

## **All India Student Congress 2007 Gandhinagar, Gujarat**

All India Student Congress (AISC-2007) was organised by IEEE Gujarat Section at DAIICT (Dhirubhai Institute of Information and Communication Technology), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India on 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007. The three day event was participated by 207 IEEE student members from all over India representing various Sections/Branches. Student members from Student Branches mainly of Bangalore, Bombay, Delhi, Gujarat, Kerala and Madras actively participated in all the events of the Congress. Gujarat Section also organized SPCTS (Student Paper Contest and Technical Symposium), an annual Gujarat Section event, jointly with this Congress and student members presented their papers in this contest.

Dr Mini Thomas, Chair, Student Activities, IEEE Region 10, Dr Kasi Rajgopal, Executive Vice Chair, IEEE India Council and Dr P. Suresh Chander Pal, Vice-Chair, Student Activities, IEEE India Council attended the Congress and addressed the participating students. Dr Rajgopal and Dr Pal provided valuable inputs on IEEE to the students. Dr Mini Thomas's address and presentation gave better understanding of IEEE.

Mr Deepak Mathur, Chair, IEEE Gujarat Section, Dr. Anil Roy, Vice Chair, IEEE Gujarat Section and Coordinator AISC2007, Mr. Arup Dasgupta, Chair, Membership Development, IEEE India Council, Mr. Nirbhay Chaubey, Treasurer, IEEE Gujarat Section – represented IEEE Gujarat Section during this Congress and interacted with the students.

During the inaugural session Mr. Deepak Mathur, in his welcome address, lauded the efforts of student volunteers of Gujarat Section in organizing AISC2007. He advised the participating student members to add value to their education through IEEE membership. Prof. S C Sahasrabudhe, Fellow, IEEE and Director DA-IICT, in his motivational speech, explained the importance of being IEEE member and its relevance in today's fast changing technical scenario.

The organizing committee took this opportunity to address some soft skills of the budding young technocrats and engineers through this student congress along with some consciously chosen technical sessions. Some lectures on Management Skills were arranged through local experts. In the era of risking one's intellectual capital through sharing or though participating in various contests, it was pertinent to expose these students to IPR issues and hence one session was planned with such talk. To make the program more interesting a three hour session was devoted on hands-on session on Animation and Multimedia using the lab resources available at DA-IICT which was very much appreciated. Participants also did have a quiz contest, "Catechize" (an event by IEEE Student Branch of DA-IICT), a film show and a drama competition night. To complete the objective of facilitating interaction among various SB representative in an informal way, a full day excursion trip was organized on 30<sup>th</sup> to Taranga Hills which was

around 150 kms away from the venue of the program. This trip was enjoyed by the participants and served the theme of the Congress. The main topics discussed in congress were

- Success through Attitude - by Mr. Shyam Taneja
- Intellectual Property Right - by Mr. Rajiv Bhatnagar
- Animation & Multimedia – by Prof. Binita Desai
- Process Re-Design and Computerization - by Prof. V. Venkata Rao
- Time Management – by Ms. Neeru Gupta
- Latest products of Microsoft - by Mr. Tejas Shah

Branch presentations were planned on both days. Each branch representative has been given 7-10 minutes for the presentation. Presentations were made by 18 SBs. They were requested to include some salient points which, in their opinion, helped them in delivering what they planned to deliver or which they considered as constraints that caused failures on occasions despite their best efforts. Following is the gist of their success stories that might give India Council a direction while planning to hand-hold Student Branches of India under various Sections.

- Fluctuation in membership.
- Problem in fund generation for conducting any program.
- Students (members/non-members) are not very demanding while finalizing any technical program. So participation in the program remains a nail-biting part for the organizing committee. This is why many SBs are not proactively organizing programs for students.
- It is observed that Industrial trip helps motivating students join IEEE. Membership has not shown any down-trend or rather has been increasing in the SBs who organize regular Industrial trips. But industries are not very welcoming at most of the places for such trips in sharing time and knowledge with student groups. So many SBs cannot organize Industrial trip.
- WIE concept worked at some places in motivating female members.
- Many SBs gave full marks to their respective Counselors/Mentors for keeping the activities alive and motivating student volunteers to contribute towards objectives of IEEE.
- At some places (like ITM Gurgaon) college Management's support helped in creating awareness and increasing membership.
- Some creative centres of excellence or functional society creation work like a long lasting cohesive force in this direction.

The success of this Congress was due to efficient planning and execution done by Mr. Ravi Bagree (Chair, IEEE Student Branch, DA-IICT), Ms. Hina Shah (DAIICT), Mr Raj Shah (Chair, IEEE Student Branch, UVPCE), Mr Aditya Chitral (Nirma), Student Volunteers from V V Nagar and their team under the guidance of Dr Anil Roy.