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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Another Feather

As we were approaching closer to ACE-99, all portents pointed towards a highly successful conference. The list of eminent speakers, the excellent program and the scheduled presence of President Kenneth Laker at the valedictory function indicated that the hard work and sincerity of the IEEE volunteer - officers in Thiruvananthapuram is bearing fruits.

At this very time we were informed that Regional Activities Board of IEEE has selected the India Council's Page Master as the 1999 recipient of the RAB Achievement Award. Dr.S.Parthasarathy designed the IC web-site with highly limited resources, when web designing had not become as ubiquitous in India as it is today. Dr Parthasarthy is an eminent Automation Engineer whose services have been utilized by United Nations for advice on automation by Chinese Railways. During this year he had provided consultancy services to European Railways. In fact for the last many months up to Sept 1999 he regularly updated the IC web-site while he was based in Germany. I had mentioned about his excellent contribution to IC many times during the year in my column in this Bulletin. I therefore feel particularly happy that RAB has recognized his outstanding contribution.

Dr Parthasarthy's honorary services will be available to India Council's web-site upto 31st Dec 1999. During the new millennium we shall have to find some other IEEE member who agrees to donate his valuable time in the interest of helping build a strong platform for professionals in our field.

Such platforms are an integral part of the processes of using technological innovations for generation of wealth. We also need volunteer - officers for taking up organizational work so that technical activities of IEEE can be regularly conducted in new areas and cities.

I therefore invite members to come forward to work for IEEE in India. More is the number of professionals, who devote a few hours per week for IEEE, stronger and more useful to India will become the platform.

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



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PAGEMASTER CALLING !

The work is the reward

In this issue of the Bulletin, there are announcements by the present Chairman as well as the earlier Chair of the India Council concerning the recognition accorded by IEEE HQ to your Pagemaster. It is indeed a matter of rejoicing and pride. But, in my opinion, I received the real award about two years ago, when Dr. Bagga entrusted the work of hoisting IEEE India Council on the web, to me. It was a gesture of confidence and trust. It was an act of great courage and foresight which only persons of the stature of Dr. Bagga could take up.

The great Tamil sage, Tiruvalluvar said*:

*Assured this man will do this task this way,
Leave it to him.*

Being given an opportunity to work, is the greatest reward any worker can get. I feel lucky, that someone found me worthy of such an opportunity. I thank Dr. Bagga for giving me this opportunity. I thank all others who have supported me in my work as your Pagemaster.

(*Note: Translation of verse #517 of Tirukkural, quoted from P.S. Sundaram's "Tiruvalluvar -- The Kural". Pub. Penguin Books)

S. Parthasarathy
Pagemaster -- India Council

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WELCOME TO KERALA



Kenneth R Laker
President, IEEE

Kenneth R Laker, President of the largest International Professional Forum, IEEE, with HQ in New York, is arriving Thiruvananthapuram to grace the ACE 99 function and deliver the Valedictory Address of this Silver Jubilee event of India Council.

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ACE 99 Opened



some picture here 250Hx400W

At the inauguration of ACE 99:
L to R: Koruthu P. Varughese (Organising Chair), NAP
Thampy (Tutorial Chair), Minister, J. Muraleemohan
Lal (Kerala Section Chair), N. Chandrasekharan
(Keynote speaker) & V. K. Damodaran who presided.

The Annual Convention and Exhibition (Acronymed ACE) of 1999 of the IEEE India Council which happily is the 25th, was opened in a colourful function at the Amphitheatre of Electronic Research and Development Centre, Trivandrum at 5.30 PM on 02 December 1999 by Shri. P. J. Joseph, Minister for Education and Works, Kerala. In the absence of IC Chairman Dr. A. K Aggarwal, Prof. V. K. Damodaran, Member IC, presided over the historic function.

