Madras Section Events

VIT University, Chennai Campus & IEEE CIS: Winter School -2017

IEEE CIS Madras Chapter and School of Computing Science & Engineering, VIT university, Chennai organized 2017 IEEE CIS Sponsored Winter School on "Computational Intelligence: Fundamental Theory and Practical Applications" during 2nd to 6th Jan 2017. The CIS Winter School had totally 14 presentations, two panel discussions and two Hands-on training sessions. Presidential address was given by the Chancellor of VIT University, Dr. G. Viswanathan. 50 participants attended and benefited from this Winter School.

The Winter School speakers included:
- Dr. Jagannathan Sarangapan, Missouri University of Science and Technology
- Dr. Vaidehi Vijayakumar, Dean / SCSE, VIT University Chennai Campus
- Dr. N. Kumarappan, Professor, Annamalai University, Chidambaram and Chair, IEEE CIS Madras Chapter
- Dr. T. Thyagarajan, MIT, Chennai
- Dr. G. Saravana Kumar, IIT, Madras
- Mr. Ankush Rai, Research Associate, VIT, Chennai
- Dr. A. Nayeemulla Khan, VIT University, Chennai
- Dr. R. Jagadeesh Kannan, VIT University, Chennai
- Dr. Narasimhan Sundararajan, NTU, Singapore
- Dr. Suresh Sundaram, NTU, Singapore
- Dr. R. Venkatesh Babu, IISc, Bangalore
- Dr. Dipti Prasad Mukherjee, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata
- Dr. Stefano Squartini, University of Marche Ancona, Italy
- Dr. Swagatam Das, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata
- Dr. Ponnuthurai Suganthan, NTU, Singapore

SSN College of Engineering, Kalavakkam: 2017 IEEE International Conference

IEEE SB and IT Dept. organized 2017 IEEE International Conference on Computer, Communication, and Signal Processing with a special focus on IoT, on 10th &11th Jan 2017. 67 papers were presented out of 115 received from all over India and abroad. Distinguished speakers included:

- Prof. Yong Meng Teo, Dept. of Computer Science, National University of Singapore
- Prof. Vitaliy Mezhuvey, Dept. of Computer Systems, and Software Engineering, University of Malaysia, Pahang
- Mr. Murugan Achanaicker, Engineering Manager – COE, Magna Closures, United States
- Dr. V. N. Mani, Scientist- E, DeitY
- Dr. S. Krishna Kumar, Senior Technical Officer, DRDO, Avadi
- Dr. R. Venkatesh Babu, Associate Professor, IISc Bengaluru
- Mr. Arun Kumar, Manager – Global Technology Office, CTS Chennai

The organizers of the conference were Dr. T. Nagarajan, HOD/IT, Dr. T. Sree Sharmila and Dr. S. Karthika, both Assoc Prof.

Ola Co-founders booked for playing pirated music in cabs: Bengaluru police has registered a case against taxi-hailing startup Ola and its Co-founders Bhavish Aggarwal and Ankit Bhati for allegedly playing pirated music on Ola's in-car entertainment platform. The complaint accuses Ola of illegally downloading and streaming audio tracks of popular Telugu and Kannada movies. Police has reportedly seized hard disks used by Ola to store the songs.

Karunya University: Int. Conf. on Innovations in Electrical, Electronics, Instrumentation and Media Technology

IEEE SB and Dept. of Electrical Technology organized the IEEE PELS sponsored International Conference on Innovations in Electrical, Electronics, Instrumentation and Media Technology (ICIEEIMT 2017) on 3rd & 4th Feb 2017. Dr. S. Sundar Manoharan, Vice-Chancellor of Karunya University presided. 73 papers were presented. Notable speakers included:

- Dr. Israel Cohen, Prof/Electrical, Technion Institute of Technology, Israel
- Dr. M K Radhakrishnan, Vice-President, IEEE Electron Devices Society
- Dr. Keval J Kumar, Adjunct Faculty, University of Pune

Karpagam College of Engineering, Coimbatore : International Conference on Electronics and Communication Systems (ICECS)

IEEE SB and ECE Dept. organized the International Conference on Electronics and Communication Systems (ICECS) on 24th and 25th Feb 2017.

This conference was technically sponsored by IEEE Product Safety Engineering Society - Madras Section.

