

Foundation Stone Laid for Convention Centre

Foundation stone laying ceremony for the Victor Menezes Convention Centre was held on Monday, January 29, on the campus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. The Convention Centre will be built with a generous gift of \$ 3 million to the IIT Bombay Heritage Fund (IITBhF) from Victor Menezes (BTech '70 EE), retired Senior Vice Chairman of Citigroup, Inc. The ceremony was attended by faculty and staff members, as well as current students and alumni of IIT Bombay.

"I am happy to give back in a small way to my *alma mater*, which has given me so much. I hope the Convention Centre will be a catalyst for collaborative discussion and development across the Institute. Ultimately, IIT will be judged not by its buildings but by the intellectual property development and research

done by world-class faculty and students," said Mr. Menezes.

Director Ashok Misra thanked Mr. Menezes for his generous support for this important facility, and added that the project was expected to be completed within a year, in time for the start of IIT Bombay's Golden Jubilee celebrations. Prof Deepak Phatak, Convener of the Golden Jubilee Committee, said that the foundation stone laying ceremony marked the beginning of many major initiatives to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of IIT Bombay.

The Convention Centre will have a state-of-the art auditorium with a capacity of 300, a seminar hall, classrooms and meeting rooms, and ample space for foyers and informal meeting areas. The top two of the five floors in the centre will be occupied by the "Manuel Menezes Center – Civil Engineering Annex."



MoUs were signed with three Canadian Universities on January 18, 2007.

The MoU with the University of Waterloo (UW) was signed by Prof. David Johnston, President, University of Waterloo and Prof. Ashok Misra, Director IITB. The two institutions intend to collaborate in the area of micro and nano-scale science and technology. The MoU also provides for Research Internships for UW Students, Research Fellowships for IITB Students, Student Exchange and Faculty Exchange are also provide.

The MoU with York University was signed by Dr. Sheila Embleton, Vice-President Academic, and Prof. Ashok Misra, Director IITB. The MoU specifies intent to develop a collaborative academic partnership program in areas of mutual academic interest.

The areas of cooperation include, exchange of faculty members, joint projects related to research, teaching, faculty development and service, exchange of students on a reciprocal basis, exchange of administrative staff and exchange of publications, research materials, newsletters, etc.

A Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Co-operation was signed with McMaster University by Prof. Ashok Misra for IITB and Dr. Peter George, President and Vice Chancellor, McMaster University.

The objective of the cooperation between Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and McMaster University is to promote academic collaboration for research, education, and community service.

Awards and Distinctions

Prof. Deepankar Choudhury, Assistant Professor of Dept. of Civil Engg. has received the INAE Young Engineer Award - 2006 given by Indian National Academy of Engineering, New Delhi on December 9, 2006 at the Annual Convention of INAE at New Delhi.

Mr. K. Gopu, Research Scholar, Department of Chemistry made a poster presentation of his research paper titled "Synthesis and Assay of a-Tocopherol-Based Radioprotective Compounds" (authored by Anil K. Singh and K. Gopu) at the 94th session of the Indian Science Congress held at Annamalainagar during January 3 to 7, 2007. He received the Best Poster research paper prize for his paper. The prize carries a cash award and a citation.

Prof. H. B. Singh, Department of Chemistry has been elected a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore.

Prof. M.K. Mishra, Department of Chemistry has been selected as the "Convener of the Chemistry Section Committee" of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore.

Dr Geetanjali Chimote, a PhD student of the School of Biosciences and Bioengineering, has received the first prize for the Best Poster in the Indo-Australian Conference on Biomaterials, Implants, Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine held at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute on January 10-12, 2007. The poster was titled "Antitubercular drug loaded surfactants as inhalable drug delivery system for pulmonary tuberculosis" and was authored by Chomote G and R Banerjee.

