

India Council Life-time Section Chair Award - 2020

(Given on December 11, 2020)

Dr. Ramakrishna Kappagantu

BE, M.Tech, Ph.D



Ramakrishna graduated in Electrical Engineering from MNIT-Jaipur (1983), did Masters in Automation & Control from PG School, JNTU-Hyderabad (1995) and completed PhD in Smart Grids from NIT-Tiruchirappalli (2018).

He has over 33 Years of leadership experience in Indian Power Sector viz. NTPC and POWERGRID. Presently consulting independently for Smart Grids, Solar Projects and Smart Cities across India, he earlier made significant contributions towards development of India's 1st Smart Grid Pilot Project and effective management of 55 Gigawatt Southern Regional Grid, its complex real time operations, Power Markets and SCADA-EMS. In these roles, he gained rich experience in effectively addressing technical, financial, cultural and transnational challenges like implementing smart grid pilot projects under open and free collaboration with over sixty global entities, that lead to several commercial smart grid pilot projects across India. Smart grid technologies emerged from earlier attempts at using electronic control, metering, and monitoring in India where his work has its own unique impact on the grid operational strategies. He has contributed towards the development of Smart Grid in India both as an application engineer and a researcher. His interests include Smart Grids / Smart Cities, Renewables, Power System Economics and SCADA-EMS.

Ramakrishna was one of the youngest chairs of IEEE Bangalore section (2008-2009). He strategically transformed the Bangalore section as one of the most vibrant sections in R10. His Volunteer service & leadership to the IEEE India Council, Bangalore Section and Power & Energy Society Chapter were focused on providing opportunities and encouragement for members to recognize and advance their technical/professional leadership skills. He had guided the society chapters of section to revive and excel by providing seed money and volunteer support. He embodies the spirit of IEEE and has been an excellent advocate of ethics in Engineering that showcased the basis for practicing and budding Engineers to develop technologies to solve humanitarian challenges through AIYEHUM, a novel HAC initiative taken by him as section chair. He was instrumental in Bangalore Section signing MOU for Sister Section Relationship with Princeton Central Jersey Section, the first of its kind in IEEE R10/India. He has been one of the 1st section volunteers who got elected to IEEE Board and successfully served as R10 Director (2015-16) without prior R10 experience, taking IEEE India to greater heights. His rich and vast experience in IEEE through cross functional leadership across membership development, conferences, professional & student Activities is evident from the successful completion of the historic IEEE 125th year anniversary celebration, 50 Years Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Region10 and some of the big events like R10 SWYL Congress, Global WIE Summit and the All India Student Branch Counsellors Meet. Chairing all these programs, he could lead, guide and develop with excellent dynamism & smart approach, a big bunch of dedicated volunteers which certainly exhibits his strong interpersonal skills with sensitivity to cross-cultural and transnational issues.

His contributions have duly been acknowledged by global IEEE Communities through various awards viz. 2017 IEEE MGA Larry K. Wilson Transnational Award, 2014 IEEE MGA Innovation Award, 2012 IEEE PES Outstanding Engineer Award, 2011 MGA Achievement Award, 2010 IEEE R10 Outstanding Volunteer Award and 2010 Bangalore Section Outstanding Volunteer Award.

(Prof Sri Niwas Singh)
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