Out of 163 papers submitted, 54 were accepted for presentation

Prathyusha Engineering College, Chennai: AEEICB-17 – International Conference

IEEE SB was an active organizer of AEEICB-17, An International Conference on "Advances in Electrical, Electronics, Information, Communication and Bioinformatics" in association with IETE and CSI held on 27th Feb 2017. 175 papers were accepted for the conference and this included papers from USA, Taiwan, Malaysia, China, Egypt, and Sri Lanka, Iran etc. The Conference was inaugurated by Mr. Godwin Brewart, General Manager, Head - Facilities & Support Services, Tata Communications Transformation Services Limited and Mr. S. P. Karthikeyan, Scientist-E , Open Technology Group, National Informatics Centre (NIC), Chennai, Ministry of Electronics; Information Technology, Government of India. There were invited technical talks from eminent personalities from Industries and Organisations viz., IITM ,Caterpillar, TNEB, MIT, Chennai, Anna University, IEEE-WIE, Chennai and IGCAR. The valedictory function was graced by Dr. Nadarajan Nantha Coumarane, Director of Technologies, Aricent Technologies. Dr. Ramesh P.L.N; Dr. M. Moorthi, Prof/ECE and Mr. M. Vasu, Advisor addressed the participants.

Sathyabama University, Chennai: SILICON -2017

IEEE SB organized a national level technical symposium,"Sathayabama Inter Collegiate Level IEEE CONference - SILICON -2017" on 15th and 16th Feb 2017. Dr. M.A. Atmanand, Chair-IEEE Madras Section, delivered the inaugural address and released the "Book of Abstracts - SILICON-2017' and the first copy was received by Dr. G. Sundari, Dean (Student Affairs). 272 participants enthusiastically participated in the events viz. Brain Storm, Crack with Creativity, Scrambled Circuit, Code in the Dark and Paper Presentation.

VIT University, Vellore Campus: "Hackbattle"

IEEE CS SB organised a 24 hour Hackbattle (Hackathon) from 3rd Ma to 4th Mar 2017.

The team with first position won a cash prize of Rs. 20,000/- for their App, Visualize.

This App scans 2-D images and creates a 3-D image of it making it easier for people to perceive and learn.

IEEE Industrial Applications Society Madras Chapter: Technical Awareness session on Smart Cities

The IEEE – IAS, Madras Chapter in association with IE(I), TNSC Committee and L&T Construction Ltd Td organized a technical awareness session on "Smart Cities" on 4th Mar 2017 at the Convention Center, L&T Construction, Manapakkam, Chennai.

At the inaugural session, Mr. S. Rajavel , Sr. VP & Head, Water, Smart World & Communications   and Chairman, IEEE-IAS Madras Chapter welcomed the gathering and Mr. R Srinivasan, VP & Head, Smart World & Communications (SW&C), Vice-Chairman- IEEE IAS Madras Chapter delivered the keynote address. Dr. G. Ranganath FIE, chairman, IE(I), TNSC and Mr. H R Mohan, Vice Chair, IEEE Madras Section offered felicitation and spoke on the role of professional societies in the Smart Cities Initiatives.

The various presentations in this awareness session included:

- Smart City Mission – Progress by Mr. JVS Ramakrishna, Head – Business Development & Customer Relations, Smart Infrastructure (SW&C).
- Smart City and Urban Challenges by Mr. Shankar Arumugham, National Director, Head – Strategic Consulting, JLL.
- L&T Smart City Projects by Mr. James Caton, Chief Business Officer, Smart Infrastructure (SW&C).
- Smart Cities - Bankers' Perspective by Mr. Raghu Kesavan, Senior Infrastructure Specialist, World Bank.
- Presentation by The Institution of Engineers (India) TNSC Committee
- Presentation on IEEE & IEEE IAS by Mr. Milan Kumar, Head- Engineering & Services, Solar Business, L&T Construction

Panimalar Institute of Technology: IEEE CS Distinguished Lecture Programme on Use of Gamification in Education

The Dept. of ECE, IEEE SB, WIE & CS organized a IEEE CS Distinguished Lecture Programme on "Use of Gamification in Education" on 15th Mar 2017.

The lecture was given by the distinguished speaker Dr. Fakhrul Hazman Yusoff, Faculty of Computer and Mathematical Science (FSKM), Universiti Teknology MARA (UiTM), Malaysia on 15th Mar 2017.