A cash prize of Rs.1500/- along with the certificate was presented to one of the best poster papers titled "Laser Surface Melting of AISI 304 Stainless Steel for Enhanced Intergranular Corrosion Resistance" by Sandip

Mahajan, P. Ganesh, K.N. Adhe, Rakesh Kaul, Vivekenand Kain, R.C. Prasad and A.K. Nath during the 6th DAE-BRNS National Laser Symposium held at RRCAT, Indore during, December 5-8, 2006. A short article of this award winning poster will be published in the March issue of the news bulletin of the ILA "Kiran". The poster paper was based on the M.Tech. thesis carried by Sandip Mahajan DGFS fellow, under the supervision of Professor R.C. Prasad.

Prof. Pradeep Mathur, Department of Chemistry, has been awarded the J.C. Bose National Fellowship administered by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The J.C. Bose National Fellowships are meant to recognize active, performing scientists and engineers in the country who are below the age of 60 years. The Fellowships are scientist specific, very selective and will have close academic monitoring. The J.C. Bose Fellows will be provided a Fellowship of Rs.20,000/- per month in addition to their regular income, small contingency of Rs.5 lakhs per annum towards conference participation and other expenses.

R. Ananthakrishnan, research scholar of CSE Department working on Machine Translation (advisor: Prof. Pushpak Bhattacharyya, IITB and co-advisor: Dr. Sasi Kumar, CDAC Mumbai) won the second prize at TechVista of Microsoft research India for his work "Some Issues in Automatic Evaluation of English-Hindi MT: More Blues for BLEU".

Microsoft Research India held its annual flagship event TechVista on 23rd January 2007 at IISc, Bangalore. Exhibition to showcase the PhD research done at leading educational institutions across India in the form of posters or demos was held and two projects were given awards (Rs 100000 and Rs 50000 respectively).

Science Expo-2006

IIT Bombay was one of the participating institutions in the Science Expo-2006, held at Nehru Science Centre, Worli, Mumbai, during 13-17 January, 2007. This expo was aimed at high school children and the general public with an endeavour to promote and spread scientific awareness.

Dr. Vasant Gowarikar, Chairman, Rajiv Gandhi S&T Commission, Govt. of Maharashtra, inaugurated the exhibition on 13th January, 2007. Prof. Krithi Ramamritham, Dean (R&D), IIT Bombay gave the valedictory address on 17th January, 2007.

The Institute displayed a variety of exhibits from various Departments, Schools and Centres in the form of working models, demonstrations, posters and film shows that highlighted research, and technology development efforts and illustrated scientific concepts that would interest students. As part of the Expo, Prof. Swati Patankar, School of Biosciences & Bioengineering, gave a popular science lecture, titled 'Biology: The Study of Life'.

About 8,000 people, mostly school children, visited the exhibition. Industrial Research & Consultancy Centre (IRCC) coordinated Institute's participation in the Science Expo-2006. A total of 53 faculty, staff and students were involved in organising the exhibits and interacting with visitors.

Exhibits included:

Centre of Studies in Resources Engineering

- GRAM ** GIS Software Suite ; Dr. (Mrs.) P.Venkatachalam, Dr. B. Krishna Mohan
- 3D Visualisation of terrain using IRS satellite images (Dr. S. Gedam)

(contd. on Page 3)



Chemistry Department

- Safety of drinking water (Polysensors); Prof. A.Q. Contractor, Prof. Rakesh K. Lal (Electrical Engg.) & Prof. Soumyo Mukherji (School of Biosci. & Bioengineering)
- DNA; Prof. Arindam Chowdhury
- Colours of Chemistry; Prof. R. Murugavel
- Hybrid natural products; Prof. K.P. Kaliappan
- Protein Folding: A chemist's perspective; Prof. S. Durani

Civil Engineering Department

- Global Positioning System (GPS) Receivers, Advanced Space Technologies & Global Navigation Satellite Systems; Prof. M.N. Kulkarni

Electrical Engineering Department

- Demo of Mobile Phone Jammers; Prof. Girish Kumar
- Silicon Locket for Cardiac Monitoring; Prof. Rakesh Lal & Prof. D.K. Sharma

