



Chairman's Message



Friends,

Sections Congress 2008, the triennial assemblage of over 1,100 IEEE volunteers from world over at Quebec this year from 19 to 22 Sep. '08 is probably the biggest ever such IEEE meet. There was good Indian presence from Sections, Subsections, Council, and also of volunteers doing specific services under humanitarian grounds, WIE, GOLD, Caucus, Student branch promotion through LINK and GINI

projects etc. The case studies presented were well received by the IEEE community, which were visible during the interactions. Kudos to all the Indian representatives who made their mark in this Sections Congress! It was a learning experience to the delegates to know about the immense opportunities lying unexplored under IEEE fold, which were on display in the well-managed IEEE exhibition stalls.

One of the major highlights of the Congress was the honouring of some of the eminent personalities like Gordon E Moore (Moore's law), Berners Lee (world wide web), and also of Research In Motion (RIM) for corporate innovation, namely, Blackberry. Then there was the recognition of Sections completing 25 years which included Kerala from India. I am sure those who attended the SC08 would have returned with many innovative ideas to apply and add value to their member folk. The unique tie up between Bangalore and Central New Jersey Sections is a new leaf in IEEE movement, aimed at joint working without distance barriers. Congrats to Bangalore Section, in whose cap a new feather is also added – chosen as one of the 3 Sections in R10 for celebrating the 125th year of IEEE in 2009. The tie-up initiated between Kerala, and Syracuse Sections and Tennessee Council, is another notable development. Best wishes!!

In the midst of these positives, we just heard of a dismal voting percentage in the recently concluded elections to the HQ and R10 positions. Out of a total of around 45,000 members with voting rights in R10, only a meagre 6,000 or so voted this time (in spite of having the convenience of electronic voting which takes only a minute or so), electing Wai Choong Wong of Singapore as R10 Director-elect. This requires a soul searching by members and volunteers in India.

The world is changing and it throws up new challenges, including to the professional society movement. An innovation-enabled re-modeling may be due. This was the theme of a presentation by me to R10 members during the Congress.

With best wishes to all,

N. T. Nair

Chairman, IEEE India Council
ntnair@ieee.org

Trivandrum
12 Oct. '08

From India Council Secretary



with a little over two months left to conclude this year's activities, we would like to achieve substantial increase in the NDLP activities that are going forward. Sections and other entities organizing seminars and conferences are requested to avail this scheme for inviting reputed speakers for their events. Please contact Mr. S Gopakumar (s.gopakumar@ieee.org) to know more about the NDLP scheme.

Members may recall that Prof. Rangachar Kasturi, President of IEEE Computer Society had led a team to visit five cities in India earlier this year and held discussions with officers from six Sections. The main purpose of the visit was to evolve ways of delivering better service to IEEE members. Prof. Kasturi is coming again in Nov for further discussions. Let us hope that something very fruitful will come out of these efforts.

Meanwhile, we request all Sections and other entities to give wide publicity for their events through this India Council Newsletter. It is only through publicizing our activities that we can communicate the benefits of IEEE membership to our members.

Cheers!

K. G. Satheesh Kumar

Secretary, India Council, IEEE

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IEEE Challenges Students to Change the World

A new Competition offers US \$10,000 as Top Prize for Humanitarian Endeavors by students! IEEE, the world's largest technical professional society, announced the IEEE Presidents' First Change the World Competition. The contest is open to college and university students who demonstrate excellence in the design and implementation of technology that can solve a life challenge for the benefit of humanity. A very innovative judging system is innovated. For details, go to ieee125.org/ChangeTheWorld. This is part of the 125th Anniversary of IEEE.

Editorial Board

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Visit

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

A handful of common sense is worth a bushel of learning – Old Proverb

ComSoc Calcutta Chapter Honoured Again



[L-R] Debashis Saha, Salil K. Sanyal, ANTHONY EPHREMIDES

IEEE Communications Society (COMSOC) Calcutta Chapter of the Asia Pacific (AP) Region has won this year's Communications Society Chapter Achievement Award (CAA) on being adjudged by the COMSOC HQ. More heartening is the fact that the same Chapter had won the CAA Award in 2006 too! This year three other COMSOC chapters also have been selected for the award. They are: EAME – Hungary; LA – Columbia; NA – Toronto; and Special Recognition for EAME - Portugal Chapter.

