

IEEE India Bulletin Vol. 9 No. 8 August 1999

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

IEEE Students Branches In India There are 125 Students Branches in India. IEEE recognizes the good work of some of these branches. Thus IEEE conducted a contest for Web Page design for all its Students Branches in the world. The results have been declared in June 1999.

The judges felt that there are many superb Student Branch Web Sites. Hence they declared five PLATINUM (i.e. First) prizes. I am happy to report that the Students Branch of the Vivekanand Education Society's Institute of Technology, in the Bombay Section, was one of the distinguished five. Moreover it is the only Students Branch to have won the prize in the whole of the Asia - Pacific region. On behalf of all the IEEE members in India, I congratulate the Counselor, the Office-bearers and the Student members of the Branch. I also convey our HIGH APPRECIATION to the Director and the teachers for the good standards being maintained by them. The prize-winning site is located at <http://members.tripod.com/ieeeevesit>. I invite our members to visit it and see the excellent work that our young budding engineers have done.

IEEE head quarters maintain a list of all the Students Branch sites so that if anyone wants, he can reach the site of any Students Branch by clicking at the link in the list. I am sorry to note that the list brings out a very poor picture for India. Only FIVE out of 125 branches are listed there. In 1999 I am sure there must not be a single Branch in India, whose students do not know how to design a Web-site. The Branch Counselor, the Section's SAC, Dr S. C. Gupta, the India Council's SAC (e mail: s.c.gupta@ieee.org) or Dr S. Parthasarthy, the IC PageMaster (e mail: algolog@hd1.vsnl.net.in), can guide if any help is needed. A Students Branch can register its Web-site by sending e-mail to the IEEE Webmaster at webmaster@ieee.org or by writing to student-services@ieee.org.

May I call upon every Students Branch in India to create its Web-site and to register it with IEEE? If a Branch is able to have even the simplest type of access to INTERNET, it can use free IEEE resources to host its site. A team, which regularly, during the academic year, keeps the site updated, can provide a link to the world for not only the Branch but also for the Institute/ University/ Engineering College.

EXEMPLARY STUDENTS BRANCH: Running a Students Branch gives to the young students a good training. A branch must conduct its activities in a professional manner. This can be done only if a Branch keeps proper records of all its meetings and activities. To encourage the Branches to do so, IEEE gives an Exemplary Students Branch Award to every Branch, which submits all its plans and reports properly. Two important deadlines are November 1, 1999 for the Annual Plan of Activities and May 1, 2000 for the Annual report of activities. It costs nothing more than running the Branch in a systematic manner for it to win the Award.

I request all the Counselors and the Chairmen of the Students Branches to ensure that their Branches win the Award.

IEEE encourages the organization of the STUDENT PROFESSIONAL AWARENESS CONFERENCES (S-PACs) and STUDENT PROFESSIONAL AWARENESS VENTURES (S-PAVs). If these Conferences are planned about six months in advance and if a request is sent to Mrs. Laura J. Durrett, IEEE Student Services Coordinator, (email. l.durrett@ieee.org), some grant can be obtained by the Students Branch.

I would close by quoting a volunteer leader from his address to an IEEE Students Branch: "IEEE supports you throughout the information curve: when you need information as a student, we can provide the necessary research resources; when you apply that information, we can help you to be efficient and successful with the result; and when you are so informed that you can start to create information, we are here to publish you." (-Ref: The Web-site of NED University of Engineering and Technology).

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Ahmedabad A. K. Aggarwal
1st Aug. 1999 Chairman



E-mail : aka@ad1.vsnl.net.in

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PAGEMASTER CALLING !

Those of you who read the electronic version of the July issue of our bulletin would have seen why the July issue was delayed. There was just one person (from Chennai) in the entire IEEE India community who sent his reaction. This speaks for the amount of involvement, concern, and participation of our members.

