



Chairman's Message



Friends,

This writing is inspired by a reference made by 2009 IEEE President & CEO, John Vig during the recent Reg.10 meeting at Gujarat, indicating his plans to start a "life sciences" activity under IEEE. He quoted from *The Economist*: "What physics was to the 20th century, biology will be to the 21st"

We, engineers, have learned a lot from biological systems and applied them extensively in the systems we devised. This process continues as the nature is a

store house of methods proven over several years and readily adaptable in many engineering systems. A case in point is the ants – the tiny cousins from the insect world. Ants not only work hard and are prepared to lay down their lives for their fellow ants, they also take bigger risks for the good of the colony as they get older, sparing the youngsters to do lighter jobs. They can even assess how much time they have left in life.

In relation to their size, ants can carry 10 to 20 times their body weight and work in teams to move extremely heavy objects. Ants make use of their two stomachs – one for their own food and the other for their cousins in the colony. The mushroom shaped brain of ants, the largest among insects, has computing power equivalent to a Mac II, it is estimated.

In the matter of crowd management, engineers can learn lessons from ants, who excel without any modern traffic control system. They follow the paradox of crowd behaviour: Slower is faster. If the average speed of each individual moving is slower, the whole crowd will be evacuated faster and the ants know this well. They move faster in crowded situations by working as a team, the lessons from which can be applied to develop better crowd control and traffic flow systems for town planning.

The last few days saw path-breaking activities in IEEE front in India. The R10 students Congress at Chennai and R10 committee meeting at Gujarat were hailed by many as landmark programmes. Credits go to Dr. Mini Thomas and Chennai IEEE team for the Students activity and the IEEE Section team of Gujarat for the R10 meet.

The presentation on 'IEEE in India' during R10 meet served as an eye opener to all at the helm of affairs at IEEE HQ and R10. Indian IEEE movement had its genesis some 73 years back and our leadership in IEEE landscape is now well acknowledged. Details are given elsewhere.

India Council has chalked out a number of programmes for maintaining its pre-eminent role among all the 17 IEEE Councils worldwide, pinning hopes on the support from all sections and sub-sections in India. We are sure it would be forthcoming.

With best wishes to all members of IEEE community,

N.T. Nair

Trivandrum
06 Feb '08

Chairman, IEEE India Council
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JOTTINGS FROM HK



I have now scanned the strength of the over 1400 student branches around the world to find out who tops the list and would like to share my findings with you. The following topped in Dec 2006:

1. Crescent Engg of Madras - 693; 2. Georgia Inst of Atlanta - 610; 3. Alexandria Univ. of Egypt - 472; 4. Maharashtra Academy of Engg, Pune - 455; and 5. Velammal Engg College, Madras - 430.

On Dec 2007 the following top the list: 1. Alexandria Univ of Egypt - 586; 2. Georgia Inst - 494; 3. Maharashtra Academy - 475; 4. Velammal - 455 and 5. Univ of Texas, Austin- 331.

It is good to know that 2 of our Branches are in the top 5, though it is a climb down of previous year's 3.

Customarily IEEE Student Services list the top 30 Branches, in strength, as of 31 Dec each year for recognition. I list below the Branches in our Region who appear in the top 30 with their rank and strengths as of 2007 and in brackets their rank (if any) and strength as of Dec 2006.

Rank 3. Maharashtra Academy - 475 (#4-455); 4. Velammal - 455(#5-430); 6. SSGM Coll of Engg, Shegaon, Bombay-(#9-375); 7. Crescent Engg - 289 (#1-693); 9. Thadomal Shahani, Bombay - 270(#13-322); 14. Kongu Engg Madras - 226 (230); 20. Siddagangal Inst, Bangalore - 213 (119); 21. NIT (REC) Karnataka - 210 (170); 22. K J Somayya Coll of Engg Bombay - 206 (120); and 25. Chengannur Coll of Engg, Kerala -193 (106).