Shri. P. J. Joseph dwelled deep into the significance of the theme of the Conference viz. Intelligent Networking and reflected on the implications of the frontier technologies in the field of pedagogy, research, quality of life etc. and exhorted the engineers under the banner of IEEE to do science and technology in the days to come, for meeting the spiralling expectations of the masses. He predicted that the next millennium may need only lesser number of teachers and class rooms, but astounding strides in the area of distance learning are quite possible. The changes that are going to take place in the beginning of the next millenium in the arena of trade is mind boggling and is of great consequence to the less developed countries, he reminded. The Minister also wanted the professionals under the IEEE to be of help to the governments in developing countries to sort out issues related to Information Technology applications for increasing productivity, social welfare and better wealth creation. India, he was sure, has enormous intellectual capital in this field and therefore he requested the professionals to invest them in nation building at this crucial juncture. Prof. V K Damodaran, in his presidential address, conveyed the regrets from the IC Chairman for his inability to reach Trivandrum and read out an e-mail message prepared by the Chairman, who traced the history of IEEE's growth, ever since eminent men like Edison and Graham Bell instituted this globally acclaimed and acknowledged professional society. The message also stated that the Mission of India Council is to see that our engineers contribute in an equal measure to the generation of new knowledge, to the design of new products and to the technological developments in the world. It is not an easy task. But, we shall not be able to generate wealth for our society otherwise, he added. Prof. Damodaran further told the audience that the theme Intelligent Networking is in furtherance of the IEEE slogan `Networking the World'. Intelligent Networking should make it possible to make networking more efficient and economical and time effective in meeting the needs and the ever increasing aspirations of the people. Technologists have the responsibility of helping to meet such needs in the most effective way.

Er. Sathish Babu of CSI, Er. N M Kumar of IETE and Er.R P Nair of Institution of Engineers (India), as representatives of the sister professional Societies, offered felicitations. Er. Koruthu P. Varughese, Chairman, Organising Committee presented the highlights of the Conference. Er. Muraleemohan Lal, Kerala Section Chair, welcomed the invitees and the gathering. Prof. N. Chandrasekharan, Director, C-DAC, Bangalore gave the key note on Technology Indian Options in e-Business, e- Commerce and e-Governance . He took the audience to a new height with his excellent presentation. Dr. P.S. Chandra mohanan Nair, Secretary, Kerala Section proposed Vote of Thanks. Earlier in the day, two tutorials on Java and E-Commerce were conducted, which were very well attended. On the Second day, the proceedings were held at Technopark. The Executive Vice-Chairman of IC Committee Er. P.K.Srivastava and Vice Chair (Professional Activities) Er. R. Muralidharan joined the conference. A number of contributed and invited papers are being presented. The Valedictory address of ACE 99 is expected to be given by the IEEE President Dr. Kenneth R Laker. Detailed report on the AGM and the conference will be covered in the next issue of Bulletin. Editor

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PARTHA WINS RAB AWARD

Dr. S. Parthasarathy has been chosen for the IEEE Regional Activities Board Achievement Award 1999. The award consists of a plaque, which carries the following citation :

For outstanding achievement by providing an excellent web site for the IEEE India Council and other Indian Sections, for sharing views on technical, educational and professional areas of interest to IEEE, thereby promoting IEEE Membership.

Dr. S. Parthasarathy is a reputed Consultant specialising in safety-critical systems, particularly as applicable to railways automation.. He holds a Doctorate in Automation from a reputed research institution of France. Till recently he was in Germany, working on projects related to the European Railways. Earlier he had worked on behalf of the UN, on an automation project of the Chinese Railways. He has also contributed to the Safety Review Committee of the Indian Railways. He is also on the Editorial Board of an international research journal devoted to Artificial Intelligence. Dr. Parthasarathy is a Senior Member of IEEE (USA) and a Fellow of IETE (India).

- R. K. Bagga

Congratulations, Partha ! -Editor

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M. V. Chauhan Student Paper Contest 1999

This contest is organized in memory of Mr. M. V. Chauhan, Past Region 10 Director, who left us on April 10, 1991. He was instrumental in giving a big thrust to the Students activities in the IEEE. During his period, both the Madras Section and the Region 10, with twenty-two and one hundred Student Branches respectively, occupied the first position in the world.

The first Contest was held in August 1992. In addition to three prizes of Rs. 2500, 1500 and 1000, the first prize winner is invited to present his/her paper at the Annual Convention and Exhibition (ACE) of the IEEE India Council.

For the Contest this year, thirty-one papers from twelve Institutions were received. Three Professors evaluated each Paper. Though all the participants were under-graduate students, the quality of the work was excellent, in general. As many papers of very high quality couldn't be included for prizes, the judges have, in addition, recommended five papers for Merit Certificates.

