

IEEE India Bulletin Vol. 9 No. 11 November 1999
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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**ACTIVE FEEDBACK**

While the IEEE Technical Activities Board's Colloquia led by the President, Dr. Kenneth R. Laker, was visiting five of the ten sections in India, the other Sections were busy in working out other important activities. Kerala section is the host for ACE 99, the last annual program of the India council and its Sections of this century. Madras Section has taken up the important task of holding the first Students Congress, an activity of all the 125 Students branches in India. Hyderabad is hosting the 2000 IEEE International Conference on Personal Wireless Communications sponsored by the IEEE AES/COM/LEOS Chapter of India Council and co-sponsored by the Hyderabad Section and IEEE Information Theory Society. In early October, the Power Engineering Chapter of India Council organised a Seminar on Power Tariff, which attracted a good participation from engineers as well as engineering managers. By these examples, I wanted to state that in India the various Sections and Chapters continue to offer rich technical fare for the members in particular, and for the entire community of professionals in the fields of interest to IEEE, in general.

However unless a larger number of members are actively involved in the planning and organisation of the programs, unless feedback on the programs is freely given by the members and unless the needs of every member are clearly articulated, we may not be able to fully meet the professional needs of our membership. IEEE leadership regularly holds Retreats with the leaders of the industry and the academia to work out the emerging needs for continuing education of its members. Since the needs of our industry and engineers may not exactly match the needs of the members in, say, North America and Japan, we have to seek the opinion of our members by using the two excellent tools available to our members. The first is the IC Bulletin, which is brought out regularly through the efforts of Professor V. K. Damodaran. The second is the IC web-site, which offers an inexpensive and fast method of reaching out to a large number of our members. The URL for the site is at www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/india_council/index.html. Dr. S. Parthasarathy, who has provided his services as the PageMaster from the beginning of the IC web-site, will be able to help you use it effectively. You can join the IC mailing list yourself and then use it to reach out to the members.

Please use the two media by writing to the editor or by sending messages through the web to tell us about your views regarding the kind of programs, you feel can fulfil the needs of the members.

The technical publications of IEEE, its International Conferences and its work in the fields of Standards are the best in the world in our fields. If in spite of this, we are not able to retain our student members as IEEE members, after they graduate, it may be because we are not able to satisfy the needs of our young graduates. (Another reason is that a very large part of our student members emigrate to the developed world, where they retain the IEEE membership.) Hence IC, its Sections and Chapters can benefit a great deal from the feedback from its members regarding

the kind of programs that it should take up so that it does not lose a single member.

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



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IMPRESSIONS

on

The IEEE TAB Colloquia Tour of India

by

Vijay Bhargava, FEIC, FIEEE

During 19 to 27 September, the IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB) Colloquia Tour visited the Delhi Section (estd. 1976), the Gujarat Section (estd. 1990), Bombay Section (estd. 1976), Bangalore Section (estd. 1976) and the Calcutta Section (estd. 1978) of the IEEE India Council (estd. 1976).

The following IEEE volunteers and staff participated in the tour :

Dr. Kenneth Laker, IEEE President;

Dr. Michael Adler, IEEE VP-Technical Activities;

Mr. Wes Spencer, IEEE TAB Colloquia Steering Committee Chair;

Dr. Vijay Bhargava, IEEE Communications Society Distinguished Lecturer and President-Elect of the IEEE Information Theory Society;

Dr. Shan Rajagopal, TAB Colloquia Speaker;

Ms. Mary Ward Callan, Managing Director-IEEE Technical Activities and Ms. Fanny Su, Manager, IEEE Asia Pacific Office.

It was a whirlwind, high energy tour during which the following talks were presented at various locations:

1. Life-Long Learning for Engineers in the 21st Century (Laker).
2. The IEEE-Fostering Technological Innovation, Enabling Member's careers and Promoting Community Worldwide (Laker).
3. Switched Capacitor Circuits for Precision Analog Signal Processing (Laker).
4. High Density Interconnect Packaging (Adler).
5. Electronics in Power Utility Systems (Spencer).
6. An Overview of Wireless Communications (Bhargava)
7. Code-Division Multiple-Access (CDMA) for Wireless Communications (Bhargava).
8. Lessons for Profitability: Moving from Strategic to Tactical, Vision to Action with Emphasis on the IT Industry (Rajagopal).

