



## Chairman's Message



Dear Fellow Members,

As requested in last issue, I am awaiting your feedback on our monthly Newsletter "IEEE India Info". Your valuable feedback will help us improve the Newsletter. I also request Section Chairs to share their action plan amongst themselves

regarding elevation of "Associates" to full fledged IEEE Members / Senior Members.

1<sup>st</sup> All India Student Congress of the year 2006 was held at Delhi. The AISC was jointly organized by 6 student branches under Delhi Section and was hosted at Jamia Millia Islamia under the able leadership of Dr. Mini S Thomas. Students attended the Congress from Haryana, Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Congratulations to Dr. Mini Thomas and her team for excellent arrangements at the Congress. I am happy to inform that this year India Council is organizing two Student Congresses. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress is being organized by Chennai Section towards the end of September 2006. Formal announcement is expected shortly. All those students who could not attend AISC at Delhi would have an opportunity to attend 2<sup>nd</sup> AISC at Chennai. I wish Chennai Congress a grand success.

Now the time is approaching for IEEE Elections. I am sure all of you are aware that Mr. R. Muralidharan, Past India Council Chair is a candidate for Region 10 Director Elect 2007-08. He looks forward to your valuable support in getting elected as Regional Director. Kindly support his candidature.

Should you have any suggestions, please do write to me.

With warm regards,  
Delhi  
01 July '06

**Rajendra K. Asthana**  
Chairman - IEEE India Council  
asthana@ieee.org

**'Every human mind is a great slumbering power until awakened by a keen desire and by definite resolution to do'**  
- Edgar F. Roberts

## Editor Writes....

Friends,

***'Design user-friendly forms for easy filling up and test them from user's shoes.'***

We are destined to fill a plethora of forms in our daily life. Some run into pages and we often wonder if all these details are required for such a minor matter. In some cases, the questions are ambiguous and will not help in extracting the right information. Often, the multitude of data collected may be needed only in the unlikely event of a unique situation cropping up years later.

Then comes the matter of design of the form itself. When trying to fill it up, we find that attention to details has not been applied in the design. Some columns are too small to write the details while others have too much space. It is obvious that the designer has not tried even once to fill it up himself.

Designing of forms may appear trivial, *prima facie*. In reality it is not so. It is some sort of an art, requiring innovation. Many a time the designer forgets the fact that an ill-designed form can lead to inconvenience, wastage of time, money etc. In electronic versions also, the situation is not much different.

There are essential items in any form, which fall in the 20 % category of the 80:20 rule. The remaining 80%, carried as 'data luggage' by wasting paper (more trees are cut!), storage space (physical or electronic), time, effort etc could be misused in future, if it falls in the wrong hands. Hence the need to limit the data to bare essentials.

Going by the adage that 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating,' the designer has to finally test it for simplicity of use. In most cases the raw form is simply released for public use, with all the complexity in it. The agents and consultants are the beneficiaries whose business is directly proportional to the degree of complexity – a case in point is the tax return form.



**N.T.Nair**  
Editor

Trivandrum  
01 July '06

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## IEEE NEWS & EVENTS

### IEEE-AESS-ANC Seminar

on

### Aeronautical Navigation & Communications:

**Present & Future**

**August 17-18, 2006**

Venue : Gulmohar-India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

IEEE-AES-COM-LEO Society Chapter India in co-operation with IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society is organizing a two-day seminar on "Aeronautical Navigation & Communications - Present & Future" in Delhi on August 17-18, 2006 featuring a series of invited presentations by eminent experts in the field from India and abroad. The seminar will review the state-of-art and future directions for planning systems and technologies, including both ground based and on-board equipment hardware/software and concepts, relevant to aeronautical navigation and communications, keeping in view the projected growth in air-traffic density over the Indian sub-continent during the next 10 to 25 years.

