**Honoring retiring faculty: Dr. T. Ramkumar**

His dedication and outstanding achievements in serving Africa earn respect and inspire

The Center for Earth and Natural Sciences (CENRS), Kigali, Rwanda, takes great pride in honoring the extraordinary career of [Dr. T. Ramkumar](https://annamalaiuniversity.ac.in/faculty_view.php?id=03686&dc=S08), the retiring professor, former head of the Department of Earth Sciences, and director for international relations at Annamalai University, Tamil Nadu, India.

[Dr. T. Ramkumar](https://annamalaiuniversity.ac.in/faculty_view.php?id=03686&dc=S08)’s unwavering dedication and exemplary work in shaping geology, mining engineering, environmental science, and ecology on the African continent, with a special focus on Rwanda, have been truly remarkable. During his tenure as the head of the Department of Earth Sciences, Dr. T. Ramkumar exemplified the essence of dedication. His leadership witnessed a significant influx of Rwandan students into the master’s program in geology and Applied Geology, thereby highlighting his commitment to disseminating knowledge and encouraging academic growth in Rwanda.

Currently, nine of his Rwandan students who enrolled between 2012 and 2013 have achieved the highest academic milestone (a Ph.D. degree). Moreover, many others are following the same trajectory, demonstrating the ongoing success and growth of Dr. T. Ramkumar’s students. These exceptional Ph.D. graduates have not only been awarded their doctorates by Annamalai University, with Dr. T. Ramkumar and his esteemed colleagues as mentors, but they have also earned degrees from renowned research institutions worldwide. Notable among these are the Indian Institute of Technology (Bangalore), the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS) in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the Wuhan University of Geosciences, Pan-African University, and more.

The accomplishments of these Ph.D. graduates, along with those of numerous entrepreneurs holding master’s degrees, have been truly exceptional. Many of them now serve as officials in Rwanda, particularly within the Rwanda Mines, Petroleum, and Gas Board (RMB) and various local and international mining companies. Their tireless efforts have been instrumental in pioneering the development of the national mining sector, contributing significantly to Rwanda’s growth and prosperity. Others have embarked on illustrious research careers at esteemed institutions worldwide, including Princeton University in the USA, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shenzhen MSU-BIT University in China, and the University of Rwanda. Additionally, some individuals have taken the initiative to establish research-related organizations, such as the Rwanda Geoscientist Society (RGS), and have played a significant role in founding institutions like CENRS, further contributing to the advancement of their respective fields. Members of the CENRS research team, many of whom were former students of Dr. T. Ramkumar, also express sincere gratitude for his unwavering dedication and tireless efforts in their training.

As Dr. T. Ramkumar embarks on a new journey, we extend our warmest wishes for the road ahead. May this new chapter of his life be filled with joy, fulfillment, and continued success. His profound contributions as an educator and mentor will endure, inspiring generations to come. Congratulations, Dr. T. Ramkumar, and best wishes on your new adventure!