In addition President Laker addressed students at several locations and brief presentations were made by Ms. Ward Callan on Technical Activities Department and by Ms. Su on the IEEE Asia Pacific Operations Centre.

The audience for the technical presentations varied from 40 to over 500! The round table discussions with students, IEEE members and Section leaders were the highlights of the tour. A list of action items arising from the tour has been compiled and the IEEE entities will be in touch with our volunteer leaders in India on various issues.

And now some personal observations: I am a native of Rajasthan and left India as a teenager. Apart from the academic year 1974-75 (spent as a lecturer at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore), I have been living in Canada since 1966. I was very impressed with the progress of IEEE in India. The membership is an all time high but the retention rate is very poor. We need to increase our retention rate. On the industrial scene, a lot is happening in the Information Technology related areas (including telecommunications) and Electric Power Generation. This in

turn will push membership number even further. In 1994, led by President Troy Nagle, the IEEE conducted round table discussions in India. They resulted in agreements being signed in 1995 by President Tom Cain. However, it appears that our Section leaders are not aware of these agreements. Therefore the advantages of joint activities are missing. On September 26, I visited Hyderabad to do a site inspection for hosting the 2000 IEEE International Conference on Personal Wireless Communications during December 17-20 (website located at www.citr.ece.uvic.ca/icpwc2000). With any luck we will have our 2000 IEEE President Bruce Eisenstein, the President of the IEEE Communications Society J. Roberto B. de Marca and the President of the IEEE Information Theory Society (that would be me!).

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IEEE TAB COLLOQUIA AT MUMBAI



IEEE President Dr. Ken Laker with TAB Colloquia members and Bombay Section officers.

Left to Right: Dr. Shan Rajagopal, TAB Colloquia speaker; Ms. Mary Ward, MD-TAB at IEEE HQ; Dr. M. Adler, TAB Colloquia speaker; Prof. K. Shankar, Vice Chair of Bombay Section; R. Muralidharan, Chair of Bombay Section; Dr. Ken Laker, IEEE President; Dr. F. C. Kohli, Founder Chair of IEEE India Section and past Region 10 Director; Mr. Q. Bakir, Immediate Past Chair of Bombay Section

The TAB Colloquia was led by IEEE President Dr. Ken Laker and he addressed students and members at IIT Bombay, St. Andrews Auditorium and YB Chavan Hall. Nearly 500 students and 200 members participated in the various technical seminars. The main schedule for the Conference included the following talks :

- At IIT, Bombay
 - Address by IEEE President Dr. Ken Laker to the students and faculty and at EE Seminar Hall
 - Talk by Dr. Bhargava on CDMA for wireless communications
 - Talk by Dr. MS Adler on "High Density interconnect Packaging"
- At Tata Electric Auditorium, Trombay
 - Talk by Mr. Spencer on "Electronics in Power Utility Systems"
- At St. Andrew's Auditorium, Bandra :
 - Talk by IEEE President Ken Laker on "Life-long learning for Engineers in the 21st Century"
 - Talk by Dr. Bhargava on "An overview of cellular wireless communications"
- At Y B Chavan Hall, Nariman Point

- Talk by Dr. Rajagopal on "Lessons for Profitability: Moving from Strategic to Tactical, Vision to Action : With emphasis on the IT Industry"

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TECHNOLOGY CORNER

Orimulsion coming to India ?

India is hoping to import the synthetic fuel orimulsion from South America to meet the country's burgeoning electricity demand. After three days of talks in Caracas, the Venezuelan delegates expressed a desire to export the tar-like bitumen and water composite to the sub-continent. India, the world's eighth largest oil importer, added orimulsion to its list of fuels permitted for electricity generation last July. It has yet to import its first cargo of the product but the Secretary of the Petroleum and Gas ministry, Mr. Mauskar, could sign a contract with Venezuela next year. Mauskar said India would consider setting up an orimulsion production facility once exports have got underway. The fuel is already used in Japan, Italy, Denmark and Canada but has lost valuable sales in USA and UK. This is, in part, because of a negative campaign by some environmental groups.

