IEEE India Info

IEEE THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS, INC

Chairman's Message

Dear Members,

I am honoured to be elected as the Chair for the IEEE India Council. I would like to thank the nomination committee for considering me worthy of this office and I hope that I would be able to follow the steps of my distinguished predecessors.

At the outset, I wish all the **IEEE members of India Council A Very Happy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year 2009 and** *Sankranti*.

I would be focusing on the following aspect in the coming months:

1. India Council EXECOM - Model and its functioning on the lines of R10 and very active, well informed, innovative and cooperative.

2. Cooperation among the India Council, Sections, Student Branches and Society Chapters.

3. Role and visibility of IEEE India members at Region 10, Regional and Technical Activities Boards, and Standards Committee.

We will follow up on the revision of bye-laws, Registration of India Council and initiate steps towards the above goals.

2009 will witness a number of major IEEE activities in India - All India Student Congress planned at Kanyakumari, Celebration of IEEE 125th Anniversary, INDICON-2009 at Gujarat Section and the 2009 MV Chauhan All India Student Paper Contest, apart from the Global Students Congress scheduled at Singapore in July, organized jointly by IEEE Student Branch of Kerala's Chengannur Engineering College and National University of Singapore.

IEEE is celebrating its 125th Anniversary starting from 13th May 2009. Out of the 8 Sections from all the 10 Regions, IEEE Bangalore Section is one of the three sections selected from R10 (Beijing and Tokyo being the other two) for the global celebration of the 125th Anniversary. We from the Bangalore Section are very proud of this honor. These Celebrations are planned to be held on 29-30 August 2009 at Bangalore together with Section's Annual Symposium on the 29th and a Workshop on Human Values in Technology and Management on the 30th.

I was looking at statistics compiled meticulously by Shri HK on IEEE India up to December 2006. IC ranks in the top 5 councils since 1998 and continued to be in number one position since 2002 onwards in terms of membership strength. Though the data is two years old and in spite of maintaining the top position for several years now, it is of deep concern that the higher grade membership has come down significantly from 13479 in 2004 to 7100 by December 2006, almost a 50% drop. It will be unfortunate if this trend has continued in past two years also, which I do not wish to see in reality and hope not. It can be known only after the data is updated till Dec 2008. However, in the above period, the student membership has shot from 11572 to 16582. Is there a lesson to be learned from these figures by the professionals and higher grade members from student members regarding the importance of IEEE in their professional advancement?

I request all the Members, and Officers of Sections, Student Branches and Society Chapters to give some thought towards how India Council could cooperate with different segments of the IEEE membership to advance and further the aim of fostering technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of the people of Rural India, the Real India. Our best method of attracting professionals, academicians, and students to IEEE is through: 1. Value addition to their knowledge; 2. Show human face of technology and 3. Networking the peers with membership and benefit the members by their vast experience, expertise and invaluable advice.

Once again with best wishes for the New Year to all Members!

Kasi Rajgopal
kasi.rajgopal@ieee.org

NT Nair in IEEE Ad Hoc Committee

2009 President Mr. John Vig has appointed a 2009 Ad Hoc Committee on "IEEE as a Model Global Association" with Mr Marc Apter as chair. The tentative scope is as follows: One of IEEE's 3 to 5 year goals is to operate as a model global association. The progress towards this goal has been slow. Vig wants the committee to examine the causes of the slow progress and get recommendations for specific actions to be presented before the IEEE Board. Mr. N. T. Nair, immediate past Chairman of IEEE India Council, has been nominated to this Committee. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Nair for this unique recognition – *Ed*.

New IC Office bearers in position

The new office bearers as shown below have stepped in to the IEEE India Council volunteer offices, as the Slate published in the Info has been uncontested and hence declared elected by the Nomination Committee consisting of S/s RK Asthana, R Muralidharan and SV Sankaran. A smooth take over by the New Chairman Dr. Kasi Rajgopal and Secretary Mr. K. Ramakrishna took place in Trivandrum from 3 to 4 January '09 and S/s NT Nair and K Satheeshkumar readily handed over the records and appraised the new team on the last two years' activities and performance.