S. Parthasarathy
Pagemaster -- India Council

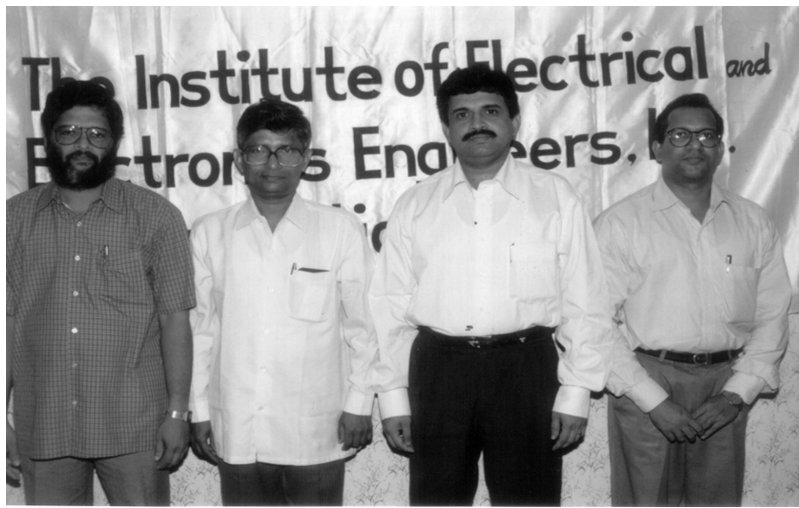
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IEEE KERALA SECTION INVITES YOU TO
"GOD'S OWN COUNTRY"

A Glimpse of what Kerala Section is doing

IEEE Section activities in Kerala have reached 25th year. Initiated on 17 February 1975 as a Subsection under the then India Section, Kerala section became part of the Bangalore Section in 1976 upon formation of India Council. Kerala became a full Section in 1983. The Section has been very active since its formation. It has been holding a national or international Seminar every year since 1984.

As of June 1999, Kerala Section has 593 members, 340 of the members being students. The section has Computer Chapter and a joint IA & IE chapter. Power Engineering Society Chapter was inaugurated on 14th April '99 by Dr. K. Gomathi, former Chair of IEEE Kerala Section and former SAC Chair of Region 10.



Kerala Section Torch bearers for 1999. Standing from Left to Right : Dr. P.S. Chandramohan Nair, Secretary; Er. Muralee Mohan Lal, Chairman; Er. K.G. Satheesh Kumar, Vice-Chairman and Er. I.N. Sunil Kumar, Treasurer.

Kerala Section is regularly conducting every Wednesday a Technical Talk of current importance in association with other professional bodies like The Institution of Engineers (India), Institution of Electronics & Telecommunication Engineers and Computer Society of India. This unique cooperation between professional engineering societies can be considered as a role model for the whole of the world. Some of the notable talks presented this year are

1. Electronic Identification system - Emerging Trends
2. R & D Culture for survival in new millennium, both by Mr. N.T. Nair
3. Strategic Perspectives of Demand Side Management
4. Power System State Estimation of Electrical Energy both by Dr. Willy Kotiuga
5. Computer Applications in Power Distribution Management by Mr. Sebastian V. Kurien

Some of the major events already conducted this year are :

1. I.T. Show '99 (an exhibition on the latest trends in information technology)
2. National Seminar on Distributed Computing : Emerging Technologies and Applications (DISCOM '99)
3. Special invited lecture by Mr. Sam Petroda on "Technology in the next millennium"
4. Lecture by Dr. Madanmohan Rao on "E-Commerce: Realities and opportunities for India".

We are Co-sponsoring the National Seminar on "Power Options for the Future - Problems & Prospects", to be held at Trivandrum during December 14-16, 1999.

Hosting a Heritage

The Kerala Section is proud to host the Annual Convention and Exhibition of IEEE India council this year (ACE '99). What you can expect from ACE '99 participation is briefly given below :

Scope:

The focus of the conference is on state of the art information system infrastructure and enabling technologies. Topics include, but not limited to the following areas:

E-Commerce

- o Digital Currency
- o Enterprise commerce
- o EDI
- o Security
- o Legislation
- o Performance & Reliability

Networking

- o Intelligent agent
- o Web based education

- o Community Health Care
- o Electronic Governance
- o Remote monitoring and control
- o Serial impacts

Pre-Conference Tutorial:

Pre-conference tutorials on the related areas associated with the theme of the conference will be held on 2nd December 1999. The tutorials will be highly beneficial to practicing professionals, information scientists and students. The number of participants per tutorial is limited to 25, on first come first served basis. Two topics for the seminar are:

- o 1. Java Programming
- o 2. E-Commerce

For further details Mr. N.A.P. Thampi Chairman (Tutorials) may be contacted.

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DR. SHANKARA K. PRASAD

DR. SHANKARA K. PRASAD WINS IEEE MAJOR EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION AWARD 1998

Dr. Shankara Prasad received the prestigious IEEE Major Education Innovation award for the year 1998. This award was given for innovation in the delivery methods of VLSI Packaging Education. IEEE, through this award recognizes APT's contribution in developing a comprehensive and powerful training methodology for training professionals in the semiconductor industry.