Energy Systems Engineering

- Bio-char unit (Prof. Anuradda Ganesh)

Kanwal Rekhi School of Information Technology

- Information & Communication Technologies for education; Prof. Krithi Ramamritham
- Project Open Source Courseware Animation Repository; Prof. Sridhar Iyer

Metallurgical Engineering & Materials Science

- Powder Metallurgy fabricated components, Unusual materials — Metal foam, Different forms of carbon (Allotropes) — graphite, diamond, carbon nanotubes, Conventional materials being replaced by plastics - plastic burette stand & Continuous casting and forming; Prof. Prita Pant

School of Biosciences & Bioengineering

- Detecting HIV infection: Antigen-Antibody Reaction; Prof. K.K. Rao
- Molecular Visualisation; Prof. P.V. Balaji
- RBC infected with the malarial parasite Plasmodium falciparum; Prof. Swati Patankar



Institute Colloquium

Prof. C.R. Rao, Eberly Professor Emeritus, Pennsylvania State University, USA delivered an Institute Colloquium on "Statistics: Past, Present and Future" on January 5, 2007

Dr. Rao was awarded the National Medal of Science, the highest award in the USA for lifetime achievement in fields of scientific research, in June 2002. His theoretical work helped lay the foundation of modern statistics.

Prof. R. Balasubramanian, Director, Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, delivered an Institute Colloquium on "Applications of Number Theory to Cryptology" on January 16, 2007. Prof. Balasubramanian is one of India's leading mathematicians, widely known for his contributions to number theory. Among his many contributions, the most striking one was perhaps his role (in 1986) in the resolution of a 200-year-old conjecture, known as the Waring Conjecture, in collaboration with two French mathematicians - Jean-Marc Deshouillers and François Dress.

Prof. John Byrne, Director, Centre for Energy and Environmental Policy University of Delaware, USA delivered an Institute Colloquium on "Challenges to our Technological and Policy Paradigms: The Case of Climate Change" on January 17, 2007.

Dr. John Byrne is co-founder and co-executive director of the Joint Institute for a Sustainable Energy and

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Environmental Future, an innovative research and policy advocacy organization headquartered in South Korea with the mission of promoting sustainable policy options in East Asia.

In his lecture Prof. Byrne said, "The case of climate change challenges the durability of the assumption that technological progress can realize social progress and that improved technical acumen can solve problems blocking our progress. While underscoring the need for technological change, the problem of human impact on the climate system requires us to ask if different, possibly very different, social organization is necessary to avert the hazards of human-induced climate change. In this respect, the modern technological and policy paradigms may be at a crossroads."

Salt'n Pepper

Dr. Arun Inamdar



Advanced Nano-Materials conference

The Physics Department of Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay was privileged to host the International Conference on Advanced Nano Materials (ANM-2007) during the period January 8 - 10, 2007. The conference was attended by nearly 200 delegates with participation from USA, Japan, UK, France, South Korea and Taiwan. There were 20 invited talks from the eminent researchers working in different laboratories across the world.

In his inaugural speech, Prof. Ashok Misra, the director of IIT Bombay, emphasized the importance of Nanotechnology Research and highlighted the contribution of IIT Bombay to this emerging field and summarized the advances made towards developing the facilities in this exciting field.

The conference provided a platform for nanotechnology researchers from India and abroad to discuss key issues of nanotechnology. A

series of lectures were presented on cutting-edge nanotechnology issues by eminent, international speakers and researchers. The topics covered were Quantum dots, Carbon Nanotube Transistors, 1-D devices based on CNTs, Magnetic nanostructures, Ultra nanocrystalline diamond etc. Various issues related to the development, application and commercialization of nanotechnology was discussed.

Prof. D.S. Misra (Head of Physics department), the conference Chairman, welcomed all the delegates and acknowledged gratefully the assistance offered by the institute in conducting such an important meeting. The conference concluded with a special Student Interactive session, where students had the opportunity to interact with the distinguished speakers and share their innovative perspectives on current nanotechnology research and development efforts.