I would leave it to Section Chairs to compliment the Branches concerned. In the meantime, I offer my personal congratulations to all counselors and chair persons of top listed Branches. It is significant to note that all top listed Branches of our Region are here in India. Wish you all well. - H.Kalyanasundaram

PS: While on the subject of top Branches, I have pleasant and also not so good news for you. Birla Institute of Tech and Science, Dubai Campus under UAE Section (R 8) established in 2005 with 43 students, was 221 strong in Dec 2006 and now as of Dec 2007 are still 221 strong and are ranked 18 in the list of Top Branches in the world. The parent BITS, Pilani, established in 1985 had a maximum of 109 in 1988 and last Dec, they were just 12. The other BITS at Mesra, established in 1988 are now with just 3 though at one point in 1997 they were 61. BITS Dubai deserve our compliments – HK

Editor's Note: There was a response to this info from Dr. M. B. Srinivas of Hyderabad Section to HK on 30 Jan 08. It says the man behind all student activities under IEEE at BITS, Dubai campus is Dr. G. Vijaya. Dr. Vijaya was earlier with NIT, Warangal and did yeoman service to IEEE Hyderabad Sn. He is continuing his services in Dubai as well. The mystery now appears solved!!

Editorial Board

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Visit
[http:// www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/india_council](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/india_council)

Be the change you want to see in the world - Mahatma Gandhi

From India Council Secretary



IEEE New Initiatives Process was one of the key topics presented and discussed recently at Chennai. The importance that IEEE attaches to new initiatives is reflected in the fact that the presentation was made by no less a person than John Vig, IEEE President-Elect 2008. What I found most worth telling our members is that a proposal for new initiative can be sent by any IEEE member or entity. It places enormous power in the hands of individual members to influence IEEE initiatives.

The details about the process are available at: <http://www.ieee.org/web/aboutus/initiatives/index.html> for all to see.

I am highlighting the key aspects below:

The new initiative process is designed to identify and support new efforts of strategic importance to IEEE. With a view to reduce the time from submission to response and implementation, the process was revised in 2007 to allow proposal submission at any time during the year.

There are two processes for submitting proposals.

1. RSP (The rolling submission process): This process is for projects that require at least US \$100,000 funding for the first year.
2. SGP (The seed grant process): This process is for projects that are experimental & innovative and require US \$25,000 of funding or less.

The proposals are reviewed by the IEEE New Initiatives Committee (NIC). If a new initiative is accepted, project funding will be made available immediately. Progress reports shall be sent to the NIC at least quarterly.

The RSP proposal is submitted through a two-phased submission process. Phase 1 involves submission of preliminary proposal in the prescribed form with details like initiative leader, champion endorsement, costs, and timetable. If the preliminary proposal is accepted by the NIC, the submission moves to Phase - 2, which requires the submission of the full proposal within timelines as negotiated between the initiator and the NIC. If NIC does not accept the phase 1, this will be notified to the initiator and champion along with suggestions for further action.

The SGP process is for projects which are risky and requiring less than US \$25,000 as grant. The following criteria are used for approval of an SGP project.

1. Completion of the proposed project will further the goals of IEEE
2. The project is innovative, risky and has the potential to benefit the IEEE and/or its members, the technical community or the public.
3. A realistic plan and schedule (preferably limited to less than one year) has been provided along with milestones and objectives.
4. A capable team of volunteers and an initiative leader named.
5. An explanation of how funds will be used has been provided.

The proposal form is available for downloading at the above mentioned site.

I would request IEEE volunteers and entities in India to make effective use of this programme.

Cheers!

K.G. Satheesh Kumar
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IEEE IN INDIA: A CHEQUERED HISTORY

At the Region 10 meeting in Ahmedabad, India, with inputs from IEEE historical research of Veteran H. Kalyanasundaram, assisted by Anthony Lobo, R Muralidharan and R K Asthana, IC Chair N T Nair made a presentation on the history and current status of IEEE in India. Here are excerpts from the highly informative and richly applauded presentation on 02 February '08:

- Activity in India dates back to 1935, when Kharagpur Section under the then AIEE Reg. 9 was formed (73 yrs back) & IRE India Section formed in 1935.
- Kanpur Section formed in 1955
- Reg 10 of IEEE (formed in 1963) created in 1967
- IEEE India Section formed in 1969
- The 3rd and 4th Student Br. of R10 formed in 1973 in IIT, Delhi and REC Warangal
- IEEE India Council formed on 20 May 1976

Highlights of Achievements:

