IEEE THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS, INC

Chairman's Message

Friends,

Multitasking, once considered as a special capability of some people, is now under a cloud, as per some new studies. In the fast changing world of today, there are heavy demands on our time to get many things done as in a parallel computer. Multitasking, as it is called, refers to the human attempt to do simultaneously as many things as possible, as quickly as possible, many a time making use of the power of as many technologies as possible.

The present generation is unique in several ways, intelligent, but highly impatient, unsatisfied with slowness and uncomfortable with silence, at the same time with great technical facility available at finger tips. They try to circumvent the limitations by resorting to multitasking. One commonly practised multitasking activity is of using cell phones while driving, to the detriment of many.

But of late, multitasking is being questioned as to whether it is the preferred way. In 2005, a research study, funded by HP and conducted by the Institute of Psychiatry at the Univ. of London has reported thus: 'Workers distracted by e-mail and phone calls suffer a fall in IQ more than twice that found in marijuana smokers.'

The words of *Christine Rosen*, a senior editor, add credence to this view: 'When people do their work only in the "interstices of their mind-wandering," with crumbs of attention rationed out among many competing tasks, their culture may gain in information, but will surely weaken in wisdom.'

Now to IEEE matters:

Sections Congress 2008 is the next major event of IEEE, to be conducted from 19-22 Sep.'08 at Quebec, Canada, where volunteers from world over will congregate and deliberate on ways to carry IEEE to still higher levels for the benefit of members and also the society.

Congratulations to Nitin Shah of MES College of Engineering, under Kerala Section, for winning the coveted Larry K. Wilson Award, 2008.

It is election time in IEEE with special relevance to members in India, as the choice of the next leader for the Region 10, to which India belongs, has to be made now. R. Muralidharan, a veteran volunteer of IEEE movement in India and Lawrence Wong from Singapore are in contest for R10 Director-elect 2009-'10.

IEEE India is now in the forefront of Asia – Pacific countries in many respects and is poised to emerge as a formidable force at the global level, for which our representation and voice at decision making fora is a must.

It is my appeal that the next action of every eligible member after reading this should be to cast his votes, if not already done.

With warm regards,

N. T. Nair

10 August '08   Chairman, IEEE India Council

ntnair@ieee.org

Nitin Shah of Kerala Section

Bags Larry K Wilson award 2008

Nitin Shah (nithin.sha@gmail.com) **of MES College of Engineering, under Kerala Section**, has been declared as this year's winner of the coveted Larry K. Wilson Award. Congratulations!

We are all aware, that the prestigious Larry K. Wilson award is given to a student who has significantly contributed to IEEE student activities in our Region, Section, Student Branch or Student Branch Chapter. The winner will receive an Award Plaque and three years of free IEEE membership.

For 2008, there were a record 12 nominations, which were evaluated by an international team of experts and they have come to this selection.

Prof. Mini S. Thomas, the R 10 SAC Chair, who announced the Award stated that the winner this year has his outstanding contributions to the ongoing LINK project, of the student branch, Section, Branch Chapter and Region. A special mention and certificate goes to Timothy Wong (timothy.wong@ieee.org) of University of Western Australia Student Branch/ Section for his outstanding contributions to the student branch, website and other competitions.

Based on Award declaration by **Prof. Mini S. Thomas**

R 10 Student Paper Contest '08
Gujarat Section made India Proud again!

Student Members have made Gujarat Section proud again. The **first prize** in **R10 Student Paper Contest 2008** is for the paper submitted by **Abhishek Singh and Padmini Jaikumar** of **DA-IICT** student branch under Gujarat Section, entitled "A sampling re sampling based bayesian learning approach for object tracking".

This is an annual contest organized by R10 at region level for PG and UG student members. This year there were 11 contestants in UG (3 from Singapore, 1 from HK, 1 from Bangladesh, 6 from India (3 from Gujarat and 3 from Delhi Sections) and 9 in PG (2 from HK, 3 from Singapore, 1 from Japan, 1 from Malaysia and 2 from Korea).

India Council is proud of this distinction and requests all our readers to congratulate Abhishek and Padmini. Congratulations are due to Dr. Anil Roy, Gujarat Section Chair and the DA-IICT Branch Counsellor and other mentors.

Editorial Board

Prof. V. K. Damodaran	Editor
Er. J. Muraleemohan Lal	Member
Er. K. G. Satheesh Kumar	Member

Visit
http:/ www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/india_council

"There are risks and costs to a program of **action**. But they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction." -*John Fitzgerald Kennedy*

From India Council Secretary

The most important message this month is simple and straight forward:

VOTE !   VOTE RIGHT NOW !!

