

IEEE India Bulletin Vol. 9 No. 6 June 1999

This electronic version of the IEEE India Bulletin is an adaptation of the official, printed newsletter. This adaptation has required some minor modifications and restructuring of the original text, to suit its viewing as a webpage.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**Higher Education and Yuforic-Like Programs**

"For bolstering the potential for good jobs and an improved quality of life for young Canadians," said Mr. Peter Lougheed, "Canada's best hope is to invest in education, skills and research." Mr. Peter Lougheed is known as a fierce and intense Canadian patriot. He was speaking to an assembly of some of Canada's most intelligent and serious thinkers on building the Canada for the next millennium.

In the March issue of the Bulletin, I had referred to the determination of the Chinese minister of education to make its institutions of higher technical education comparable to the best in the world.

Every one agrees today with the truth that the flow of wealth will be towards nations, whose young have high levels of education and skill training and which has 'the most proficient people'.

If our engineering colleges and institutions of higher learning have to hold their own in the global environment, we shall have to revamp our system thoroughly. But the first essential thing is to attract and retain the talented in the teaching positions in the system. Moreover research work, of the highest quality, leading to doctorate level work is required to be developed by utilizing the global connectivity provided by today's technologies in a large number of universities and engineering colleges. YUFORIC : Under Professor Tadao Ichikawa's Chairmanship, IEEE Computer Society has instituted a special group called Youth for Research in Computing. Under this program, YUFORIC sessions, where Research scholars come together to discuss ongoing research, are held along with IEEE Conferences. To maintain the standards of Ph.D. work, such open interaction can prove to be highly beneficial for India. A platform of this type can be of mutual benefit to researchers. However, such an event can be a success only if we understand its importance and its potential for benefit in our context.

The India Council can organize such useful projects only if it can get support of two types from good Indian Institutes as well as from Indian Industries. Research guides, whose work is recognized around the world, must consider it their duty to remain present themselves at YUFORIC sessions along with their research scholars. The industries must provide full support, including travel, stay and registration, to YUFORIC participants from mofussil colleges, which are trying to pursue Ph.D. work without Research Grants.

IEEE India Council was able to hold the FIRST YUFORIC session along with ACE -98 at Ahmedabad only due to the support of Professor T. Ichikawa's group and of IEEE Computer Society. However, if we want to make it a regular feature in India, it will have to attract strong local support.

Dr. A. K. Aggarwal
Chairman



email : aka@adl.vsnl.net.in

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THINK IT OVER

Speeches are like babies - easy to conceive, but hard to deliver. - Pat O' Malley

Just about the time you think you can make both ends meet, somebody moves the ends. - Anon

If you close the door to all errors, you also shut out the truth. - Rabindra Nath Tagore.

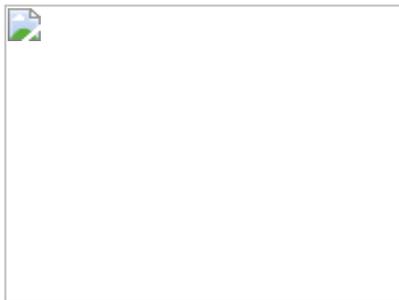
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TECHNOLOGY NOTES

PV Power

A delegation from photovoltaics (PV) organisations of India visited Japan to participate in a PV seminar to discuss PV policy, technology development, applications and industry status in the two countries, as well as identify areas of cooperation. Japan and India are the world's second and third largest producers of solar cells and modules respectively. Japan recently launched a programme to instal 70,000 solar roofs on homes. Within the Indian PV programme, more than 50,000 systems have been installed across the country, with a total capacity of 35 MW, besides four MW of country's exports. More than 80 Indian companies are engaged in the PV industry and production of cells was 8.2 MW and modules 11 MW during 1997-98.

Down to Earth Solar boating



A prototype solar-powered 15-seater boat manufactured by Collinda Ltd., the United Kingdom, is being used to ferry passengers at Lake Pichola, Udaipur, India. Siemens, the Mewar R&D Solar Cell and Mr. Malcolm Moss together designed and built a PV assembly consisting of 14 x 70 W panels, which provides nearly 1 kW of power, at full sunshine, to the electric outboard engine. Excess energy is stored in four batteries, enabling the boat to operate at night and in the early morning. The solar panels are guaranteed to supply power for thirty years.