Dr. T. Jayanthy Principal Delivered the presidential address. Mr. M. Arun, IEEE SBC coordinated the event.

800 Google Play apps found to have data stealing malware: Over 800 Android apps on Google Play have been fouinfected with a "silent" data stealing and leaking malware called 'Xavier'. The malware is capable of downloading and executing other malicious codes, as well as stealing users' personal and financial data. The categories of infected apps include photo manipulators, utilities, and wallpaper apps among others.

IEEE CS Distinguished Lecture

A distinguished lecture on "Data Driven Infographics" by Dr Fakhrul Hazman Yusoff, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Computer and Mathematical Science, Head, Spatial Visual Analytics Research Group, Universiti Teknology MARA (UiTM), Malaysia was jointly organized with IEEE Madras Section, IEEE CS, PCS, TEMS and CSI Chennai Chapter on 15th Mar 2017. The speaker gave an overview on infographics in perspective of information technology. Several techniques being used to implement data driven infographics were also evaluated during the lecture. A discussion on the latest research being conducted in the area and the future trends of the data driven infographics technology was the highlight of the lecture.

SSN College of Engineering: Int. Conf. Conference on Power and Embedded Drive Control (ICPEDC-2017)

IEEE SB and EEE Dept. organized a three day IEEE International Conference on Power and Embedded Drive Control (ICPEDC-2017) during 16th to 18th Mar 2017 on the theme of 'Recent Trends in Power and Embedded drive control towards the creation of green energy and smart world'. Guests of Honor included Dr. Prahlad Vadakkepat, Associate Professor, National University of Singapore, Singapore; Dr. Mahesh K. Mishra, IIT Madras; Dr. Naayagi Ramasamy, New Castle University, Singapore; Dr. S. Paramasivam Director, Research, Danfoss Industries Pvt. Ltd., Chennai and Dr. R. Jayashri, Assoc Professor, University of New South Wales, Australia. The Chief Guest of the inaugural was Dr. M. A. Atmanand, Former Director and Scientist, NIOT & Chairman, IEEE Madras Section. A panel discussion on 'Modern Trends in Embedded Systems' was moderated by Dr. V. Kamaraj. The conference, which saw 40 oral presentations, was sponsored by IEEE Madras Section, IEEE Power Electronics Society, CSIR & CTS.

SRM University: ALPHA - IEEE Entrepreneurship Summit 2017

The IEEE Madras Entrepreneurship and Innovation Committee in association with SRM IEEE Student Branch organized 'ALPHA'- The IEEE Entrepreneurship Summit 2017 on 18th March, 2017. It included a great line up of dignitaries alongside Mr. HR Mohan, (Vice chairman, IEEE Madras Section), Mr. Nivas Ravichandran (Young Professional Coordinator, R10) and Mr. Vijayakumar (SB Counsellor & HOD/EEE, SRM), heretofore portraying bandwagon of panel discussion.

The following speakers gave in the valuable insights of their experience in the different aspects of the entrepreneurship world,

- Isaac John Wesley (Founder & CEO at Inkmonk) on "Building an nline Market Start-up".
- R Sampath (Co-Founder & CEO at BeWo Technologies) on "Last Mile Opprtunities".
- Deepak John (Founder & CEO at Pupa Clic) on "Build, Develop and Operate".
- Ratheesh Krishnan (Manager-L&D at SPI Cinemas) on "Workshop: Business Model Canvas".

- Thirukumaran Saravanan (Co-Founder at MetARVRse) on "Riding the 4.0 ARVR Wave".
- Siddharth Ram (Head of Admissions at SV.CO) on "Start at College".
- Harish Srinivasan (Co-Founder at Infinite Engineers) on "Revamping Education".

Alpha succeeded in engaging the budding entrepreneurs and start-up enthusiasts with the fellow entrepreneurs and offered them a remarkable exposure to the start-up world. It provided the participants with the opportunity to meet experts from the different start-ups, interact as well as to network with them. Moreover, it offered an ideal platform for those who had a preset idea in mind and wished to build a start-up out of it.

Besides catalyzing a social shift to encourage entrepreneurship, Alpha also aimed at fostering grassroots innovations, innovations in hubs and collaboration with different organisations.

