

OBITUARY



GII's K.T. Ramachandran Passes Away

Solitaire International deeply regrets the demise of K.T. Ramachandran, founder secretary and chief gemmologist of the Gemmological Institute of India (GII), the pioneering gemmological institute and India's first gem-testing laboratory established in 1971. Ramachandran passed away on October 26th at the age of 72.

A Fellow of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain, and a Graduate in Economics and Law from the Mumbai University, Ramachandran was associated with GII since its inception and was instrumental in developing gemmology and diamond courses in India.

A person who was dedicated to the study of gem science, he held various key positions as the examiner and adviser to various gemmological institutions in India and abroad as well as State Public Service Commissions.

He was the executive secretary of the Gem & Jewellery Exporters' Association; he was also a member of the Gemstone Committee of the Bureau of Indian Standards and the R&D Committee of the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council. He served as the specialist on the Audit Board of the ISO 9001 and was the governing body member of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat.

During his illustrious career, he authored various articles on gemmology, and co-authored a book on "Gemstone Properties and Identification" with Dr. Jayshree Panjekar.

He is survived by his wife Bharati and daughter Ruby. His loss will be felt not only by his family, but the entire gem and jewellery fraternity.