

Board of Directors



Arun K Thiagarajan
Chairman
WeP Peripherals Limited

Born in 1944, Arun has over 34 years of technical and professional business management experience in a variety of companies across Large Engineering and IT industries. He spent a considerable time in Sweden during his formative years. Arun mastered in Science (Engineering) from the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm in 1968 and graduated in Business Administration and Information Systems from Uppsala University, Sweden. He also completed his Advanced Management Programme of the Harvard Business School in 1985.

Arun started his career with Asea AB Vasteras, Sweden in 1969 as Trainee Engineer. Four years later, he was promoted to Manager, Corporate Marketing. He became Managing Director of Flakt India Limited, Calcutta in 1975. In 1984, he was recalled to Asea to head their Indian operations in Bangalore. With the merger of Asea, Sweden and Brown Boveri, Switzerland in 1988, he was appointed as the Deputy Managing Director of Asea Brown Boveri Limited, India. In 1994, he became the Managing Director and Country Manager of the company until 1999 when he joined Wipro Limited as Vice Chairman to head its Infotech business. He moved to HP India in January 2001 as its President before retiring from Executive responsibilities in July 2002. Moving above individual company's interests, he was an active Chairman of Southern Region and Karnataka State Committees of CII. Presently, he is the Chairman of CII National Committees on IT and Quality.

In his executive career, Arun is noted for his extraordinary ability to conceptualise and champion clear business strategies while staying focussed on achieving operational results. He has an excellent track record in building organisations that distinguish themselves in tough, competitive environments. Under his leadership, the Indian

operations of Asea group successfully transformed itself from a small, Rs. 200 million business to India's leading private sector corporate giant in power generation, transmission, distribution and industrial automation with over Rs.8,934 million of sales. The growth is all the more creditable considering that the power sector is still among the most constrained and government regulated segments of the economy.

Arun's immense experience in the large engineering sector became even more relevant and contemporary for the IT industry when he shifted in 1999 to Wipro Infotech. He says he "realised that the hardware business was no longer solely strategy driven but increasingly logistics driven. It needs true assembly line operational skills and the discipline of the engineering industry." He spearheaded tight operations, ushered in stricter cost control measures, ensured better supply management and sorted out quality issues right at the vendor end. That it was a new and effective way of managing business is evident from the 50% increase in profits of Wipro Infotech during his tenure. Later, as head of HP India, Arun utilised his experience of mergers during his early days in successfully piloting the merger of HP India and Compaq India to maximum benefit of the combined entity.

During his earlier stint as Chairman of WeP (October 2000 to July 2001), Arun's guidance enabled us to quickly read the signals of economic slow-down and re-orient our cost structures to protect profits. WeP's philosophy of Corporate Governance was also formalised and successfully implemented. We look forward to his continued leadership and guidance.

In addition to being our Chairman, Arun also serves the Boards of ING Vysya Bank and PSI Data Systems Limited.