Post	Section	Name
Chair	Bangalore	Prof. Kasi Rajgopal
Executive Vice Chair	Madras	Dr. Suresh Chander Pal
Secretary/Treasurer	Bangalore	Shri. K. Ramakrishna
Immediate Past Chair	Kerala	Shri. N. T. Nair
VC – Professional Activities	UP	Dr. Ajit K. Chaturvedi
VC – Student Activities	Bombay	Prof. B. R. Prabhu
VC – Technical Activities	Gujarat	Shri. Deepak Mathur
VC – Educational Activities	Hyderabad	Dr. M. B. Srinivas
VC – Membership Development	Delhi	Dr. R. G. Gupta
Newsletter Editor	Kerala	Prof. V. K. Damodaran
Ombudsman	Gujarat	Dr. Arup Ranjan Dasgupta
Member at Large	Culcutta	Prof. K. K. Mallik
Member at Large	Bombay	Shri. Quraish Bakir

Editorial Board

Prof. V. K. Damodaran	–	Editor
N. T. Nair	–	Member; Publisher
K. Ramakrishna	–	Member

visit**:** *http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/india_council*

I shut my eyes in order to see - *Paul Gauguin (1848-1903)*

From India Council Secretary

Fellow Engineers,
Wish you every one a Happy & 'IEEE Eventful' New Year 2009!
The New Year started for the IEEE India Council with a challenging job of maintaining the record visibility of India Council brought out by the previous Executive Committees.

New team of office bearers has taken over the charge of the India Council not only for keeping alive the successful efforts made by the previous EXECOM but also to work for the self sustenance and growth of India Council. Prima facie, the main focus would be to work upon the India initiatives, revision of the byelaws and also spread the fruits of NDLP, GOLD and WIE activities widely amongst all the Indian Sections of IEEE.

It is also time for us to prepare for India Council meeting during next R10 Meet scheduled at Hanoi on the 28th February and 1st March 2009. We hope that all the Section Chairs and India Council Executive Committee Members will bring forward major issues of concern for the improvement of IEEE together with Technology in India and endeavor to work for the means of bringing up truly the values of IEEE Membership benefits in India.

I personally feel that there is much to do than to talk or write as Secretary and Treasurer of India Council for the year 2009 and keep you all in the loop of developments in IEEE.

I look forward to your valued support in achieving our goals.

At the humble service of IEEE,
K Ramakrishna
<kramakrishna@ieee.org>

CONGRATULATIONS SV SANKARAN

S V Sankaran of Bangalore Section has been appointed as 2009 Vice President of IEEE Computer Society, in charge of Chapter Activities. Congratulations on this academic recognition!

ADVANCES IN UNDERWATER VEHICLES

The Ocean Engineering Society under IC, Madras Section, IEEE Technology Management council Madras chapter, IEEE Power Energy Society, Madras Chapter and WIE Affinity Group in Chennai organized jointly, two advanced lectures on 13th and 20th December 2008. The first one on "Advances in Underwater Vehicles" was by Dr. Sergey Sukonkin, Head of Dept. of Underwater vehicles, Experimental Design Bureau of Engineering, Russian Academy of Sciences, and the second one on "Developments at the University of Tokyo in the field of Underwater Vehicles" by Mr. P. V. Unnikrishnan, URA laboratory, Underwater Technology Research Center, Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo. The lectures were well attended and eminent personalities like NIOT Director, Dr. S. Kathiroli, Dr P. Suresh Chander Pal (current Executive VC of IC), Mr. K. V. Rupchand, Chairman, TMS & PES Madras chapter, Prof. Salivahanan, Mrs. M. Ramalatha, WIE R10 coordinator, Dr. T. Thyagarajan (Secretary, Madras Section) and Dr. S. Atmanand (Chair, OES) were among other experts who participated.*Rupchand, Unnikrishnan, S.C.Pal & Atmanand*

Tech News

Benefits from Renewables

The German Federal Ministry of Environment says, the share of renewables in final energy consumption in Germany has doubled to 8.6% in 5 years. Their share in gross electricity consumption now stands at 14.2% - twice as high as six years ago. In 2007, renewable energies contributed to climate protection with a CO_2 saving of ~ 115 MT.