IEEE COMOC Distinguished Lecture

The IEEE Communications Society Distinguished Lecture on "Security Challenges and Opportunities in

SDN/NFV and 5G Networks" by Dr. Ashutosh Dutta, AT&T, New Jersey, IEEE Communications Society Distinguished Lecturer, Director Industry Outreach - IEEE Communications Society, IEEE 5G Initiative Co-Lead was organized jointly by IEEE Madras Section, IEEE COMSOC, IEEE CS, IEEE PSES, IEEE CSS & IEEE RAS on March 21, 2017 at Anna University Chennai.

Dr. Ashutosh Dutta discussed on how the telecom operators and service providers can leverage SDN/NFV to provide flexible and cost effective service without compromising the end user quality of service (QoS). He also discussed on the virtualized Evolved Packet Core (EPC), virtualized IP Multimedia Services (IMS), Virtualized Residential Gateway, and Virtualized Next Generation Firewalls. He addressed on the various security challenges and opportunities introduced by network virtualization, network slicing, and software defined networking. Further, he highlighted some of the ongoing activities within the standards communities and illustrated a few deployment use case scenarios.

Dr P Sakthivel, Chair, IEEE CS welcomed the gathering and Mr P Subramanian, Chair, IEEE COMSOC introduced the speaker. The lecture was attended by UG/PG students, research scholars, faculty and professional members from industry.

Report by: P. Subramanain, surya602@yahoo.co.in

SSN College of Engineering: WiSPNET–2017: IEEE International Conference on Wireless Communications, Signal processing and Networking

The ECE Dept. of SSN College of Engineering hosted the 2nd edition of three day IEEE international conference on Wireless Communications, Signal processing and Networking (WiSPNET 2017) during 22-24 Mar 2017 on the theme 'Advancement in Information Communication towards the creation of Smart World'. This conference was technically sponsored by IEEE MAS Section, IEEE ComSoc Madras and financially supported by DST – SERB, New Delhi, ISRO, Bangalore & Pearson Education Pvt. Ltd.

The conf. received 1450 papers of which 600 papers accepted and 561 were registered. Around 500 papers were presented in 63 technical sessions held in four parallel tracks in three days.

Dr. LajosHanzo, IEEE Distinguished Lecturer of both the Communications Society and the Vehicular Society, University of Southampton, UK, Dr. OzanTonguz, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University, USA, Dr. David Akopian, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Texas at San

Antonio, USA, Dr. Giacomo Morabito, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Engineering and Telecommunications, University of Catania, Italy, Dr. Raed Mesleh, Vice Dean, German Jordanian University, Jordan were the Guest of Honours of the Inaugural function. They had also delivered keynote talks during the conf.

A total of 6 tutorials were conducted with Dr. Raed Mesleh, Dr. Kota Solomon Raju, CSIR-CEERI, Pilani, Mr. Viyay Anand, Director, Aricent, Mr. Vishal Sharma, Engineering Manager at Intel, Bangalore, Dr. Santi P. Maity, Professor, Dept. of IT, Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur and Mr. Vishwas Lakkundi, IoT Specialist & Consultant, Bengaluru as resource persons.

The conference also hosted two workshops, titled 'New Technologies in 5G' and 'Visible Light Communications' and one Panel Discussion on '5G and Internet of Things'.

Dr. S. Radha was the conference chair and Dr. R. Kishore, Asso.Prof / ECE, Mr. N. Prabagarane, AP / ECE were the organizing chairs for the event.

IEEE TEMS & VIT University, Chennai Campus: National Seminar on "Digital Transformation in Indian Industry"

IEEE TEMS along with VIT Chennai organized a two day national seminar on "Digital Transformation in Indian Industry" on 10th & 11th Mar 2017. The seminar was well attended with 55 delegates from industry and student & academic community. The esteemed guests at the inaugural session were Dr. Sivakumar, Director, CVRDE, Mr. Srivats Ram, MD, Wheels India Ltd,   Mr. HR Mohan, Vice Chair, IEEE Madras Section and Dean, VIT, Chennai.

The seminar covered various topics such as Digitalization of Enterprises, Industry 4.0, Industrial IOT, Digital Manufacturing, Digital Retailing, Digital Product Development, Digital Analysis and Product Design, Business Analytics, Operative Analytics and Digital Workforce through the following 15 invited talks by eminent experts from industry, Academia and R&D institutions.