IEEE in India is the largest outside the USA. Yet IEEE members in India have little voice or role in deciding the course of IEEE even in our region not to speak of the larger worldwide organizations. With much lesser membership than us, countries even in our neighbourhood take greater interest in IEEE affairs. How long can we afford to stay away like this? How long can we be satisfied with just membership?

The most important duty of a member is to exercise the right to vote and thus play a role in deciding how the organization should be run.

How does one vote? It is extremely simple.

A member with a web account can vote in less than a minute by visiting: https://www.directvote.net/ieee.

If the member does not have a web account, it can be created in less than 3 minutes at: http://www.ieee.org/web/aboutus/help/task/my_account/web_account.html.

So do not delay your vote any further. Vote today itself! Your vote could make the difference. Quite possibly, you may have already voted. Please accept our appreciation for your prompt show of responsibility towards your fellow members and the IEEE.

If you have any question, please send an email to ieeeindia@gmail.com

Cheers!

K G Satheesh Kumar
Secretary, IEEE India Council
k.g.kumar@ieee.org

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Next Generation Grid

Focused on Power Systems Operation, Planning, Policy, Markets, Analysis and Control

The 2009 IEEE PES Power Systems Conference & Exhibition (PSCE) will bring together an international group of practicing power systems engineers, operators, planners, policy makers, economists, academics and others with interest in the profession.

Super Sessions on:

- System-Wide Events and Analysis Methods
- Integrating Wind Energy
- Emerging Software Needs for the Restructured Grid
- Control System Robustness Today and in the Future
- The Smart Grid and the Internet

Authors Kit available at the PES web site (www.ieee.org/power).

Important news from HQ

A Good Move to look for

Here is a message from HQ of IEEE (to the Chair and Secretary of IC) after the Indian Council's meeting in Chennai with the IEEE President's India Focus mission which visited five Sections under the IC. The membership payment problem was one among the nearly a dozen issues discussed with them:

"We are working on how best to handle a request for members in India to pay their IEEE dues in their local currency.

One of the solutions that we are working on will require that local Sections and Council in India have a Concentration Banking Card.

We have created a card for the IEEE India Council and will appreciate you confirming the proper address for mailing before we mail it. Your prompt response will be appreciated.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,
Monika

Changes Made to Fellow Program

By Kathy Kowalenko

Actions taken by the IEEE Fellow Committee and the IEEE Board of Directors' Fellow Ad-Hoc Committee have resulted in these modifications to the Fellow program:

The size of the Fellow Committee was expanded from 31 to 52 members to handle what has been in recent years an increase in the number of nominations. Nominations have risen by 60 percent since 2001.

Because there are few Fellows in Region 9 (Latin America), the requirement that references must be IEEE Fellows was waived for nominees from this region. References can now be a Region 9 IEEE senior or life senior member.

Endorsements will now be sent along with the nomination forms to the society or council evaluating the nominee. Endorsements, which are optional, may come from members and nonmembers and provide additional information to support the nomination.

The deadline to submit nominations for the class of 2010 is 1 March 2009.

For more information, go to http://www.ieee.org/fellow.

CISSE 2008

CISSE 2008 provides a virtual forum for presentation and discussion of the state-of the-art research on computers, information and systems sciences and engineering. Prospective authors are invited to submit full papers electronically in Microsoft Word format through the website of the conference at http://www.cisse2008online.org. Accepted papers must be presented in the virtual conference by one of the authors. To submit your paper, please visit http://www.cisse2008online.org

"Information is power when it's acted upon." - *Tony Robbins*

IEEE Annual Elections 2008

Ballot Electronic Access:
https://www.directvote.net/ieee/

Election Website:
http://www.ieee.org/elections

Election deadline:
12:00 noon Central Time USA (17:00 GMT)
on 1 October 2008

IEEE CASCAL'08

Theme:

Advances on VLSI Circuits, Nano Devices
&
Communication Systems

Friday, 22 August 2008 : 10 am to 5 pm

Venue:

Jadavpur University Campus
Kolkata - 700 032

Participation on Pre-Registration Basis only

60 Participants only on First-come First-serve Basis

Confirm Pre-Registration by email to

pvwn@ieee.org

State your Name, Affiliation, Contact Details and
IEEE Membership Number (if a Member of IEEE)

Quote **CASCAL'08** in the subject field

Pre-Registration Cut-off: **19 August '08**

For Further Details,

Contact:

Prof. R. Nandi, Chair

IEEE Circuits And Systems (CAS) Society of
Calcutta Chapter

Email: robnon@ieee.org

Tel.: (033) 2414 6006

Fax.: (033) 2412 7905

A very effective NDLP at TKM IT

Report of Echelon '08

The IEEE student branch of TKM Institute of Technology, Kollam, Kerala, organized a National Distinguished Lecturer Program as Echelon'08, on 24 July 2008. The event was aimed to provide all the delegates, an opportunity to know more about some relevant topics. The event was conducted in 3 sessions, two in the morning and a workshop session in the afternoon.