- India Council (IC) is the Largest in member strength of the 17 Councils in R1-R10
- With 10 Sections and 4 Sub-sections, IC is next only to Florida with 12 Sections
- R10 is largest region (18% of members) and IC accounts for 35 % of it
- In last 20 years, worldwide membership grew by 130%, R10 by 350%, IC by 550%
- Bombay among the top 5 Sections in the world in 2002, 2003 & 2004
- IC with 369 Student Branches accounts for 20% of world student membership
- Among the top 5 Sections world over in Student Membership, 4 were in IC (2006) stat
- Of the top ten, 6 were under IC (Madras, Bombay, Hyderabad, Kerala, Bangalore and Delhi)
- Among the 1400 student branches around the world, Maharashtra Academy and Velammal hold ranks 3 and 4 (Dec 2007)
- 10 out of 30 top student branches are from India
- R10 leads other Regions in Women in IEEE
- Of the total of 32,798 women members, 27% (8897) are in R10 and 20% in India
- Of the women student members, 45% are in R 10 and 40% are in India

IC's Current Special Focus

- Increased proportion of women membership
- Increased Student to GOLD conversion
- Outreach beyond section HQ
- National Distinguished Lecturer Programme – creation of IC wide roster
- Special drive to attract members from the new R&D labs (incl. MNCs) in India

Expected Outcome

- Increased and enriched membership
- Extended technical services to the IEEE community and Society
- IEEE in India poised to make great strides in the coming years – By expanding the reach all over the nation which is emerging as a knowledge economy
- IEEE India Council will be the catalyst making it happen, with support from all entities in IEEEdom.

(Edited based on HQ records - Ed.)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PECon 08 - The 2008 IEEE 2nd International Power & Energy Conference (PECon08) will be held in the city of Johor Bahru, Malaysia from 1st to 3rd of December 2008. The website for the conference is located at <http://www.ieee.org/go/pecon2008/>

Biofuels Summit 2008 - Biofuels Summit 2008 is scheduled for 2008 March 27h - 28 in Bangkok, Thailand. Global bio-fuel production has tripled from 4.8 billion gallons in 2000 to about 16.0 billion in 2007. This summit will bring to you the latest on the issues affecting the industry and allow you to network with regulators and senior executives from the biofuels sector and leading investor organizations from across the globe. For more information, you may visit: <http://www.biofuelssummit.com> The World Alliance for Decentralized Energy (WADE), based in Edinburgh, UK, was established in 1997 as a non-profit research and promotion organization with the mission to accelerate the worldwide development of high efficiency cogeneration (CHP) and decentralized renewable energy systems that deliver substantial economic and environmental benefits.

(contd. to page 3....)

The purpose of life is a life of purpose - Robert Byrne

REGION 10 STUDENT CONGRESS 2008



Held in Chennai, India, from 27-30 January 2008, R10 Student Congress was notable for its high turnout of over 300 students from all over Asia-Pacific and a galaxy of dignitaries gracing the event. The theme was "IEEE for Youth – Leveraging Social Networking for Professional Development". This 4th gathering of IEEE R10's diverse network of young people was being held for the first time in India with the previous events at destinations in Singapore, Hong Kong and Beijing. On the sidelines, the GOLD/WIE congress also being held during the same time in the same venue, 28th January saw all the groups together for common sessions.

Sunday, 27th January 2008:

Student delegates from Japan, Korea, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Macau, Malaysia, as well as from Australia and New Zealand began checking in on this day. To shed their jet lag, and more importantly to network, games of basketball, squash, chess etc were available where simple, true & silent bonding took place. Dinner was served at the SSN College of Engineering, the gracious and generous host institution of this event. Keeping in mind IEEE's tag line 'Networking the World', there was an ice-breaking-cum-integration activity where all the student delegates interacted amongst themselves, and showed off their culture and customs.

Monday, 28th January 2008:

The inaugural session of the R10 Student congress started with remarks by Ms. Mini S. Thomas, R10 Student Activities Coordinator and the General Chair of the organizing committee. She further introduced all the dignitaries to the audience, followed by the delegates being introduced country/Section wise. The Kerala Section under SAC Gopakumar was in full strength with 62 delegates. S. Salivahanam, IEEE Madras Section Chair

and Principal of SSN College, the host institution, gave the welcome address followed by the release of the souvenir prepared for the occasion, by the IEEE president and CEO Lewis M. Terman.