- Trends in Digitalisation of Enterprises by Mr. B. Pon Manivannan, Principal Technology Leader, L&T Technology Services
- Digital Transformation Overview by Mr. Murali Meenakshi Sundaram, Consultant, CTS
- Retailing in the Digital Era by Mr. Rajesh, Retail & Supplier behaviour Expert
- Digital Manufacturing by Mr. Ayyappan Ramamurthy, Technical Director, Siemens PLM Software
- Industry 4.0 by Mr. Murali Chandrahasan, Head - Engineering IT Solutions & Services, L & T Technology Services   Limited
- Digital Product Development by Mr. Upendra, General Manager, Renault Nissan Technology Development and Business Center
- Connected Cars by Mr. Vinod Venkateswaran, Industry Principal - Engineering Services, Infosys
- Digital Transformation in Automotive Industry by Mr. Sreegururaj, Senior Manager, Mahindra R&D
- Digital Manufacturing by Mr. Joe Ajay,   EOS
- Future Connected Trucks by Mr. Sureshkumar, Divisional Manager, Smart Engineering, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles Pvt. Ltd, Chennai
- Business Analytics by Mr. Sudeesh, Senior Program Manager, Verizon
- Design Analysis and Product Improvement - Case Study by   Dr. V. Balamurugan, Scientist, CVRDE, DRDO
- Digital Workforce by Dr. V. Umasankar, Professor, SMBS, VIT, Chennai
- Digital Product Development – Case Study by Dr. S. Sundaresh, Chair IEEE TEMS and DRDO Distinguished Fellow, DRDO, Chennai
- Operational Analytics by Dr. Sudarsanam, Prof. Business School, VIT, Chennai.

Dean VIT, Chennai and Dr. Sundaresh Chair, IEEE TEMS Madras distributed the certificates to the participants.

Microsoft unveils Modern Keyboard with fingerprint reader: Tech giant Microsoft has unveiled a new "Modern Keyboard" with an integrated fingerprint reader. Unlike its predecessor Surface Keyboard, the Modern Keyboard has

the ability to use a cable for a wired connection instead of wireless. The new keyboard will work with Windows 10, MacOS, and the latest versions of Android and is priced at $129.99.

Dr. N. G. P. Institute of Technology, Coimbatore: Intl. Conf. on Innovations in Green Energy and Healthcare Technologies-2017

IEEE SB along with EEE and Biomedical Engineering Depts organized IEEE International Conference ICIGEHT-2017, from 16th to 18th Mar 2017, in association with Florida Atlanta University, KMCH and IEEE Madras Section. The theme of the conference, 'Innovations in Green Energy and Healthcare Technologies' proved popular, attracting about 500 delegates. Distinguished speakers included:

- Dr. A. Alphones, Prof/EEE and Programme Coordinator (Research), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- Dr. Parag G Shah, Ophthalmologist, Dept. of Paediatric Retina and Ocular Oncology, Aravind Eye Care System, Coimbatore
- Dr. P. V. Manivannan, Prof/Mech, Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)
- Dr. G. Sai Narayanan, HCL Technologies, Chennai
- Mr. J. Stephen, R & D Manager, Akas Medical Systems, Chennai
- Mr. J. Visweswaran, Senior Academic Technical Consultant, NI Systems (India) Bangalore
- Dr. R. Karthikeyan, CTO, Teclever Solutions
- Mr. Chaitanya Srinivas Lanka, Senior Clinical Application Specialist, Restorative Therapies Group, India Medtronic Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad
- Mr. F. Mohammed Akmal, Senior Executive, Digital Factory, Siemens Ltd, Coimbatore

A record number of 520 papers were received from various countries out of which 250 papers were selected and 140 papers were presented. Dr. Nalla G. Palaniswami, Chairman, KMCH presided over the conference. Dr. Thavamani D Palaniswami, Secretary; Dr. O. T. Buvaneswaran, Chief Executive Officer, KMCRET; Dr. J. Sivakumaran, Chief Operating Officer, KMCH; Dr. K. Porkumaran, Principal; Mrs. J. Vijayalakshmi, Senior Manager, Biomedical Engineering, KMCH; Dr. S. Prabakar, Head/BME; Dr. M. Gopinath, Prof/EEE and Dr. S. Jaganathan, Head/EEE addressed the participants.

