



DISCUSSIONS: (From right) Leena Davidsson, Representative R Unni, Annura V. Kurpad, K B Sainis and S F D'Souza addressing a press conference in Bangalore on Thursday.— PHOTO: BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

St John's Research Institute, IAEA to conduct research on nutrition

Staff Reporter

BANGALORE: St John's Research Institute (SJRI) in Bangalore has collaborated with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to provide expertise and enable research on nutrition and lifestyle-related diseases in the Asian region.

IAEA's collaborating centre was inaugurated at SJRI on Thursday. "This is our first collaborating centre in nutrition in the world. We have chosen SJRI because of it is a centre where stable isotope technique is being used for nutrition-related research in a developing country," said Lena Davidsson, Head of IAEA's Nutrition Section in the Division of Human Health.

IAEA's collaborating centre was inaugurated at the institute on Thursday

Addressing presspersons after the inauguration of the centre, Ms Davidsson said the IAEA had taken on public health under its "Atoms for Peace" programme through the use of stable isotopes to research into public health and to monitor programmes.

"The IAEA has introduced the concept of collaborating centres to assist in implementing specific areas of its programme of research, development and training in nuclear technologies. We

have formalised our relationship with SJRI today for better expertise and research," she explained.

"The research will enable expansion of the use of stable isotope techniques and evolution of these techniques to develop effective strategies to combat malnutrition in vulnerable population groups such as women and children," she added.

Head of Biomedical Group in BARC K.B. Sainis said that this recognition was an excellent development for the country and fitting recognition for St John's.

SJRI Dean Anura V. Kurpad said that St John's has already been doing a great deal of research in nutrition with relation to chronic diseases and malnutrition. "We

have trained several students from all around the world in the use of stable isotopic techniques and provided lecturers and experts for IAEA programs in Africa and Asia," he said.

"The recognition is timely and has great expectations for St John's to be a nodal centre in developing and building capacity in this region. But this recognition also means a lot of responsibility," he said.

Vice-Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) S. Ramnanda Shetty, Associate Director of Biomedical Group in BARC, S.F. D'Souza, BARC's RCA Liaison Officer P.R. Unni, representative of WHO India office Nidhi Chaudhuri and staff of SJRI were present.