

Distinguished Science and Technology Award

Dr. Venkatesh (Venky) Narayanamurti

Director
Science Technology and Public Policy Program
Harvard Kennedy School



Citation of Accomplishment:

For developing and advancing the field of phonon optics, the manipulation of monoenergetic acoustic beams at terahertz frequencies, and work in semiconductor nanostructures, as well as his visionary leadership, mentoring and entrepreneurial spirit in science & technology which resulted in numerous interdisciplinary initiatives and collaboration

Venkatesh “Venky” Narayanamurti was born in Bangalore, India in 1939. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in physics in 1958 and 1960, respectively, from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University. Narayanamurti earned his Ph.D. in physics from Cornell University in 1965.

From 1968 to 1987, he worked at AT&T Bell Laboratories, where he became head of the Semiconductor Electronics Research Department in 1976 and served as Director of the Solid State Electronics Research Laboratory from 1981 to 1987. On assignment from Bell Labs, he then became vice president of research and exploratory technology at Sandia National Laboratories, serving in that role from 1987 to 1992. In 1992 he became Richard A. Auhll Professor and dean of the College of Engineering at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), where he served from 1992 to 1998.

Narayanamurti then was appointed as dean of engineering and applied sciences at Harvard. During his 10-year term, he directed the renewal and expansion of Harvard's engineering and applied sciences programs and their eventual transition to a School.

He is credited with developing the field of phonon optics, the manipulation of monoenergetic acoustic beams at terahertz frequencies, and he is currently active in the field of semiconductor nanostructures.

Narayanamurti is currently the Director of the Science, Technology and Public Policy Program at the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS). He is also the Benjamin Peirce Professor of Technology and Public Policy and a Professor of Physics at Harvard.

He is an elected member of the National Academy of Engineering, the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society; the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; and the Indian Academy of Sciences.

Narayanamurti is married and is the father of three children. His recreational loves are running, squash, and his home on Cape Cod, where he relaxes or finds “shanti” by reading, catching up on research, and listening to music.