#### SPEAKERS:

**Mr. K. Ramalingam**, Chairman, Airports Authority of India

**Future of CNS/ATM Evolution**

**Dr. Agam N. Sinha**, VP and Dy. General Manager, The MITRE Corporation, USA

**GNSS :Indian Scenario**

**Dr. Surendra Pal**, Deputy Director ISRO Satellite Centre, Bangalore

**Performance-based Operations - Framework, Concepts and Technologies**

**Mr. Sumant Hattikudur**, Advanced Air Traffic Management, The Boeing Company, USA

**Air Transportation System Trends-Implications for Infra structure Modernization in India**

**Prof. R. John Hansman**, Director, MIT International Center for Air Transportation, MIT, USA

**Overview of Australian GNSS and UA S Activities**

**Prof Rodney Walker**, Australian Research Centre for Aerospace Automation (ARCAA) Australia

**Indian SATNAV programme - Challenges and opportunities**

**Mr. Suresh V Kibe**, Programme Director, Satellite Navigation Programme, ISRO HQ, Bangalore

**Value of simulation and modelling to Air Traffic Management**

**Mr. Ian Ash**, Managing Director Preston Aviation Solutions Pty Ltd, USA

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India Council Chapter

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• IEEE Aerospace and Electronic  
Systems Society

• Airports Authority of India

### ALL INDIA STUDENT CONGRESS - 2006

**Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 29-30 June 2006**

#### A Report

IEEE Delhi section organized IEEE ALL INDIA STUDENT CONGRESS on 29th & 30th June 2006 with the theme "SYNERGISE... CREATE... CELEBRATE ENGINEERING" in Jamia Millia Islamia. Students from various prominent engineering institutes from Delhi such as Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi College of Engineering, Netaji Subhash Institute of technology, Indra Gandhi institute of technology, Bhartiya Vidya Peeth college of engineering, Maharaja Agarasen institute of technology and Amity School of Engineering & Technology formed the organizing committee.

The event saw a huge participation of 90 delegates of various engineering institutes from Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab and other parts of India.

The event was inaugurated by Mr. H.L Bajaj, fellow IEEE, Ministry of Power, by lighting the lamp of knowledge. Mr. P.V Ekande, Chair, IEEE Delhi Section, Mr. R.K Asthana, Chair, IEEE India council, Prof. M.M Shah, SAC chair, India council and other dignitaries from IEEE Delhi section graced the occasion and delivered warm messages to all the delegates.

The aim of increasing the network between members and sharing of knowledge was kept alive throughout the event. The whole delegation was creatively divided into groups consisting of members from different institutes. These groups were asked to act as one team at the time of formal or informal activities

The event started with a stimulating and inspiring **leadership workshop** by Prof Jaya Indiresan, Consultant, World Bank, who talked about "how to overcome barriers in leadership". The delegates immensely applauded the workshop as she suggested innovative practical solutions to overcoming barriers.

**Branch presentation** was another much talked event of AISC wherein every participating IEEE branch was asked to give a presentation on their branch's achievement. Interesting and diverse achievements by various student branches were presented which motivated other student branches to perform better.

This was followed by **Strategic Round Table Discussion -1**, which was one of the most interactive activity as the groups that were formed earlier were asked to have a group discussion about the problems faced by IEEE in India. The groups discussed on "High attrition rate of IEEE members", "R10 placements cell" etc and were then asked to make presentations overnight.

Day -1 concluded with rejuvenating team building activities, technical junkyard being a show stealer. Each team was given something futile and asked to make something constructive out of it. Everyone enjoyed the team effort and the amusement of the team building activities.

Delhi section hosted a congress dinner with the aim of providing an environment conducive to building friendly relations amongst the student delegates.

Day-2 started with the **Technical paper presentation** contest. The top 8 teams presented their papers before the judging panel. This was followed by presentations from section representatives who highlighted the efforts made by sections to boost student activities. Dr. Mini Thomas also gave a presentation about how IEEE could bring career stability to one's career and also about Women in Engineering.

In the second round of Strategic Round Table Discussion, the solutions for the problems discussed in round-1 was asked to be presented and discussed amongst the student delegates as well as the branch counselors. The panelist included Dr. Subrata Mukhopadhyay, PES board member, chief engineer CEA, Dr. R.G Gupta, AES board member, director, Ministry of IT, who gave valuable

(Contd.)