SSN College of Engineering: ICBSII 2017

2017 IEEE Third International Conference on Biosignals, Images and Instrumentation, was organized by the IEEE SB, Dept. of Biomedical Engg and Centre for Healthcare technologies in association with IEEE MAS Section between 16th to 18th Mar 2017. The organizers of the conference were Dr. A. Kavitha, Head/BME, Ms. R. Nithya AP/BME and Ms. M. Dhanalakshmi AP/BME. ICBSII 2017 received international speakers such as Mr. Omar Saleh, Founder and CEO of Recyl3Dc, Canada; Ms. Nicole McCallum, Executive Director, Recycl3D; Dr. Laxmi Iyer, MD, Biotechin, Asia Singapore; Dr G.Sudhir Ortho Spine surgeon, SRMC; Dr. Debdoot Sheet, AP/EEE, IIT Kharagpur; Dr. Devanathan Raghunathan, Chief Medical Officer, Advanced First Aid Research Pte. Ltd, Singapore Eye Research Institute, Singapore; Mr. Hrushikesh Garud, Technical Lead, Advanced Driver Assistance Systems, Embedded Processing Texas Instruments (I) Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. G. Karthikeyan, Co-Founder, Wildbox technologies, Singapore. 42 papers were presented for the conference.

Villagers to get free legal advice via video conferencing: The government has launched a new initiative called 'Tele-Law', which will provide free legal assistance to people in rural areas, through video conferencing. Training will also be provided to village women, who will act as paralegal volunteers for villagers. Government-appointed lawyers will provide advice and training on issues like women and child rights, domestic violence and land disputes.

Kalasalingam University, Krishnankoil: 2017 IEEE International Conference

IEEE SB organized the international conference on "Intelligent Techniques in Control, Optimization and Signal Processing (INCOS'17)" during 23rd to 25th Mar 2017. Distinguished speakers included:

- Dr. B. Yegnanarayana, INSA Senior Scientist, IIIT, Hyderabad
- Dr. Swagatam Das, AP, ISI, Kolkata
- Dr. K. Rajasekharam, Deputy Director-DSTARS, DRDL, Hyderabad
- Dr. S. S. Dash, Professor- EEE, SRM University, Chennai
- Dr. Kyung-tae Kim, Professor, Hannam University, South Korea
- Dr. Stella Morris and Dr. Ezra Morris Abraham, Assoc Prof, UTAR, Malaysia
- Dr. N. Kumarappan, Prof, Annamalai University, Chidambaram
- Dr. S. Hosimin Thilagar, Prof, Anna University, Chennai
- Dr. K. Ramar, Professor (Retd), IIT, Madras

Dr. S. Shasi Anand, Director; Dr. D. Devaraj, IEEE SBC and Dr. P. Aruna Jeyanthi, HOD/EEE also addressed the participants.

Hindustan University, Chennai : Intl. Conf. on Sustainable Environment and Energy (ICSEE 2017)

IEEE SB and Depts of EEE & Civil organized a two-day International Conference on Sustainable Environment and Energy (ICSEE'17) on 6th and 7th Apr 2017 at Hindustan University.

The conference attracted 260 participants of which 150 of them presented papers in tracks namely Structural/ Construction Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Hydrogen Production & Storage and Renewable Energy. The Resource persons and distinguished speakers included:

- Dr. Valerie Keller, Senior Scientist, University of Strasbourg, France
- Dr. Ajayan Vinu, Professor on Nanomaterials, University of South Australia, Adelaide
- Dr. R.N.Das , GM, BHEL
- Mr. K.Saravanan, Vice President, Eversendai Construction
- Dr. B.Vishwanathan, Professor Emeritus, IIT Madras

Dr. Elizabeth Verghese, Chancellor; Dr. G. Ilavazhagan, Director-Research and Dr. Jessy Rooby, conference convener addressed the participants. The conference was organized with the support of IEEE PES, Indian Concrete Institute (ICI) and Dept. of Science and Technology (SERB).

SA Engineering College: International Conference

IEEE SB and ECE Dept. in association with IEEE Photonics Society organized International conference on "Emerging Trends In Information And Communication –EMTIC 2017" on 6th & 7th Apr 2017.

Mrs. K. S. Geetha, Asst. General Manager, BSNL, Rajiv Gandhi Telecom Training Centre, Chennai was the chief guest.

IEEE Madras Entrepreneurship and Innovation Sub-Committee: Design Thinking Workshop

The IEEE Madras Entrepreneurship and Innovation Sub-Committee in partnership with TiE Chennai organized the "Design Thinking Workshop" on 19th Apr 2017 at IIT Madras Research Park.
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The guest speaker was Mr. Arun Jain, Chairman, Intellect Design Arena

The workshop gave a comprehensive idea about how career building, skill development, entrepreneurship can be tackled with a design focus.