Republic Day Celebration



IIT Celebrated Republic Day on Gymkhana grounds, Director Prof. Ashok Misra hoisted the tricolour. This was followed by March Past by NCC and MCC Cadets; Guides; Cubs and Bulbul Troupes of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Campus School; and Security Staff.

Awards of Meritorious Certificates were presented to:

Smt. Rajni V. Bhate, Hindi Cell,
Shri. Pradip V. Thombare, Gen. Admin.,



Shri T. Stephen, Gen. Admin
Shri. D.S. Main, Central Library,
Shri. R.S. Sarmalkar, Central
Library,

Security Section

Shri L.J. Ingle,
Shri R.P. Koli,
Shri R.S. Dalvi,
Shri G.M. Supal,
Shri M.D. Rokade,
Shri R.C. Kadam,

Shri. S.A. Korgaonkar,
Shri M.R.M. Verma,
Shri S.P. Khandagale,
Shri S.D. Hiwarale,
Shri A.D. Bobade,
Shri Chandramuni Waghmare
Patriotic songs and group items were presented by Students of IIT-Bombay, Kendriya Vidyalaya and Campus School.

Faculty News

Prof. Prabhu Ramachandran, Department of Aerospace Engineering gave an invited lecture on "Scientific Computing and Data Visualization using Python" at the National workshop on Free and Open Source Software In Science held at Union Christian College, Aluva, Kerala between January, 4 - 6, 2007.

Prof. Anil K. Singh, Department of Chemistry delivered the Presidential Lecture titled "Chemistry of Some Natural Photoreceptors" in the section of chemical sciences of the 94th session of the Indian Science Congress held at Annamalainagar during January 3 to 7, 2007.

Mr. Indubhusan Deb, Department of Chemistry, presented a poster entitled, "Morita-Baylis-Hillman reaction of aliphatic nitroalkenes with carbonyl compounds" at the International

Symposium on Current Perspectives in Organic Chemistry, during December 7-9, 2006, at Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata.

Prof. Deepankar Choudhury, Dept. of Civil Engg., delivered two lectures on the topic of "Modern techniques for earthquake resistant design of earth retaining structures" under the theme 'Earthquake' and on the topic of "Methods for evaluation and mitigation of earthquake-induced landslides"

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Faculty News (Contd.)

under the theme 'Landslide' at Vigyan Bhavan during the First India Disaster Management Congress, which was held during November 29-30, 2006 at New Delhi and was organized by NIDM, New Delhi. He also delivered a lecture on "Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering" during the Annual Convention of Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) at New Delhi on December 9, 2006. Prof. Choudhury, was a course instructor of the Web-based course on "Foundation Engineering" under Civil Engineering at the Distance Education Learning Workshop at IITM-K, Trivandrum during 5-6 January, 2007, organized by National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) - A MHRD initiative.

Prof. V. Jothiprakash, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, delivered an invited talk titled "Modeling Concept for Ground Water Resource Assessment (Indian Scenario)" in a workshop on "Eco-environmental impact on water resources potential towards re-linking and integrating its hydrological cycle" held at Centre for Water Resources Anna University Chennai, During 3-5 January 2007.

He also gave an invited talk at a workshop on "DISASTER MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR RIVER FLOOD - A CASE STUDY" held at SVNIT Surat, During 28th & 29th December 2006.

Prof. Jothiprakash, presented a paper "Probabilistic forecasting of meteorological parameters using frequency analysis - a case study" at the International Conference on Civil Engineering in the New Millennium: Opportunities and Challenges (CENeM-2007) held at Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur, Howrah, Kolkatta, During 11th - 14th January 2007.

Prof. Siddhartha Ghosh, Department of Civil Engineering, presented a paper titled "Estimation of Hysteretic Energy Demand Using Adaptive Pushover Techniques," co-authored with former M.Tech. (Civil Engg.) student Tholen Prasanth at the 13th National Symposium on Earthquake Engineering (13SEE), held during December 18-20, 2006, in Roorkee, India.