Lewis M. Terman gave the inaugural address for the Student Congress, jointly with GOLD/WIE Congresses, as all the three events were in the same campus at the same time. The president stressed on the vastness of Region 10, its diversity, and why the students should retain the IEEE membership. He also emphasized his "India Initiative". Ms. Janina Mazierska, Region 10 Director, gave her viewpoints on this grand Student Congress and specifically expressed gratitude and appreciation for R10 having the highest number of female members. Ms. Karen Panetta, IEEE WIE affinity group chair, addressed subsequently and was delighted by her Indian experience and articulated her keen goals of leading WIE to new heights and to strongly unite women engineers from all over the world. Kala Vijaykumar, President of SSN Institutions, the graceful hosts to the mega event was delighted to have this International Student Congress at SSN. Suresh C. Pal, Organizing Chair-Student Congress and also Student Activity Chair, IEEE Madras Section, proposed the vote of thanks, and stressed the need for reactivating the dormant student branches. The inaugural session was also attended by John Vig, IEEE President Elect 2008, Roberto De Marca, IEEE VP of TAB, IEEE Foundation President Richard Gowen, Staff Director Matthew Loeb, MGAB Managing Director Cecelia Jankowski and the IEEE Executive Director Jeffery Raynes. IEEE India Council Secretary, Satheeshkumar gave his felicitations to the congress.

After a brief coffee break, there was a presentation on the various R10 student activities by Mini S. Thomas and Suresh C. Pal. Following this, a presentation on R10 GOLD activities

Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love – Albert Einstein

was made by H. Fung, the IEEE R10 GOLD Coordinator and Sampath Kumar, GOLD Chair of Madras section. WIE activities presentation was given by K. Panetta and M Ramalatha, IEEE R10 WIE Coordinator. A photo session followed, and soon after, lunch was served where all GOLD, WIE and Student delegates got to network and discuss strategies over their food. The student congress was fully covered by IEEE TV, and Noel Bryson and her team had a good time interviewing the delegates.

After lunch, Richard Gowen gave an enlightening speech on the IEEE Foundation. A one-hour Leadership Training Workshop was conducted by Jaya Indiresan, currently a prominent consultant to various national and international agencies. Janina Mazierska took the dais again for an interactive session with the student delegates, which brought out some interesting suggestions. After the brief tea break, there was a presentation on the New Initiatives in IEEE by John Vig, President Elect 2008 followed by a lively interaction. Ms. Cecelia Jankowski then gave a brief view of the 'Inside IEEE', which was followed by another interactive session. This was followed by some brain teasers and an interesting quiz.

The most awaited event of the day - The Indian Cultural program - performed exclusively by the IEEE Student volunteers of Madras section with a variety of cultural items & folk dances, was greatly appreciated by all dignitaries and delegates. Cultural programs and Student activities award ceremony followed.

Tuesday, 29th January, 2008:

The morning session started with a presentation by Cognizant Technologies, the principal sponsor for the student congress. This was followed by Student activities presentations from 10 sections, outlining the diverse array of activities the sections are doing to make each branch a beehive of technical pursuit. This was followed by the formation of 10 multicultural, multilingual and truly diverse groups, coordinated by Prijee Philips, the GOLD mentor for SAC, for various group activities and discussions.

What followed was an interactive session with the Branch counselors, who had come from across Region 10, which highlighted major problems faced by Branch counselors and discussed some of the best practices followed. Martin J. Bastiaans, the R8 Student Activities coordinator gave a presentation on SPAC and SPave, and the ISBIR team of Gokhan and Farhan from Turkey gave a lecture on the ISBIR activities. They also conducted a workshop on how to prepare a proposal for ISBIR for 30 delegates in the afternoon. The team building activities that followed tested the creativity of the entire team and their ability to excel as a unit.

In the AN, the lecture on IEEE Technical Activities by TAB VP Roberto De Marca was received with great enthusiasm. In the mean time, for the vibrant student branches of R10 Exhibition, the stalls of various student branches, about 19 in all, were set up for exhibition and evaluations. Posters, banners, list of activities, distribution of annual magazines and pamphlets showed the enthusiasm of the IEEE student community. The

enthusiastically put up stalls proved to be a tough job to the judges Lewis Terman, John Vig, and Roberto Marca. Winners: BUET Bangladesh, NIT Warangal, RASET Kerala, and IGIT Delhi.

On 29th evening, activities that helped the student community to ponder over the methods to improve the functioning of IEEE in the region, section and student branches were held. The group discussion had very interesting questions like what incentives the student community expects from IEEE and how to retain students as members after graduation. Some useful suggestions emerged and the dignitaries were happy about the outcome.