VIT University, Vellore campus: iInternational Conference on Innovations in Power and Advanced Computing Technologies (i-PACT 2017

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) University-Vellore, School of Electrical Engineering (SELECT) in association with VIT- IEEE Nuclear and Plasma & Science Society (NPSS) had organized an "International Conference on Innovations in Power and Advanced Computing Technologies (i-PACT 2017)" technically co-sponsored by IEEE Madras Section to during 21st and 22nd April 2017. The focus of the conference is to provide a unique platform for exchange of ideas and synergy among researchers, academicians, industrial experts and entrepreneurs across the globe in a gamut of divergent engineering and technology disciples. State of the art innovations in power and advanced computing technologies including latest research trends and developments in emerging areas such as smart and micro grids, automatic control & computing technologies in Green Commercial Buildings, Molecular Imaging, Smart Photonic Systems, Cognitive Computing etc are deliberated during the conference.

i-PACT 2017 has received an overwhelming response from the participants and researchers with more than 700 research papers received, 420 papers were shortlisted after extensive review process and over 350 registered participants from several countries. 22 parallel sessions for presentation of research papers on a wide variety of themes such as Renewable Energy Systems, Signal Processing, Communication Engineering, Soft-computing & Big Data Analytics was presented. In addition, a galaxy of 21 keynote expert lectures will be delivered by industry experts and researchers from world-class universities, both national as well as international such as RMIT University- Australia, Nanyang Technological University-Singapore, IBM Systems -Singapore, University of Malaya, Federal University of Maranhao, Brazil and Universiti Teknologi – Malaysia, University of Moratuwa- Sri Lanka, Aswan University- Egypt, Naresuan University- Thailand, CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories-India, Department of Atomic Energy- India, IITs, NITs etc. Shri. S. Rajavel, Sr. Vice President & Head - Water, Smart World & Communications, Larsen & Toubro Limited, Chennai was the chief guest. Shri. Venkat Kumar Tangirala, President, Windstream Energy Technologies India pvt. Ltd, Dr. Saad Mechklief, Professor, University of Malaya, Malaysia, Dr. Narayana Prasad Pathy, Dean Academics, IIT, Roorkee and Dr. H. R. Mohan, Vice Chairman, IEEE Madras Section were the guest of honour.

A panel discussion on "Smart Energy Grid Engineering" was organized on the first day of the conference. Smart Grid, Smart Energy, Smart building Automation, IOT and Cognitive Computing were the topics of discussion. The highlight

of i-PACT 2017 was the congregation of experts and researchers from around the globe which provided the much needed impetus for joint collaborations, interactions and exchange of expertise.

NASA SpaceApps Challenge 2017

SpaceApps is a NASA incubator innovation program. For 48 hours across the world, problem solvers join in for NASA's International Space Apps Challenge, one of the largest hackathons in the World. VIT, Vellore being one of the seven locations in India out of 200 across the globe this year from 183 countries. Empowered by open data from NASA, IEEE-SB at VIT offered hobbyists, colleagues and friends a chance to solve perplexing challenges in new unexpected ways this 29th and 30th of April, 2017.

The Hack started at 9:00 a.m. on the 29th of April 2017 with around 150+ participants witnessing healthy participation from institutions like IIT Madras, SRM Univ., VIT Chennai and 15 other colleges from Mysore, Coimbatore, Bangalore and Trichy. There was a Hack Shop with all possible electronic components like raspberry pi3, Arduino, Mpu050 and sensors at the disposal of the participants at all times during the hack. Mentors from Bellatrix, Endurance International Group (Mayank Sehgal) and Lattice Innovations (Soura Bhattacharya) joined the hack to guide and assist the participants with their projects. A researcher at the US Army Aero flight dynamics Directorate at NASA enlightened the participants in the field of Data Science via Skype conference.

The Vice Chair and Chair, SAC, IEEE Madras Section Mr. H.R. Mohan along with Madras Section Executive Committee member, and the SAC Co-Chair Dr. S. Koteeswaran and Treasurer of IEEE Madras, and the Chair of IEEE CS, Dr. P. Sakthivel were the Guests of Honour for NASA SpaceApps event.