IEEE Member Relations Council had chosen IEEE ComSoc Calcutta Chapter for the "Chapter of the Year Award 2008" also, above the other 3 worthy Chapters. In recognition of this, the Calcutta ComSoc Chapter will receive an additional honorarium of USD 2000, and the Calcutta Chapter Chair Dr. Debashis Saha, had been invited to attend the IEEE GLOBECOM Awards Luncheon in New Orleans, Louisiana, (travel fare paid) to be honoured during the Ceremony in Dec. 2008.

ComSoc, the largest chapter under Calcutta Section, has been continuously involved in organizing Technical Lecture Meetings by national/international experts typically targeted for undergraduate students, One-Day Workshops on Recent Trends in Communications for graduate students and faculties, distinguished lectures (DLTs) by ComSoc DLs for members in Industry, and educational Faculty Development Programmes (FDP) for local Engg. Colleges, etc.

Congratulations to Salil K Sanyal- Section Chair and the ComSoc team led by Saha!

C. G. Ravi Passes Away

Mr. Anthony Lobo informed many of IEEE volunteers in India, on 15 September the sad news that Dr. C. G. Ravi, formerly Chairman of IC in mid 90s died early that morning at 02.30 hrs. May his soul rest in peace!

IEEE India has certainly lost an eminent professional, and a silent, dedicated volunteer in his demise. –

Ed.



Economic`s of Space discussed at NIT Calicut

IA, IE & PE Society Chapter of IEEE Kerala Section in Association with the Department of Electrical Engineering and the IEEE Student Branch of National Institute of Technology Calicut organized a Special Address on 13.8.08 by Dr. (Ms) Chakravartini Saaj Faculty of Surrey University, UK, on "Changing the Economics of Space: Future Trends in Space Exploration". Dr. Saaj gave an overview of the innovative and low cost technologies for space, developed by Surrey Space Centre and SSTL. Opportunities for research in satellite engineering, space and planetary exploration and current research activities of the Space Robotics research group at University of Surrey were also discussed. More than 200 participants enlivened the event.

Dr. Sreeram Kumar

Secretary-IA, IE & PE Society Chapter



200 strong audience, listening to Dr. (Ms.) Saaj

Nominated to IJCIT Editorial Board

Prof. V. K. Damodaran, Senior Member and IEEE India Info Editor has been nominated to the International Board of Editors of the International Journal of Computing & Information Technology (IJCIT), with Dr. Gautam Kumar (G. K.) Saha, Scientist-F (CDAC-Kolkata), FIETE, Senior Member IEEE, ACM. You may send your papers for publication to <ijcit@rediffmail.com> or <sahagk@gmail.com>

OES India Launched

The Ocean Engineering Society (OES) under India Council, with Dr. M. A. Atmanand as the first Chair was launched at a function held at NIOT, Chennai and the interactive session was web cast live with the sponsorship of NI Systems (India) Private Limited, Bangalore.

Book on Soft Computing

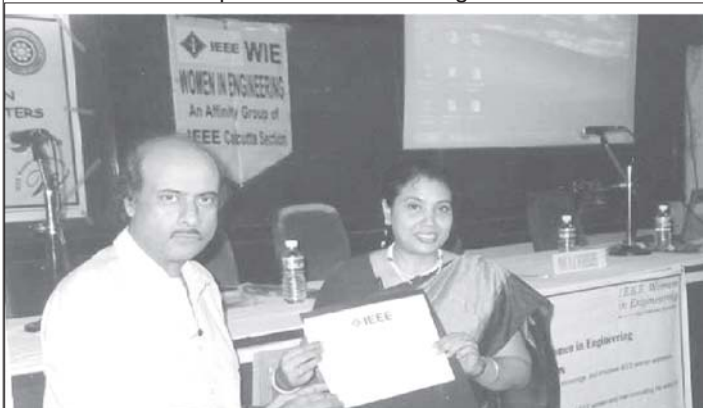
Devendra K. Chaturvedi, a member of IEEE (Reader, Dept. of EE, Dayalbag Educational Institute, a deemed University in Agra) has brought out a book on "Soft Computing – Techniques and its Applications in Electrical Engineering", through the well known publisher Springer. Dr. Chaturvedi deserves encouragement from fellow members of IEEE in India. e-mail: dkc.foe@gmail.com web page: http://works.bepress/dk_chaturvedi.

