public.