IEEE established The Major Educational Innovation Award in 1984. This award conferred by the Educational Activities Board of the IEEE recognises individuals who have distinguished themselves for outstanding educational innovation in a field of interest of the IEEE. APT won the award for its innovative training and teaching methodology. APT's interactive multimedia education methodology uses real life industrial experiences with basic science to explain complex technological issues. This is integrated with dynamic animations, graphics and voice, explaining critical microelectronic issues in design, manufacturing, quality and reliability.

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COMMENTS

I was particularly impressed by the comprehensive way that you have covered Wirebonding Process in your CD-ROM. Elizabeth Fillippo (Managing Editor, Advanced Packaging)

"It was easy and pleasurable to use..... Music is good too Graphics are great ! You must have an army of programmers at your finger tips.....". "....This CD should be a must for all Educational

Institutions". - Steve Lerner (Managing Director, CS2, Belgium)

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A Book you would not like to miss

Issues In TELECOM DE-MONOPOLISATION In India

Dr. T. H. CHOWDARY

Information Technology Advisor to Government of Andhra Pradesh, and
Director of the Center for Telecom Management & Studies, Hyderabad

Pages 170; Price Rs. 100/-

Foreword by Sri. N. Vittal, IAS

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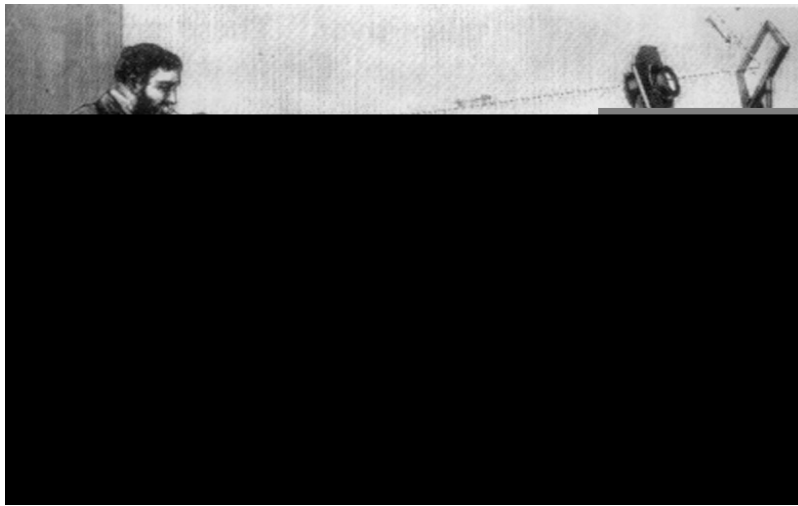
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TECHNOLOGY CORNER

Hooking up Wirelessly

Just as we were all getting used to being part of the wired generation, everything's coming unplugged. People are throwing away their cables and connectors and hooking up wirelessly. Satellites are transmitting signals around the globe via new networks of orbiting stations. Cell phones, once so bulky you had to carry them in the trunk of your car, are blossoming on the hips of high schoolers and in the shirt pockets of executives. Airlines have to warn their passengers not to use handheld devices during takeoff and landing. Traveling sales reps, asked for their business cards, may wave a Palm Pilot as soon as hand over a slip of cardboard. While many devices operate at radio frequencies, another technology is rapidly taking hold-optical free-space communication. A wide range of possibilities in this new wireless world and how the world of optoelectronics fits into it are the concerns of today.

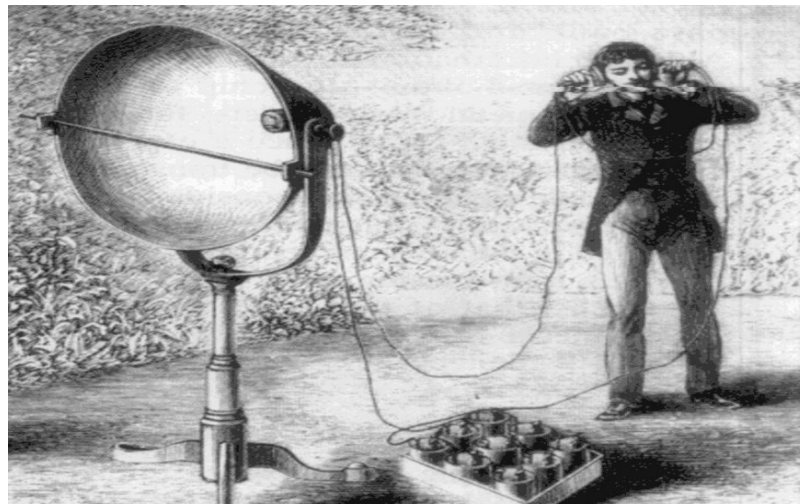
The phrase "wireless optoelectronic communication" may have a modern ring to it, but in fact the technology is more than a century old. In 1881, a few years after inventing the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell built what he called a "photophone", a device that transmitted a voice signal over a beam of sunlight (see Fig. 1). Making use of a mirror as a diaphragm to modulate light when struck by sound-and perhaps praying for fair weather as well-Bell directed the signal-carrying beam to a detector made of selenium. Because the electrical resistance of selenium varies with the amount of light it receives, Bell had only to send a current through his detector and hook it to a telephone receiver to hear the outcome of the first wireless optoelectronic communication.