Another paper, titled, "Life Cycle Cost Optimization of Shear Wall Buildings," was presented by his co-author Soham Ghosh (former M.Tech. student) at the International Conference on Civil Engineering in the New Millennium (CENeM), held during January 10-14, 2007, in Howrah, India.

Prof. Preeti Rao, Department of Electrical Engineering and research scholar Vishweshwara Rao, presented papers titled "Melodic contour extraction for Indian classical vocal music" and "Sung note segmentation for a query-by-humming system" at MUSIC-AI 2007 International Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Music held in Hyderabad on Jan 6, 2007.

Prof. K. Ramasubramanian, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences participated in the "National Conference on Mathematics in Ancient Sanskrit Works", organized by the Dept. of Mathematics, Madura College, Madurai, held between December 28-29, 2006. He gave a talk on 'Algorithms in Indian Mathematics' and also presided over the valedictory function. He also gave a plenary talk on 'Indian Logic : An Overview', in the "Second Indian Conference on Logic and its relationship with other disciplines" organized by IIT Bombay during January 9-11, 2007.

He was invited to give a Special lecture on — 'Vedic vision of Man and Nature' in the "World Vedic Conference" held at

Ujjain between January 13-17, 2007. Besides this special lecture, he also gave a couple of talks in the Conference on (i) Vedanga Jyotisha and (ii) Management principles to be learnt from the Vedas.

Prof. L. M. Bhole Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, delivered a lecture on "Gandhian Economics" on January 4, 2007 at Chatrapati Shivaji College, Satara.

Prof. Pushpa Trivedi, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, was invited to deliver a lecture on 'WTO and Fair Trade' at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences on 22nd Jan., 2007. She has also been invited by the Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur, to deliver lectures on 'Commodities Derivatives Markets' during 26th Jan., 2007 to 2nd Feb., 2007.

Prof. Trivedi organized a 'Capacity Building Programme on Developing Health Accounts for Maharashtra'. The programme was jointly organized by the Centre for Multi-Disciplinary Development Research, Dharwad and HSS Department of IIT-Bombay. Prof. Jean Poullier, Expert on Health Accounts from European Union, Policy Makers from the Government of Maharashtra, Representatives from NGOs, Employers offering medical care to their employees participated in the programme.

Prof. U.K. Anandavardhanan, Department of Mathematics, delivered the inaugural address of the Mathematics Association of the Thunchan Memorial Government College, Tirur, Kerala, on December 21, 2006. The talk was titled "Counting the Errors: An Introduction to the Sato-Tate Conjecture". He also gave a talk titled "A local global question in Automorphic Forms" at the National Symposium on Combinatorics,

Faculty News (Contd.)

Number Theory and Geometry, held during January 15-20, 2007, organized by the University of Mumbai as part of their sesquicentennial celebrations.

Prof. M.D. Atrey and Prof. S.L. Bapat, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, conducted a Continuing Education Programme, on "Cryogenics - Theory and Practice with Special Focus on Cryocoolers" from 13-14 December, 2006 for Crompton Greaves Ltd., Mumbai.

Prof. S. S. Pande, Mechanical Engg. department presented a key note address on "Internet based Product Design and Manufacturing" at the National Conference on Factory Automation, Robotics and Soft Computing held at the National Institute of Technology, Warangal on 18-19 Jan 2007.

Prof. U. A. Yajnik, Department of Physics, participated in the workshop "From Strings to LHC" organised by TIFR and held at the International Centre Goa Jan 3 to January 9, 2007.

Prof. G. Mukhopadhyay, Department of Physics, presented a poster paper on "Effect of Ultra-thin coating on the Van der Waals interaction between coated metal nanoparticles" at the conference "Advanced Nano Materials 2007", during Jan 8-10, 2007, at IIT Bombay.

Prof. B.K. Nandi, Department of Physics, was invited to take 6 classes on Simulation Techniques used in Experimental High Energy Nuclear Physics in "IISERC school on QGP and Hadron Physics" sponsored by DST, held at Institute Of Physics, Bhubaneswar from December 21, 2006 to January 09, 2007.