The Students' Activities Committee of the IEEE India Council congratulates authors of the prize-winning papers and the winners of Merit Certificates. We thank all the participants for their excellent efforts and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

The contest could not have succeeded without the efforts and encouragement of various officials of the IEEE. Special thanks are due to the Counselors of the IEEE Students Branches and administrative officials of the participating Institutes.

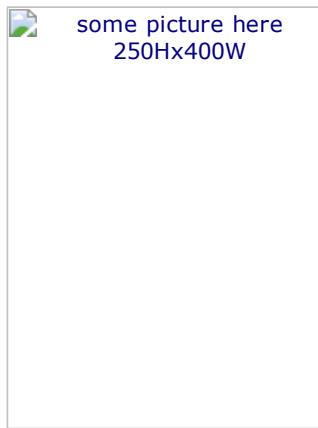
Prize winning papers are : First Prize : Effective Image Compression Using Wavelet Packet Trees . by Mr. Balajee, Ms. Kripa Ramachander and Ms. Swathi Gopal (Thiagrajar College of Engineering, Madurai) Second Prize : Development of A Software for Calculation on Induction Motor (Single Cage) Through Circle Diagram by Mr. Ritaban Dutta (Jadavpur University, Calcutta) Third Prize : Wavelet Visible Difference Predictor by Mr. V. Mahesh & Mr. Vivekanand K. (Institute of Technology, BHU, Varanasi) Five papers selected for awarding Merit Certificates are :

1. Navigational Planning of Mobile robots Using Genetic Algorithms Saibal Mukhopadhyay and Rajarshi Mukherjee (Jadavpur University)
2. Frequency Assignment in Cellular Net Using Simulated Annealing Ms. Sudipta Das (Jadavpur University)
3. Fuzzy Logic Implementation on Early Detection of Cancer Using Photoplethysmography S. Mahesh Anand & R. Sivaramkrishnan (PSNA College of Engg. & Technology Dindigul)
4. Recognition of Occlusion a Digital Approach Bonny Banerjee (Jadavpur University)
5. Intelligent Algorithms A Human approach Anupam Chattopadhyay (Jadavpur University)

Prof. Suresh C. Gupta Chairman, SAC IEEE India Council

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1999 OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD TO S. GOPAKUMAR



S. Gopakumar, former Chair of Kerala Section

Er. S. Gopakumar, former Chair of Kerala Section has been awarded recognition for outstanding service in Kerala Section since 1984. For achieving increased interaction with sister professional societies in Trivandrum CSI, IE and IETE and contributing to :

1. Two successful joint seminars with CSI 1998/1999
2. Formation of new Society chapter - Power Engineering in Kerala Section 1998/1999
3. Computerisation of Section Accounts from 1994 onwards.
4. Successfully maintaining the Section mailing list since 1992
5. Set up Section Internet connection, Email, and a Section Web Page.
6. As course co-ordinator organised number of Educational programs C, C++, VC++, Multimedia, Unix.
7. Organising a large number of technical talks.

- Editor

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MILLENNIUM ELECTRICITY TARIFF

Serial Seminars at Baroda

IEEE Power Engineering Society (India Council) hosted TWO Seminars on Millennium Electricity Tariff at Baroda. The first Seminar was held on 18.9.99 under the chairmanship of Retd. Justice D. G. Karia, Chairman, Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission at Baroda. The Seminar was inaugurated by Shri. Kaushikbhai Patel, Minister of Energy Gujarat State and GEB Chairman Shri. Nalin Bhatta was the Guest of Honour at the Seminar. Nearly 200 delegates from the business and industry sector and also from the elite class of people of the society attended. Many important matters relating to the increasing cost of electricity in Gujarat were figured and discussed. The 2nd and the concluding part of the Seminar was again held on 2.10.1999 where the GEB Chairman Shri. Nalin Bhatt and the Hon'ble Energy Minister of the State Shri Kaushikbhai Patel were present and replied to the queries raised at the 1st Seminar and also from the floor of the 2nd Seminar. Electricity is being supplied to the consumers in Gujarat State at the highest cost not only in the country, but perhaps in whole of the world. As this is of great concern to all the people, the Society is giving wide coverage to the issues. Hasmukh Shah Chairman, PES (IC)