The Hack came to an end after the pitching of prodigious projects by the participants. Three teams namely Team Go (VIT Vellore), Team Tech-Narvi (Sri Krishna College of Engineering, Coimbatore) & Team Kepler (VIT Vellore) won the Challenge held at VIT Vellore by addressing problems related to finding water resources using satellite images, predetermining and improving safety for beach-goers and creating a virtual space-ship simulator respectively. These teams get a chance to participate at the Global-level Challenge being organized on 5th May 2017.

Panimalar Institute of Technology: ICIETET'17

IEEE, SAE, ISTE, IETE, CSI & ICTACT supported the Second International Conference on Innovative & Emerging Trends in Engineering and Technology held on 15th May 2017.

The distinguished speakers included Dr. R. Srinivasan, Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology & Dr. T. Jayanthi, S.O (H+), Head of Real Time Systems Division, Electronics and Instrumentation group, IGCAR, Kalpakkam. Dr.T.Jayanthy, Principal presided over the conference.

St. Peter's College of Engineering and Technology: International Conference

IEEE SB, IT & ECE Depts organized the 3rd IEEE International Conference on Sensing, Signal Processing and Security" on 4th and 5th May 2017. 97 papers were presented for the conference.

The distinguished speakers were: Dr. Ian Ton, Multimedia University, Malaysia; Dr. A. Gopal, Senior Scientist, CEERI; Dr. S. Swamynathan, Anna University, Chennai; and Dr. Sithu D.Sudarsan, ABB, Bangalore.

IEEE MAS Student Project Funding (SPF 2016-17)

The seventh edition of the IEEE MAS Student Project Funding started in the year 2010-2011 for the IEEE student members of UG courses for the year 2016-2017 was successfully carried out with final demonstrations on 20th May 2017. An eminent panel of judges evaluated the demonstrations of the student projects. Six projects were selected for the funding. The students of these selected projects will receive the project completion certificate and cash prizes of varying amount as specified in the table. At the start of the SPF demo event, Dr. T. Micheal Kumar, Secretary, IEEE Madras Section welcomed the project team members, faculty members, panel of judges and the invitees. Project demos were validated for the working model by the judges and graded them for cash awards which were finalised by Dr. P.A. Manoharan, Chairman and Dr. S. Elangovan, Co-Chairman of SPF sub-committee and approved by Mr. H.R. Mohan, Vice Chairman, IEEE Madras Section and Dr. Sakthivel, Treasurer, IEEE Madras Section. At the valedictory function, Mr. C. R. Sasi, Ombudsman and Past Chair, IEEE Madras Section addressed the student participants on the importance of the projects in their career. Dr. P. A. Manoharan, Chairman, SPF highlighted the process adopted for the SPF. Mr. H R. Mohan, announced the list of projects selected for Project Funding for the period 2016-17 and congratulated the prize winners and also appreciated the others for their efforts. The event concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. S. Elangovan, Co-Chairman, SPF. All the student participants were provided with travel support.

Student Projects Selected for Funding for the year 2016 – 2017

Sl. No.	Project Title	Name of the Student	Name of the College	Funding (Rs)
1.	Synthesis and characterization of Cadmium oxide nanocomposite materials for cervical cancer diagnostics	Ms. Sri Valli Meena S Ms. Vedhajanani Y S Ms. Vignesha Priya B	Rajalakshmi Engineering College	15000
2.	Robotic book scanner	Mr. Vinoth K Mr. Velagapudi Deepak Mr. Reddivari Sai Saran	Panimalar Institute of Technology	12000
3.	Vehicle detectors for blind spots to prevent accidents	Ms. Nithila Shereen R	Karunya University	10000
4.	Bhrty Artana	Mr. Simerna Jayanthi Sushil	KCG College of Technology	8000
5.	Implementation of secure LPG stove assistance system using IOT	Mr. Hariharasudhan M	Knowledge Institute of Technology	6000
6.	Intelligent security system based 24/7 lockers	Ms. Naomi sherin Lilly A Ms. Velayini S	Dr. Sivanthi Aditanar College of Engineering	4000

The above are only the select events held at various SBs and the IEEE Madras Section. IEEE MAS LINK, the monthly newsletter features all the events and the issues are archived in a shared folder at https://goo.gl/nrpibv They can also be accessed from the archives website at http://ieeecs-madras.managedbiz.com/link-web/index.html