Prof. B. K. Chakravarthy, Industrial Design Centre, made a presentation on

"Reliable Innovation Process for New Product Design" at the GLOGIFT-06, Sixth Global Conference on Flexible Systems Management held between 20th to 22nd December 2006 at School of Management, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand.

Dr. B. Krishna Mohan, Principal Research Engineer, CSRE delivered keynote address on 19/1/2007 on Digital Image Processing and Analysis in the National Conference on Digital Signal Processing Applications organized by Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues College of Engineering, Bandra during 19-20 January, 2007.

Prof. (Ms.) Karuna Jain, SJMSOM organized a Management Development Programme during January 12 - 13, 2007 on 'Supply Chain Management' under MOU-SISL for Siemens Information Systems Limited.

Prof. Atanu Ghosh (SJMSOM) was invited by the Foundation for Liberal Art and Management Education (Pune) to participate in a workshop to discuss on the "Developmental Issues for the North-East Region of our Country" on 12-13 January 2007. He has also been invited to conduct a seminar/workshop on Leadership for the students of Goa University Management Department on 26-28 January 2007.

School News

Chaitanya Kulkarni, Class IX student of Kendriya Vidyalaya, IIT Powai, and **Namrata Ghole**, alumnus of Campus School, IIT Powai, were awarded black belt in Karate at the Training Camp held at Kelve during Dec. 23-27, 2006. They received their karate training under the guidance of Mr. Subhash Ghole, Asst. Security Officer, IIT Bombay.

Publications

The following papers have been published in journal and conference proceedings by **Prof. Deepankar Choudhury**, Dept. of Civil Engineering, with his students at IIT Bombay.

(a) Deepankar Choudhury and Santiram Chatterjee (2006); "Dynamic active earth pressure on retaining structures", Sadhana, Academy Proceedings in Engineering Sciences, (ISSN: 0256-2499) India, Vol. 31, No. 6: pp. 721-730.

(b) Santiram Chatterjee and Deepankar Choudhury (2007); "Displacement - based seismic active earth pressure on rigid retaining walls", International Conference on Civil Engineering in the New Millennium: Opportunities and Challenges (CENeM - 2007), B.E. College, Shibpur, 11-14 January, 2007, India, in CD.

(c) Rajeev Kumar Bharti, Deepankar Choudhury and Siddharth Chauhan (2006); "Behaviour of subgrade under cyclic load below railway track", Proc. of Indian Geotechnical Conference, IGC-2006, December 14-16, 2006, IIT Madras, Chennai, India, Vol. 2, pp. 741-742.

Prof. Karunamay Subuddhi, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, published a paper 'Peace Process and Democracy: Principled Approaches towards a Non-Violent Culture', in "Gandhi Marg", A Journal of Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi, Vol. 28, No. 2, July-September 2006.

Students News

Manohar Kamath, Senior M.Tech. (Remote Sensing) student of Civil Engineering Dept. presented a paper titled "Use of GPS in Urban Infrastructure Development" by Parul Patel, Madhav N. Kulkarni, Anand Hiroji, Mahendra Kamath & Manohar Kamath, at the National Conference on Infrastructure, held at Coimbatore, during 23-25 January, 2007.

Debarati Datta, Research Scholar of Dept. of Civil Engineering, IITB attended National Conference on "13th Symposium on Earthquake Engineering (13SEE)" held at IIT Roorkee from 18th to 20th December, 2006. She presented the paper named "Inelastic Uniform Hazard Spectra Based on Park-Ang Damage Index" authored by herself and Prof. Siddhartha Ghosh (Civil Engg Dept). She also attended International Conference on "Civil Engineering in the New Millennium: Opportunities and Challenges (CENeM - 2007)" held at Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur, Howrah, WB, from 11th to 14th January, 2007. She presented the paper named "Uniform Hazard Spectra for Park-Ang Damage Index" authored by herself and Prof. Siddhartha Ghosh (Civil Engg Dept).