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Distinguished Lecture by Prof. Rangachar Kasturi

Prof Rangachar Kasturi, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the Pennsylvania State University, USA, delivered a lecture entitled 'Video Segmentation for Indexing : Methods and their Performance Evaluation' at the Electrical Engineering seminar hall at IIT, Bombay on the 26th Oct as a part of the Tata Infotech distinguished lecture series. The lecture was attended by the Tata Infotech personnel as well as the student and research community in IIT. Prof Kasturi talked about the work done in the area of Video segmentation at the Pennsylvania state university in the last five years. This included a project done for NASA, in which a system was developed for an artificially generated view for pilots flying supersonic passenger aircrafts. The reason for developing such a system is that the nose of a supersonic aircraft is very long and it obstructs the pilot's view. Prof. Kasturi also touched upon the various techniques used for detecting scene changes in video and other methods for identifying key frames. These key frames are used in the indexing of video.

- Vidyesh S. Nabar

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STUDENTS PLEASE TAKE UP THIS CHALLENGE !

The IEEE Computer Society announces the First annual Computer Society International Design Competition (CSIDC). CSIDC 2000 will challenge undergraduate student teams worldwide to design a special purpose computer device. The primary goal of the contest is to advance excellence in computer design education. The prizes for the winners will range from \$25,000 for first place to \$2,000 for fifth place.

To know more about this CSIDC2000 please visit : computer.org/csdc

The SAC's may visit the site and give a detailed guidance to as many students branches as possible.

A. K. Aggarwal
Chairman, IC

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International conference on
Affordable Telecom and IT solutions for Developing countries
February 28 March 2, 2000

Being the unique conference of this millennium, it has already evoked good response from various international and national organisations. IEEE has already come forward to cosponsor the conference.

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ADCOM' 99

Advance Conference Program
7th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON
ADVANCED COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS
Dept. Of Electronics & Computer Engineering
University of Roorkee, Roorkee 247667, India
20-22 December, 1999

Organized by:
Advanced Computing and Communications Society (ACS)
University of Roorkee, Roorkee, India

Cosponsored by:
IEEE Computer Society, USA
Hughes Software Systems, India
Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, India
HCL Technologies, India
IBM Solutions Research Center, India
Defence Research & Development Organisation, India
SGI, India
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Professor of Computing
Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering
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ECCAP 2000

International Conference on
Evolutionary Computing for
Computer, Communication, Control And Power
4-7 January 2000
at Chennai

Organised by
Crescent Engineering College
Chennai 600 048

Sponsored by
Anna University
IEEE Madras chapter
Central Leather Research Institute
Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam

4 Pre Conference Tutorials are also offered

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Web : www.preciousmicrotech.com/eccap

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ACE 2000

ACE 2000
15 to 17 December 2000
at
MUMBAI
Theme: Software Challenges Ahead
Contact:
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Bombay Section of IEEE
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ICC - 2000

ICC - 2000

International Computing Contest 2000, is being held on January 16, 2000 in various cities in India and abroad.

Please visit our website iccs.8m.com for details .

Narayen Ugar
Contest Director

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WISE AND OTHERWISE

The pessimist finds difficulty in every opportunity; the optimist finds opportunity in every difficulty.
- L P Jacks

Be better than competition; and if you cannot be better, be different.
- Japanese paradigm.

Never give in, never, never, never, never.
- Winston Churchil

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EDITORIAL

Mega Event is On

The mega event is on at Trivandrum and is progressing very successfully, when I go to press this evening. The Silver jubilee event of India Council of IEEE was well planned, but due to some unexpected political turmoil, there was virtual vehicle bandh in Kerala on the day of opening on the 2nd. But, to the surprise of the organisers and partly due to their strategic planning, an alternative venue in the city could be fixed and a houseful of participants could attend the entire sessions on the day, unhampered by the inconveniences they had when they landed in the city. The next ACE is going to happen in Mumbai, under the able leadership of R. Muralidharan, the Section Chair. Let us wish that the ACE 99 will be outsmarted by the ACE 2000. We can line up a host of technical events right from January to make the concluding event of the year have a taller, tall pedestal. Regards,

Thiruvananthapuram V. K. Damodaran
03 Dec. 1999 Editor



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Your feedback is important!

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