[Source : Asian Electricity July/Aug 1999]

Rice husk based power plant

Biomass based independent power plant, that solely runs on rice husk was set up recently at village Jaroda in Madhya Pradesh. Located in Raipur district, the 'rice bowl' of India, the plant will consume about seven tonnes of rice husk an hour to produce steam that will be used to generate 6 MW of power. The estimated capital cost of the project will be around Rs. 3.5 crore per MW, against Rs. 4 to 5 crore per MW for a coal-based power plant. In this area, one tonne of rice husk costs about Rs. 550, compared to Rs. 1400 per tonne of coal. A conservative estimate indicates a potential of about 800 MW of power generation from rice husk in India, especially in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and West Bengal. The MNES has undertaken a potential assessment programme, for setting up of such plants in other parts of the country, depending upon availability of raw material and other infrastructural facilities.

[Source : Bio Energy News, MNES]

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CCSP-2000

International Conference on Communications, Control & Signal Processing in the Next Millennium

Sponsored by

IEEE, Bangalore Section
JULY 25-28, 2000 Bangalore, India

First call for papers

Original contributions based on theoretical/experimental/simulation research, development, design are solicited for presentation at International Conference on Communications, Control & Signal Processing in the Next Millennium to be held at Bangalore, India during July 25 - 28, 2000. All submissions will be subject to peer review, and papers accepted and presented in the conference will be published in the Proceedings.

Areas of interest include, but not limited to

Communications: Software Radios, Coding and Modulation, Multiple Access Techniques, Spread Spectrum Technology, Wireless and Data Communications and Networking, Multimedia Communications and Internet.

Control Systems: Fuzzy and Neural Control, Aerospace Applications, Industrial Applications, Robotics.

Signal Processing: Algorithms and Architectures, DSP Applications, Image Processing, Speech and Video Coding, Filter Banks and Wavelets.

Electrical Power System: Generation, Transmission and Distribution Systems, IT Applications in Power Systems Operations and Management, Power Electronics, De-regulation and Consequences.

Transportation Systems: Electric Vehicles, Intelligent Highways, Railway Systems of all kinds, Air and Sea Transport Systems.

Detailed Information available at
ece.iisc.ernet.in/ccsp

CCSP-2000 Local Organising Committee:
Prof. K. Rajagopal
Dept. of EE
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore 560 012
E-mail: kasi@ee.iisc.ernet.in

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POWER-99

15th National Convention of Electrical Engineers

POWER OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE - PROBLEMS & PROSPECTS

14, 15 & 16 December 1999
at Trivandrum

Sponsored by

Electrical Engineering Division Board
THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS (INDIA)

Organised by

THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS (INDIA), KERALA STATE CENTRE

Co-sponsored by

The Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers Inc., Kerala Section
The Institution of Electronics & Telecommunication Engineers, Trivandrum Centre.
Computer Society of India, Trivandrum Chapter

Contact :

Mrs. B. Sukumaree Devi
Convenor, Power 99
Institution of Engineers (India)
Observatory Hills, Trivandrum 695 033
Email : ietvm@md3.vsnl.net.in

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RADAR SYMPOSIUM INDIA '99

14-17 December 1999

Hotel Ashok High Grounds,
Bangalore 560 001, India

Sponsors :IEEE, IETE, SEE, BEL, DRDO, HAL

Website :www.radarsymp-99-india.com

About the Symposium

An International Radar Symposium (IRSI-99) will be held during 14-17 December 1999 in Bangalore, India. This symposium being jointly organised by IETE and the IEEE Bangalore Section, provides a forum for academicians, R&D scientists, production managers and users working in radar and related areas to project and share new challenges, concepts, designs, simulation and evaluation methodologies that are emerging in contemporary and advanced techniques and technologies related to radar. The symposium will include regular sessions and tutorials.