The Inauguration of the Echelon'08 was done by Mr. Amarnath Raja, Chairman of the IEEE Kerala section. Dr. M. C. Philipose, Principal, TKMIT, Mrs. Sunitha Beevi, Branch Counselor, Mr. Sarath Raj, IEEE in charge of TKMIT and a lot of senior faculties attended the inaugural ceremony.

The Inaugural ceremony was followed by a lecture of Mr. Amarnath Raja on the topic "Networking using Linux". The talk was a very informative one and had a very good interactive session. In the next session, a talk on the topic "Latest Trends in Animation" by Mr. Jaison Jaisy followed – again an interesting ession.

The afternoon workshop was on the topic "Matlab Programming" by Dr.Imthias Ahammed, Faculty, TKMCE. The session was a very practical one and also an interactive one.

The novelty was mainly because of the nature of participation. Ninety delegates from different colleges registered and attended the event. The colleges participated in the Echelon'08 are

1. SJCET, Palai, 2. College of Engg., Chenganoor, 3. College of Engg., Adoor, 4. Marian Engg. College, Trivandrum, 5. Younus Engg. College, Kollam.

Report from: **Leo K. Yohan**
Chairman
IEEE SB, TKMIT
leokyohan@ieee.org

Technology News

Storing Solar Energy for Night Use

Sunlight has the greatest potential to solve the world's energy problems by generating clean, carbon-free energy on a massive scale. In one hour, enough sunlight strikes the Earth to provide the entire planet's energy needs for one year.But the main bottleneck is that solar power has so far been a daytime-only energy source,because storing extra solar energy for use at night when sun is not shining, is prohibitively expensive and also inefficient. Now a team of researchers led by Prof. Daniel Nocera of MIT has hit upon a simple, inexpensive, highly efficient process for storing solar energy.They have developed a new catalyst that produces oxygen from water and another catalyst produces valuable hydrogen for running fuel cells to generate electricity, without producing the greenhouse gases.The catalyst consists of cobalt metal, phosphate and an electrode, placed in water. It produces oxygen from water by using 90 % less electricity than current methods, which use the costly metal platinum. When electricity - whether from a photovoltaic cell, a wind turbine or any other source - runs through the electrode, the cobalt and phosphate form a thin film on the electrode, and oxygen is produced. Combined with another catalyst, such as platinum, hydrogen is also produced from water. The oxygen and hydrogen can be banked for use in fuel cells at night. The new catalyst works at room temperature, in neutral pH water, and it is easy to set up,Nocera said.

[For details: http://web.mit.edu]

"Laughter is an instant vacation" - *Merlin Berke*

Editorial

How to cope with it?

IEEE has re-affirmed its commitment for the professions under its umbrella, to be socially responsible, more than ever, in this technologically complex world of the first leg of the 21st century. Under the newly defined mission statement and well worded core values of the Institute, the highest priority has been given to this specific task or the innate nature of all work to be carried out by professionals. In the coming years, technologies to compensate for the inadequacies of performance, resources, skilled manpower and predominance of hazardous work environment, transportation bottle necks and energy shortages will be very much on the horizon of development planning and achievement of targets. Decision makers will increasingly demand "a pound of flesh" from the professionals in the days to come.

How to cope with such widened demands on the profession, will need to have serious search for ways to cope with such pressures. In spite of the better salaries available for young professionals in the emerging areas of knowledge industry, the strains of tensions are already surfacing.

Social responsibility is thus the guiding light for the young professionals of today and tomorrow. It is the framework within which a professional has to chart a way forward for himself, his organization, his country and for all at large. With millions of professionals coming out from the portals of educational institutions, there is still going to be a shortage of manpower - experts who would measure up to the requirements - and we will increasingly find even senior citizens with professional experience will be called upon to work in select areas of activity. Let us get ready for this cultural change, thro' collective learning under the IEEE banner.

Trivandrum

10.08.2008

Prof. V. K. Damodaran
Editor
vkd@ieee.org

Quotes

"The only measure of what you believe is what you do. If you want to know what people believe, don't read what they write, don't ask them what they believe, just observe what they do."

- Ashley Montagu

'In every work of genius we recognize our own rejected thoughts; they come back to us with a certain alienated majesty.'

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

'And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.'

-Abraham Lincoln

"The man who has done nothing but wait for his ship to come in has already missed the boat."

- Anon

If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.

- Henry David Thoreau

Too many people overvalue what they are not and undervalue what they are.

- Malcolm Forbes

To

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AUGUST 2008

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