## IEEE NEWS & EVENTS (Contd.)

suggestions. **All India Fair**, which was the first event of its kind, caught everyone's attention. The Robot controlled via the Internet won a special prize from the judges.

AISC finally concluded with the prize distribution ceremony and feedback from the participants. With the presence of luminaries and active participation from student delegates, the event was a grand success.

### THE APPLAUSE:

"It was the journey which provided learning with fun."  
- **Abhishek Singh**, SDDIET, Chandigarh

"Well organized. Proper platform for technical growth."  
- **Shradha Drolia**, SSGMCE, Shegaon

"It will help us to initiate similar events in our college for overall development and progress of students."  
- **Ashish Ahuja**, GPMCE, Delhi

[Reported by: **Dr. Mini Thomas**, Organiser, AISC - 2006]

### Engineering Education among School Students - IEEE Initiative

Dear All,

This is a very interesting initiative by IEEE to promote engineering education among school students. I recollect that Kerala section and Pune subsection did good efforts in this regard. I am sure others would have also done.

Can we have a volunteer who could liaise with IEEE to incorporate all our AICTE approved Engineering Colleges in the web site of "tryengineering"?

With the very fast growing needs for engineering talent in India, this could help all of us to do the needful in promoting engineering education among school students.

Thanks and best regards,

**R. Muralidharan**

Imm. Past Chair - IEEE India Council

### IEEE Teams up with IBM to Launch 'tryengineering.org'

IEEE and IBM have collaborated to launch a new website that combines interactive activities with information on careers in engineering. 'tryengineering.org' is designed to educate a variety of audiences about the different engineering disciplines and the impact engineers have on society.

Targeted toward teachers, school counselors, parents and students, site visitors can explore how to prepare for an engineering career, ask expert engineer-related questions and play interactive games. Tools for teachers include lesson plans and engineering projects as well as a list of student competitions and science and engineering-oriented summer camps. The site was launched on 5 June '06 with a searchable list of accredited engineering programs in the U.S. and Canada, and will be expanded to include programs in other English-speaking countries as well as Germany and France.

Visit: <http://www.tryengineering.org>

### M.V.CHAUHAN STUDENTS' PAPER CONTEST 2006

OPEN TO : STUDENT MEMBERS OF IEEE

TOPIC : ANY SUBJECT IN THE AREA OF INTEREST TO IEEE

LAST DATE : **AUGUST 3rd, 2006**

### Engineering Council of India - IEEE

Mr. R K Asthana, Chairman, IEEE India Council has been elected as a member of the Board of Governors of Engineering Council of India. This was informed by Mr P N Shali, Director, Engineering Council of India vide letter dt 19 June, '06.

**Congratulations, Mr Asthanaji!**

PRIZES : FIRST : Rs. 6000  
SECOND : Rs. 4000  
THIRD : Rs. 3000

**IN ADDITION, CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED TO THE AUTHORS OF THE SELECTED PAPERS.**

**FIRST AUTHOR OF THE TOP THREE PAPERS WILL BE INVITED FOR PRESENTATION AT**

**IEEE INDICON 2006 TO BE HELD IN NEW DELHI, BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 15TH AND 17TH, 2006**