There are macroeconomic benefits too. In 2007, the sector recorded a turnover of 25 billion euro. The number of people employed in the industry reached 250,000 or a 55 % increase within 3 years. Renewables already pay off for Germany's national economy: for every € 1.0 of funding arising from the Renewable Energy Sources Act, € 1.6 is saved on fossil energy imports and prevention of external environmental damage caused by other energy sources.

Car Parts from Coconuts!

A team of Baylor University researchers have identified a variety of low-cost products that can be manufactured from coconuts including the use coconut husks in automotive interiors. They want to replace synthetic polyester fibers in compression moulded composites with coconut fibres in trunk liners, floorboards and interior door covers on cars for the first time.

Since coconuts are an abundant, renewable resource in all countries near the equator, Baylor's team wants to create coconut based multiple products using simple and inexpensive technology. With an estimated 11 million coconut farmers in the world, the aim of the researchers is to increase the market price/coconut to 30 US cents, which could have a substantial effect on the farmer's income and quality of life. The mechanical properties of coconut fibers are just as good, if not better, than synthetic and polyester fibers for use in automotive parts. They are also less expensive than other fibers and better for the environment. Coconuts also do not give off toxic fumes if burned, which is crucial in passing tests required for actual application in commercial automotive parts.

The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing

IEEE R-10 Colloquium & ICIIS 2008

As the world faces the risk of global financial crisis and industrial recession, new technology and innovations would play a key role in tiding over the crisis. With the phenomenal growth in communication, real-time processing and machine intelligence, the time has come when everything needs to be integrated to increase industrial productivity and efficiency in the coming years. With this dream in our mind, the third IEEE International Conference on Industrial and Information Systems (ICIIS 2008) was held at IIT Kharagpur with the theme "Real time communicative intelligence for tomorrow's industries" from 8 to 10 December 2008. Along with this conference, 2008 IEEE Region 10 Colloquium was organized on 9th December, 2008, where world renowned researchers have been invited to speak. This is the 3rd event in the series beginning with ICIIS 2006 hosted at University of Peradeniya hosted by IEEE Sri Lanka Section.

2008 IEEE R-10 Colloquium had four speakers in the 4 tracks of the theme. In addition, there were 9 invited talks by leading experts. From India and overseas, 265 papers were accepted for oral and poster presentations out of the 540 submitted. Communication and Information Systems Engineering (CISE), Computer Systems Engineering (CSE), Control, Robotics and Motion Control (RMC) and Energy Systems and High Voltage Engineering (ESHVE) were the 4 chosen tracks. Of these 200 were presented.

Professor Ajit K. Chattopadhyay, Bengal Engineering and Science University, Sibpur, Howrah and Professor Guiseppe Buja, University of Padova, Italy delivering key note addresses.

By 2008 IEEE activity at Kharagpur as an organizational unit completed 25 years. This was a fitting celebration to commemorate 25 years of existence of IEEE unit at Kharagpur.

N K Kishore
General Chair

New IC starts going

The available members of the new IC during the handing over of charge took stock of the immediate decisions to take forward the continuing activities under IEEE IC and took the following decisions arrived at. In addition to the old and new IC Chair and Secretary, the Newsletter Editor, The NDLP national coordinator and the Kerala Section Chair attended the meeting.

Accounts: It has been decided to close the accounts in Trivandrum and open a new account in Bangalore.

Newsletter: The present arrangement of printing and publishing from Trivandrum will continue for 3 months. A decision will be taken at the IC Execom on the sidelines of R10 in Hanoi on the future set up.

NDLP: National Coordinator, S Gopakumar will continue till a decision is taken at the next IC Execom. Gopakumar was authorised to approach HQ to extend the project into the year 2009.

Focus on India Initiative: To be closely followed up

Other points discussed include the conduct of MV Chauhan Contest, Indicon 2009 and AISC 2009, co-operation agreements with IETE, IE (I) etc., Society Chapters under the IC, redrafting IC bylaws etc.