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NSIMC 2000

National Symposium on **INTELLIGENT MEASUREMENT & CONTROL**

February 25-26, 2000

Venue : MIT, Anna University, Chennai

Topical Areas to be Covered
in the National Symposium

Intelligent Measurement/Sensors/Micro/Miniature Sensors/Field bus, Systems Identification, Adaptive Control, Fuzzy Systems, Neural Networks, Genetic Algorithms and Expert Systems in Instrumentation & Control, and related topics

Contact :

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World Computer Congress 2000

21-25 August, 2000

Beijing, China

www.wcc2000.org

Information Processing Beyond Year 2000

Hosted by

Chinese Institute of Electronics

China Computer Federation

China Institute of Communications

In co-operation with :

IEEE Communication Society, IFIP TC6 and

Chinese State Key Lab on Microwave & Digital Communications.

For further information, please contact

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AT 1999 SECTIONS CONGRESS

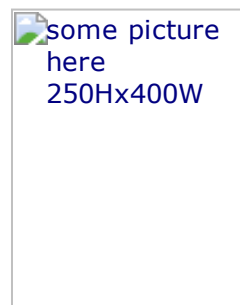
Faces from India



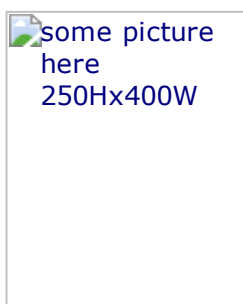
H.L. Bajaj



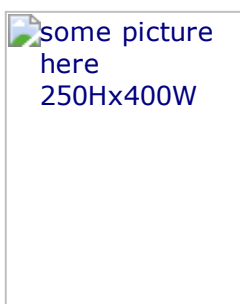
A.K. Aggarwal



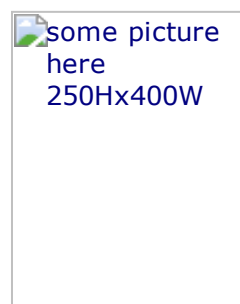
H.P. Khincha



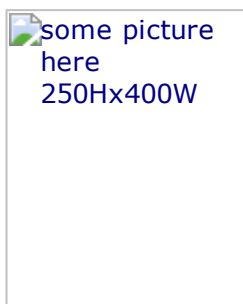
S.A. Soundararajan



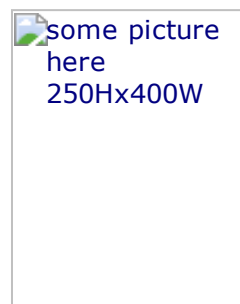
R.K. Asthana



J.M. Lal



A.R. Pandya



Arora

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WISE AND OTHERWISE

Love is the beginning of knowledge as fire is the beginning of light.
Thomas Carlyle

There can be no transforming of darkness into light and apathy into movement, without emotion.
Carl Jung

An age is not called dark because the light fails to shine, but because people refuse to see it.
James Michener

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SUGGESTIONS

for the IC Nominations Committee

The NC to work out the slate for IC Committee of the year 2000 is being set up. If you have any suggestions, which you want the IC to consider, please write to the following address:

Prof. A.R. Pandya
Secretary-Treasurer, IC,
'Kalyan',
Alaknanda Tapovan Society,
V.K.V. Road,
Nadiad - 387 001
Gujarat State

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INVITATION TO DISTINGUISHED LECTURES

Tata Infotech Ltd. (TIL) invites eminent persons who have made a name for themselves in Computer Science and technology and also in broadly related areas. TIL looks upon these lectures as a service to the professional community, hence they are open to all and are organized at places which are easily accessible to the IT professional community.

Please contact:
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Senior Library Executive
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EDITORIAL

Befitting Finale

This year, the India Council, since its 23 years of existence has the unique distinction of a record member strength and a steep growth rate. It is befitting that a large number of very serious technical conferences in the frontier areas of technology are organised towards the second half of the year. These activities have not shown a trend to taper off any way. Announcements elsewhere in this and the last two issues of the Bulletin are ample proof of a befitting finale at the end of this millennium, leading towards more interesting sessions for us to attend alongwith our welcome to the year 2000.

All our members are welcome to this year's Annual Event at Trivandrum in early December - for the ACE 99. It would be a most memorable event, if representatives from all the 10 Sections of the India Council could attend this event. The organisers are waiting for your nod. Could you communicate your intention to participate, through an e-mail to the Kerala Section ?

Regards,

Thiruvananthapuram V. K. Damodaran
01 Nov. 1999 Editor



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Your feedback is important !

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