#### RULES AND GUIDELINES

- THE CONTEST IS OPEN TO ALL STUDENT MEMBERS OF IEEE IN INDIA
- PAPERS IN ANY SUBJECT OF INTEREST TO IEEE MAY BE SUBMITTED
- THE NO. OF AUTHORS FOR ANY PAPER SHOULD NOT EXCEED THREE
- A STUDENT CAN BE AN AUTHOR IN MORE THAN ONE PAPER.
- TWO HARD COPIES AND ONE SOFT COPY OF THE PAPER SHOULD BE SUBMITTED.
- PAPERS SHOULD BE NEATLY TYPED ON BOND QUALITY PAPER IN 1.5 SPACING.
- LENGTH OF THE PAPER SHOULD NOT EXCEED 10 TYPEWRITTEN PAGES.
- EACH ENTRY SHOULD HAVE A TITLE PAGE GIVING THE AFFILIATION OF THE AUTHOR(S)
- DECLARATION FROM THE BRANCH COUNSELLOR SHOULD ACCOMPANY EACH ENTRY IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER "IT IS CERTIFIED THAT THE AUTHOR ..... IS AN IEEE STUDENT MEMBER. THE PAPER ENTITLED..... IS HIS/HER OWN WORK, ELIGIBLE FOR THE M.V.CHAUHAN STUDENTS' PAPER CONTEST 2006."
- IN CASE THE INSTITUTION DOES NOT HAVE AN IEEE STUDENT BRANCH, THIS DECLARATION SHOULD BE SIGNED EITHER BY A FACULTY MEMBER WHO IS AN IEEE MEMBER, OR BY THE PRINCIPAL.
- IN ADDITION TO 2 HARD COPIES OF THE PAPER, ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION THROUGH E-MAIL ATTACHMENTS IS REQUIRED. (mvchauhancontest@gmail.com OR mmshah@yahoo.com)
- TRAVEL ASSISTANCE WILL BE PROVIDED TO FIRST AUTHOR OF THE TOP THREE PRIZE WINNING PAPERS FOR PRESENTATION IN IEEE INDICON 2006 TO BE HELD AT NEW DELHI.

#### **SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES TO:**

**PROF M.M. SHAH**, (Chair, Bombay Section)

VICE CHAIR - IEEE INDIA COUNCIL

(Students' Activities)

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**TECHNOLOGY SNIPPETS****Text-to-speech in 'in-car'GPS Devices**

Nowadays, in-car GPS devices give voice-guided directions. But there's a new enhancement to this feature that is available in latest systems: text-to-speech functionality. This enables a GPS unit to speak specific street names, rather than generic directions. For example, it will say, "Turn right on Main Street," rather than "Turn right in 100 feet." This text-to-speech directions are beneficial for a couple of reasons. Not only is it a great navigation aid, it also allows the driver to keep his eyes safely on the road instead of on the system's screen.

**Electric Bugs**

The US Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) is operating a sensor buoy in the Potomac River that is powered by an unusual source of electricity: bacteria living in the river mud below.

The scheme is based on a bacterium named *Geobacter*. It metabolizes organic materials that fall to the river bottom, releasing carbon dioxide and producing electrons. A system of electrodes is buried in the mud to draw off the electrons and ship them over a cable to the buoy. The NRL effort is intended to pave the way for scientific and military sensor systems that could obtain power from the lakes and seas where they are planted.

- The best rules to form a young man are: to talk little, to hear much, to reflect alone upon what has passed in company, to distrust one's own opinions, and value others that deserve it.

-Sir William Temple

- Exert your talents, and distinguish yourself, and don't think of retiring from the world, until the world will be sorry that you retire.

-Samuel Johnson

- Progress needs the brakeman, but the brakeman should not spend all his time putting on the brakes
- The power of the Executive is like a chess game; there are very few moves that one can make.

**NEWS SNIPPETS****'Globalization' Guru - Theodore Levitt**

Theodore Levitt, a former professor at the Harvard Business School, is credited with coining the term "globalization." Mr. Levitt defined it as the changes in technology and social behaviors that allow multinational companies like Coca-Cola and McDonald's to sell the same products worldwide. His concept that business was becoming globalized first appeared in a 1983 Harvard Business Review article "The Globalization of Markets." He said, "Gone are accustomed differences in national or regional preferences." According to him, companies actually had to balance persistent national cultural patterns with the general trend toward the embrace of global brands. Thus, he approved tactics like McDonald's supplementing its standard menus with local fare like vegetarian meals in India.

Mr. Levitt, known as Ted, gained widespread attention for his marketing insights in 1960, the year after he joined the Harvard faculty. He died on June 28, '06 at Massachusetts.

The shortage of coins in the latter 1600s was so acute, that the government of New France found themselves unable to pay the soldiers. Then inspiration struck. They would use playing cards, and write on the back, exactly how much it was worth. In effect, the cards became cash, paid out as salaries, and in turn, paid out for goods and supplies. It proved so popular, that even after a ship arrived from France with real money, the card system remained legal tender for 30 years or more.

*Editorial Board*

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