CALCUTTA IEEE WOMEN, BEST OF 2007

The Women In Engineering (WIE) Affinity Group under Calcutta Section has won the First place globally for its good work in the Year 2007 among similar groups all over the World. Congratulations to Dr. (Ms) Iti Saha Misra as Calcutta WIE Group Chairperson and the team she led to earn this recognition.

From the fact that the participation of women in engineering education in India is not even 20%, the members of the affinity group feel that girls at the high school stage itself should be sensitized and encouraged to enter. With this goal in 2007-2008, the first year of activities, this WIE Group organized 15 lecture programs, debates and lectures by students, 6 technical paper presentation sessions, one panel discussion, one career guidance program and one design model contest for different levels of students with special emphasis on girls. The members of WIE affinity group under IEEE Calcutta Section are very active and well connected through email, regular meetings, website, tele-conferencing and section newsletter. Major events are published in section newsletter, and also in R10 Newsletter. Every report is also updated to the website.

For details: <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r10/calcutta/WIE/>



Prof. S. K. Sanyal, IEEE Calcutta Section Chair delivering the Award certificate to the WIE Chair Dr. Iti Saha Misra at EDCC-2008 on June 20.



Student participants in awareness program – Lake Girls' School, 11 Aug 2007

NETBEANS Symposium held

Institute of Science and Technology for Advanced Studies and Research (ISTAR) Student Branch (Code 65201) in association with Sun Microsystems organized a symposium on NetBeans - Java Technology, at GCET Engineering College Auditorium, Vallabh Vidya Nagar, Gujarat on Wednesday, 17th September 2008. 263 delegates from the different Engineering, MCA, MSc (Information Science) and BCA colleges/universities and some representatives from IT Companies attended the symposium. Reported by Reported by **Nirbhay Chaubey**, Counsellor, E-mail: nirbhay@ieee.org



Research Associate in Italy

IEEE AESS in Italy has offered 2 RA positions in Italy to work in the areas of AESS and satellite communication. The stipend will be Euro 15000/- pa. Other supports also likely. If any reader knows about a willing candidate, please send CV to **Dr. Ram Gopal Gupta**, Chair AESS and Senior Director in Ministry of Communications and Information, GOI at r.gupta@ieee.org

New Faces of Engineering

Recognition Program

The Engineers Week (EWeek) "New Faces of Engineering" program recognizes engineers new to the profession with outstanding educational and career accomplishments. The IEEE and IEEE-USA are seeking nominations for the 2009 "New Faces" campaign.

The program is open to IEEE members worldwide and international nominations are encouraged. The EWeek "New Faces of Engineering" program is designed to promote the importance of technical education, celebrate engineering careers and recognize significant contributions to the engineering profession and society.

EWeek 2009 is 15-21 February. To be eligible for recognition, engineers must be 30 or younger as of 14 November 2008, have a degree in engineering from a recognized U.S. college or university or equivalent international educational institution.

The nomination form and more information are available at <http://www.eweek.org/site/Engineers/newfaces2009/nomination.shtml>

An ass is beautiful to an ass, and a pig is beautiful to a pig – John Ray

Section Congress 2008



*Indian Presence at Quebec, Canada.
Report in November issue*

Editorial

I am in Pain



For nearly two years since I took over again as Editor of Info, for the first time I am in pain. I had to abridge several of the reports and drop many announcements in this issue. While the situation is a happy one of a vibrant IEEE in India, it is sad not to cover model activities in greater detail. Please bear with me – volunteers as well as the readers.

Dr. C. G. Ravi as Chairman, with whom I started as an Editor of the IEEE Bulletin in the mid 90s left me in pain again, with his departure from our midst to a peaceful rest, making me to remember his dedication: With every Chairman's message that he used to jot down, he tried to pin a DD to meet the cost of that issue, through a pre-paid Ad. He never wanted the Editor to run about for the wherewithal to produce the then only communication channel between members in India. A good leadership model!

Regards,

Trivandrum
12 Oct. '08

V. K. Damodaran, Editor
vkd@ieee.org

Every innovation begins with a thought.

ThinkLABS is an educational training and product company in the field of robotics & embedded systems incubated at SINE, IIT Mumbai. With strong R&D focus and technical backing we have reached out to over 18,000 students in 35 cities across India by providing them resources through a wide variety of development boards, sensors, robotic kits, software-based resources, basic and advanced level training sessions.

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