In 1880, the world's entire workforce in wireless optoelectronic communications consisted of these two men, Alexander Graham Bell (above) and his assistant, Charles Sumner Tainter (below). Here they test Bell's photophone, a device that carries a signal on a beam of sunlight.

(Adapted from Laser Focus World May 1999)

For more details visit : www.optoelectronics-world.com



The principle of transmitting a signal over a beam of light remains the same today. A wireless-or free-space-optoelectronic link must modulate light, transmit it, and detect it. But the techniques have grown in sophistication: analog transmission has in most cases given way to digital, and some of the more-advanced free-space laser links are sensitive to even a small number of photons. The advent of the laser makes possible data transmission over many thousands of kilometers. Even so, Bell-as long as he avoided looking "under the hood"-would no doubt have claimed these modern communications tools as the descendents of his photophone.

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THINK IT OVER

"Not one of us can bring back yesterday or shape tomorrow. Only today is ours, and it will not be ours for long; and once it is gone, it will never in all time be ours again"

- Frederick Buechner in the book "The Hungering Dark"

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ACE'99

ACE'99

Trivandrum,
2-4 Dec. 1999

Theme: Intelligent Networking

Contact: Koruthu P. Varughese ieeek@vsnl.com

Papers on the above topic in IEEE format are invited for presentation in the conference. They should be typed in double space, on A4 size paper and limited to 15 pages including images, charts and figures. Papers must be submitted in duplicate along with an MS-Word electronic copy in floppy or by e-mail. Times New Roman font size may please be maintained for the paper. Title 14 bold, subtitles 12 bold, remaining matter 12 normal.

Email: ieeek@vsnl.com

Last Date:

Completed papers including electronic copy may be sent to Er. Koruthu P. Varughese, Chairman (Organizing Committee) on or before 1st October 1999.

Exhibition:

A two-day exhibition is also planned along with the conference. This being a major event of IEEE in India, a large number of professionals from prestigious Institutions are expected to participate.

For further details Er. K.G. Satheesh Kumar, Chairman (Exhibition) committee may be contacted.

Er. Muralee Mohan Lal
Chairman

Dr. P. S. Chandramohan Nair
Secretary

KERALA SECTION

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CIT 99

Conference on Information Technology

Bhuwaneswar.

20 - 22 December 1999

Organised by Orissa Information Technology Society (OITS) with
Information Technology Association of Orissa (ITAO)

For details visit website: www.oits.org/icit99

Contact: Rabi N. Mahapatra at rabi@cs.tamu.edu

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PES-2000

2000 PES Winter Meeting

Call for Papers

Abstract deadline : 1 July 1999

Meeting location : Singapore
Meeting dates : 23-27 January 2000
For more information, refer to the PES
Web site: <http://www.ieee.org/power>

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EDITORIAL

Technological Change and the Indian EE Professionals

Technological change is the hallmark of present day, day - to -day activities in the world. In early eighties, a british science writer wrote an introduction to his book entitled 'Science in Society' that "tomorrow is cancelled". The change is so fast that the Society is unable to discuss and decide whether or not they should accept the new technology or not, he lamented. The speed with which the technology has changed during the one and a half decade that followed after this book is unimaginably fast. We professionals are looked upon by the general public to unpackage the technology conundrums and make this already happened technology changes palatable and understandable even to the lowliest in the society. Our Sections and Chapters are working hard to make such changes understandable to the professionals who are lined up under the banner of the Institute. Sometimes 'neighbours' are also educated. But, is it not our duty to educate the less technologically oriented also in understanding the meaning and significance of the ever expanding horizon of technical literacy. I think, it is also more important in proper investment decisions in all sections and sectors of economy in all the developing countries and especially in India. Can we collectively plan in addition to our regular professional get togethers, some programmes aimed at unpackaging the technology for the laymen? It is a challenge to our technical teeth. Can we do it? - starting from the last year of this passing century?

Regards,

Trivandrum V. K. Damodaran
03 Aug.. 1999 Editor



E-mail : ykd@ieee.org

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Your feedback is important !

- o *e mail:* algolog@hd1.vsnl.net.in
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