VATIS update : Renewable Energy, Mar-Apr 1999

Vehicles on natural gas

Motor Medics (India) Ltd. (MIL) has reached an agreement with Alternative Fuel Systems (AFS), Canada, to sell, and later manufacture, systems which convert petroleum-burning vehicles into

natural gas-powered vehicles. The collaboration will allow MIL to manufacture the 'Sparrow Conversion' system locally. MIL will supply the funds and personnel while AFS will assist in expertise and technology transfer. The new systems are to be installed in 'Maruti' vehicles. MIL will have to reach an agreement with Maruti Udyog Limited for an annual minimum supply of 20,000 conversion systems.

Vatis update : NC Energy Mar-April 1999

China to draw surplus power from Russia?

ABB Power, Sweden, is working with the Chinese government to build a \$1.5 billion, 2500 km transmission line to supply China with electricity from Russia through Mongolia. Russia has surplus capacity in Siberia, and China wants to avoid building more of coal based power plants

Trends in Renewable Energy, 8 March 1999

Australia's hybrid solar-fossil energy system

A team of scientists from Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is to demonstrate that clean power can be produced on a large scale by a hybrid solar-fossil generation system that has the potential to emit minimal green-house gases.

Dr. Malcolm McIntosh, Chief Executive of CSIRO, announced that the A\$ 7.5 million project would involve construction of a 20 kW demonstration plant at Sydney. At the leading edge of world clean energy technology, this system will demonstrate that fossil energy can be "decarbonized" using solar power to produce a fuel gas composed of hydrogen and carbon dioxide. Electricity will be generated from the hydrogen in two ways - by using a fuel cell or a micro-gas turbine. It is hoped that the solid oxide fuel cells (SOFC) developed by CSIRO and Ceramic Fuel Cells Ltd will be incorporated into the system. This fuel cell technology can be scaled up later, to power several homes, a factory, a whole suburb, a remote community or even an entire town.

For more information contact : Dr. Malcolm McInto [CSIRO](#)

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ACE 99

ACE-99
Trivandrum

Theme : Intelligent Networking
Dates : 2-4 December 1999

- **Tutorials on:** 2.12.99
Topics :
 - Java
 - Network Management
 - Case studies on e-commerce

Contact: NAP Thampi for registration

- **Conference on:** 3, 4 December '99
Sessions on : e-commerce Network Application **Contact :** Muralee Mohanlal, Chairman, Kerala Section or Koruthu P. Varghese

Further details:
Convenor, ACE 99
Harmoniee, Ambujavilasam Road, Trivandrum 695 001
Phone : ++ 91 471 473 515
email : ieeek@vsnl.com

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The 6th National Conference on Communications

The 6th National Conference on Communications

January 29-30, 2000

Pre-Conference Tutorials: January 28th, 1999
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Schedule for papers

Extended Summary due : 31st August, 1999
Acceptance Notification : 10th October, 1999
Camera-Ready paper due : 10th November, 1999

For Correspondence and Submission of Papers

Dr. S.D.Joshi, Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Delhi - 110 016,
India.

e-mail: NCC2000@ee.iitd.ernet.in

web: www.poboxes.com/ncc2000

Fax: (011) 696 6606 / 696 6264

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TEN WORST QUESTIONS

One should avoid for better relations

- o Do you have statistics to back up that statement ?
- o You don't honestly expect me to believe that, do you ?
- o You don't remember me, do you ?
- o Have I kept you waiting ?
- o Now what's the matter ?
- o Will you promise not to get angry if I ask you something ?
- o So what ?
- o You asleep ?
- o When are you going to grow up ?
- o Haven't you any sense of humour ?

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EDITORIAL

Circulation doubled

This time, no reports of activity have reached the Editor for publication - for the first time during the last 5 years. Could it be a pre-monsoon lull ? Hence, the two page format this month. We

hope to get back to the normal size in the next month. Nevertheless, due to the phenomenal increase in membership, the circulation has almost doubled from this month onwards. Also, the entire mailing list has been re-done according to the latest available addresses from the HQ at New York. Yet, the Bulletin would like to receive, corrections if any, on the mailing address given on this month's wrapper. If our esteemed readers could also note, omissions if any, in their neighbour -hood, we would be thankful for that kind act to let the link between our members reach every hand in time.

Regards,

Prof. V K Damodaran
Editor



E-mail : ykd@ieee.org

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Your feedback is important !

- o e mail: algolog@hd1.vsnl.net.in
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- o Write to:

*Dr. S. Parthasarathy
Algologic Research and Solutions
78 Sancharpuri Colony
Bowenpally P.O.
Secunderabad 500 011 - INDIA*

- o Call: + 91 - 40 - 775 1650 (24 hours)
- o FAX: + 91 - 40 - 775 1135

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