

IEEE Madras Section Events

IEEE ADSF SIGHT

Preliminary Level Consultation on Serve the Underserved with Special Reference to the Tribal People of Sirumalai



The IEEE Smart Village organized a consultation along with IEEE ADSF SIGHT, ARVI Trust, IEEE YP, IEEE SB of SASTRA University and Minniyal Lights PVT Ltd on “Serve the Underserved with Special Reference to the Tribal People of Sirumalai”. It was a preliminary level consultation to explore the interested stakeholders who could join us to serve the tribal people of Sirumalai. It was held at a guest house in Dindigul on 16th November 2019 at 02.00 PM to 04.PM. The schedule and time of the programme was changed for the convenience of the participants.

On 15th Nov 2019, Mr Farid Khan, Chair, IEEE Smart Village, South Asia Working Group, joined with the team lead Er. Eugene Kingsley and visited Thenmalai, one of the tribal settlements. Mr. Farid could see the condition of the broken road, poor harvest, wandering of youth without any work etc.

On 16th November 2019, the team visited Ponnaruvi, another hamlet in Sirumalai. This place was difficult to access as there were no road or transport facilities. The team had to reach the place in a tempo truck.

They gave away honey beehives, books, torch lights, dress, cloths, sweats etc. The team had also a brief interaction with the tribal community to understand their difficulties and requirements.

The Consultation

Most of the tribal people in the two places that the team visited live under strong superstitions and false beliefs which include negative beliefs on using chairs, hair cut etc. This is an area of sentiments and hence, very careful intervention is needed. The people have never come out from their home village and never had opportunities to mingle with the public in the mainland. The consultation recommended the following as an immediate action plan.

1. Organize an exposure programme for the selected members from the villages
2. Provide them small training like stitching their dress, making small lights to use in their house, honey bee hive making, soap making, cooking etc
3. Organize exchange visit
4. Emphasise on children's education

Frequent visits and close monitoring is needed for at least one year for proposing projects to the people. A strong and sustainable IEEE team with the combination of student volunteers, NGO volunteers, Government representatives, representatives from the tribal people etc are needed for carrying out activities successfully.

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Symposium cum Technical Meet on ICT Trends



With rapid developments taking place in the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), there is a compelling need to keep updating oneself to be relevant in the competitive environment. In an attempt to provide some inputs and create awareness in few select areas such as ICT Innovations, Smart Cities, Cyber Security, Computer Science Curriculum 2020 etc, a Symposium cum Technical Meeting was organized on 15th Oct 2019. In this Meet, along with presentations by experts, an interactive session with Mr. Eric Berkowitz, Membership Direction of IEEE Computer Society, USA, brief presentations on activities & opportunities provided by IEEE CS, ACM, CSI & IEEE TEMS and Chennai Computer Museum were also included. .

Mr. H.R Mohan, Chair-Spl. Events and Imm. Past Chair, IEEE CS and Chair, ACM welcomed the gathering and highlighted the sessions planned in this meet. The sessions of the symposium jointly organized by IEEE Computer Society, Madras Chapter; ACM Chennai Professional Chapter; Computer Society of India Chennai Chapter; and IEEE Technology and Engineering Management Society, Madras Chapter included the following:

- Innovation Ecosystems in ICT and Opportunities – Mr. M. Murali, Technology Consultant
- Cyber Security -- National Initiatives – Dr. N. Sarat Chandra Babu, Executive Director, Society for Electronic Transactions and Security (SETS)
- Computer Science Curriculum 2020 -- Joint Initiative of IEEE CS & ACM – Prof. Janakiram, Dept. of CSE, IIT Madras
- Technologies & Opportunities in Smart Cities – Mr. R Srinivasan, EVP & Head, Smart World & Communication, L&T
- Innovations at TCS – Mr. Sundar Vinayakam, Head of Marketing, Corporate Research & Innovation, TCS
- Presentation on Chennai Computer Museum -- Dr. B. Govindarajalu , President, Computer Museum Society
- Address by Mr. Eric Berkowitz, Membership Director, IEEE Computer Society, USA
- Presentations on IEEE CS, ACM, CSI, IEEE TEMS Activities & Opportunities



After the presentations, Mr. Eric Berkowitz, Membership Direction of IEEE Computer Society, USA felicitated the IEEE CS Richard Merwin Scholars with the certificates and mementos.

The symposium attracted about 120 participants.

Dr. P. Sakthivel, Chair, IEEE CS proposed the vote of thanks and the meet concluded with Dinner

The PPTs of all presentations made at the symposium, stored in a shareable folder in the google drive at <http://bit.ly/2spYiQe>

For photos taken at the symposium pl. visit <http://bit.ly/2LSUYnF>