After the exhibition and the group discussion, the Multi Cultural show also proved how culturally rich and diverse the IEEE student volunteers are. They ranged from lively songs from China, the Haka dance from New Zealand and the Kerala section presenting their entire culture in short pieces of dances and songs..

Wednesday, 30th January 2008:

The last day was packed with enriching presentations and nostalgic memories. The innovative programs by student branch presentations, especially the branches from Pakistan, enlightened the minds of all the participants. This was followed by an introduction of the GINI (Global Integrated Network of IEEE) project by Mini S. Thomas, and Prijee Philips. GINI is a new initiative taken up by IEEE R10 SAC for the improvement and promotion of existing student branches, and creation of further branches with the help of identified pilot branches.

At the closing ceremony that followed, certificates were distributed and the entire Madras section was congratulated for the very successful organizing of the event. Special mention was made of Ashwin Sahoo, Branch counselor of SSN and the student volunteers led by the student chair, Bhavika. The closing ceremony was followed by exchange of gifts amongst delegates as a token of remembrance and affection. The student congress gave the delegates a wonderful opportunity to interact with peers from all over the Asia-Pacific.

Following the closing ceremony, a tour to Mahabalipuram a world heritage sight, built in the seventh century by the Kings of the Pallava dynasty was organized for the participants. The Mahabalipuram monuments are rock-cut and monolithic, constituted by cave temples, rathas (chariots), sculpted reliefs and structural temples with beautiful beaches, which caught the delegates spell bound.

This marked the culmination of a memorable four day long congress where delegates from all parts of the world got an opportunity to network with each other. It provided the perfect platform for budding technocrats to meet and exchange their views to build a better and a brighter tomorrow.

Prepared by:

Mini S. Thomas, R10 Student Activities Coordinator,
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delegate, Delhi Section



Editorial

Fair share and Fair pride



This issue of the IEEE India Info is ample proof to show that IEEE in India is well settled and poised for greater heights and probably a platinum jubilee soon. All volunteers who worked (living and the faded) for such a strong presence in India and those senior professionals in Region 10 and at HQ which appreciates this position and encourage a renewed vigorous promotion of IEEE banner in the second most populous country in the world needs to be thanked profusely.

With fair pride, we can say that we have a fair share of achievements. Yet, everyone at IEEE India is sure about one thing: We can achieve much more than these, collectively. Instead of 10 islands of brisk activity, let us form network of active units – be Sections, Student Branches or Chapters or Affinity Groups – or a well knit archipelago of professionalism in the ocean of world's expectation on science and technology.

As indicated in the presentation by the IC Chair at R 10 meeting, the new initiatives in focus are worth pursuing and needs the concerted cooperative actions from all the 10 Sections. If Info can act as the organizer or the link between the elements of these activities, it will be a great achievement. At the Editorial Board, we look forward to more and more news and briefs from the Centres of Activity of IEEE in India.

Trivandrum
08. 02. 08

Prof. V K Damodaran
Editor, ykd@ieee.org

The Boss x The Leader

If any you happen to be a Boss, please read this:
The Boss drives his men, The Leader inspires them.
The Boss depends on authority, The Leader depends on goodwill.
The Boss evokes fear, The Leader radiates love.
The Boss says "I", The Leader says "We".
The Boss shows who is wrong, The Leader shows what is wrong.
The Boss knows how it is done, The Leader knows how to do it.
The Boss demands respect, The Leader commands respect.

IEEE INDICON 2008

11-13 December 08: IIT Kanpur

For details

[http:// www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/uttar_pradesh/indicon2008/](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/uttar_pradesh/indicon2008/)

Contact : Dr. S. P. Das, Conference Chair

Book Review

CRUSADE INDIA

K. C. Agrawal, a senior member of IEEE and an electrical engineer of 33 years standing, as well as author of several books on electrical engineering has come out with a book entitled Crusade India – Towards a new dawn, Knowledge books Inc 2007. In 25 chapters the author speaks of every aspect of life and development in India, analyzing reasons and suggesting possible solutions. On this account, the book is interesting to professionals like us, who do not actively involve in the development politics in our country. Agrawal invites the readers and IEEEians to join him as members in this Crusade for a better India and interested readers can go to www.shapingindia.org for more details.

Editor

Time is man's angel - Schiller



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