HK Bereaved

With the last moments of the year 2008 fading, on 31 December, Veteran IEEEian H. Kalyanasundaram is bereaved. He lost his partner for 65 years, Mrs. Meenakshi Kalyanasundaram, at around 11.30 pm that night. She was 80. She had been a mother and an elder sister and a smiling host to many IEEE volunteers in India and an inseparable companion in HK's research on IEEE history and creation of India Council and Student Chapters database for years. Several Senior IEEE volunteers and members visited HK to convey our sentiments to his bereaved family. May her soul Rest in Peace! Our prayers are for HK to be able to withstand this great personal loss! HK now is at A 106, Cottage Land, 16A, Sector 19, Nerul East, Mumbai 400 706. Ph: 022-2772-3981

Horizon

Wood into Sugars for Biofuels

A new method of producing high efficiency and easily available biofuels from wood, grass and plants could soon be available, according to researchers from the Max Planck Institute for Coal Research in Germany. The researchers have devised what they say is a more effective method of breaking down the cellulose found in plants into sugar molecules, which can then be used to produce ethanol. The method uses an ionic liquid to first break down cellulose into shorter glucose chains, and then a solid acid resin to split those shorter chains into individual sugar molecules that can then be used for biofuels. The new approach could make for plentiful biofuels that don't compete with food crops. Even very-tough microcrystalline cellulose can be broken down into sugar molecules by using this approach.

To escape criticism – do nothing, say nothing, be nothing – *Elbert Hubbard*

Editorial

A giant gift for you!

Just opened that great, giant gift! All of us!! We are unable to see through it to the end now. A gentleman called Rakesh Sharma, last week visualized this great idea in his Blog. A giant gift – a fresh, virgin New Year, utterly open to do anything with! You just got 12 fresh months and you are blessed!!

I think the outlook makes all the difference in our life, work and relations. As for IEEE and IEEE India, its volunteers under the various Sections, Societies and Student Branches as also at the NDLP, we have several fresh pages awaiting new activities of service to humanity with the cutting edge technologies written in.

As for my cutting and pasting job every month into the IEEE India Info, I pray for the following:

1.   Lots and lots of reports and photos of innovative ideas implemented, knowledge dissemination organized, achievements and recognitions to members in India and model performances anywhere else in the world reported.

2.   Real gifts by way of advertisements on technology related industries and services, as a means of making the Info publication self sufficient on funds. All that we need is Rs. 10,000 worth Ad every month. We have several senior members and 10 Section leaders and 8 Society leaders who are well connected and could help us get one – just one - Ad of one third page size a year.

3. The NDLP scheme initiated last year is a blessing for the student branches, and Societies as well as Sections for extending IEEE services outside the Section headquarters/cities. All expenses are borne under the scheme and can we not organize on the average 2 talks/Section every month?

4. Your feed back on how you can utilize the journal as your organizer.

Please open your gift this year and stay cool and composed amidst the economic turmoil brewing all over the World. The ultimate panacea for these problems is humane Technology.

Trivandrum
10 Jan 2009

V K Damodaran
vkd@ieee.org

IEEE Code of Ethics

As per IEEE Bylaw I-104.14, membership in IEEE in any grade shall carry the obligation to abide by the IEEE Code of Ethics (IEEE Policy 7.8) as stated below:

We, the members of the IEEE, in recognition of the importance of our technologies in affecting the quality of life throughout the world, and in accepting a personal obligation to our profession, its members and the communities we serve, do hereby commit ourselves to the highest ethical and professional conduct and agree:

1. `to accept responsibility in making decisions consistent with the safety, health and welfare of the public, and to disclose promptly factors that might endanger the public or the environment;* (We recall one out of 10 items in every issue)

Quotables

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as if everything is - *Albert Einstein*

The toughest part of getting to the top of the ladder is getting through the crowd to the bottom - *Anonymous*

Management is efficiency in climbing the ladder of success; Leadership determines whether the ladder is leaning against the right wall. - *Stephen R. Covey*

Father: A banker provided by nature - *Anonymous*

etc: A sign to make others believe that you know more than you actually do - *Anonymous*