Staff News

Shri Jai Prakash Yadav, Watchman, Security Section participated in the Master Athletic Meet of Maharashtra, held on 3rd & 4th February 2007 at Bhandara. He received awards in all events in the 40 + age group i.e. II place in 2.5 meters and III place in 1.8 meters, 3.5 meters and 4.10 meters.

Conference on Econometrics

The 43rd Annual Conference of The Indian Econometric Society (TIES) was hosted by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT-Bombay, during 5th to 7th Jan., 2007. About 250 delegates from India and abroad participated. Padma Vibhushan Prof. C. R. Rao delivered the keynote address. Distinguished econometrician, Prof. K. L. Krishna and Prof. A. L. Nagar (Former Directors, Delhi School of Economics) and Prof. Ashok Misra (Director, IIT-Bombay) were the Guests of Honor. Dr. R.B. Barman, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India gave the Presidential Address on 'Determinants of Profitability of Banks in India'.

Mahalanobis Memorial medals were awarded to Prof. Abhijit Banerjee, Prof. Sugata Marjit, Prof. Arup Mitra, Prof. Rajat Acharya, Prof. Bharat Ramaswami and to Dr. G.P. Samanta. The awardees also delivered special lectures at the conference.

Renowned econometricians, viz., Prof. A. L. Nagar, Prof. Vikas Chitre, Prof. D.M. Nachane, Prof. B. B. Bhattacharya, Prof. V. N. Pandit, Prof. T. Krishna Kumar, Prof. S.K. Majumdar, delivered special lectures/chaired the

sessions/participated in the panel discussion on 'Different Schools of Econometrics'.

The sponsored sessions dealt with themes, such as, 'Housing and Housing Finance', 'Risk Management and Basel II' and on 'Research and Development in Commodities Markets'. The panel discussion on 'Maharashtra's Economy' highlighted the problems of the local economy and the data gaps that need to be filled in for conducting econometric studies pertaining to the state. About 150 papers were presented in the technical sessions which covered areas, such as, Agriculture and Development, Banking and Finance, Ecological Economics, Econometric Theory, Energy, Development Economics, Human Development, Infrastructure, Industrial Economics, International Economics, macroeconomics, Public Economics.

Prof. V.R. Panchamukhi (former Chairman, ICSSR and former Director General of Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries) delivered the valedictory address. Prof. Juzer Vasi (Deputy Director, IIT Bombay) and Prof. K. Ramamritham (Dean R & D, IIT Bombay) chaired the special session on Commodities Markets and the valedictory session, respectively.



Bamboo Workshop in Dang

A workshop on "Tools, small machines finishes and new products design in bamboo" was held from 24th January 2007 to 30th January 2007 at Vaghai in the Dang district of Gujarat for tribal crafts persons by the design team of Industrial Design Centre (IDC), IIT-Bombay, Bhartiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF), Pune and its associate organization DHRUVA, Vaghai co-organised this workshop jointly. Girish Sohani, Vice President (VP) of BAIF who is also an IITB alumni, had initiated the workshop proposal last year.

The IDC designers team, led by Prof. A G Rao, had divided the craft persons into groups and exposed them to different designs of bamboo products like gift basket, photo frame, key chain, tea coaster, acrylic tray and designers' clock. The craft persons were exposed to different techniques like coil technique and use of jigs and mould while making products to bring finishing and quality. They were trained in preparation of strips and treatment of bamboo raw material to protect it from fungus and insects by using chemicals like Borax and Boric acid. Craft persons were also trained in dyeing the bamboo products with natural colour derived from *katha*, *tea*, *haldi* and *alta*. The team oriented the trainees on the need of linking of their product with market demand during the workshop.

The IDC team has so far conducted about ten workshops on bamboo craft in different states. AG Bamboo Style (Pvt) Ltd, a bamboo product marketing company, being registered by Prof. Rao under SINE, IIT Bombay, has extended its support by placing orders for the products trained in the workshop. The Dang workshop team consisted of



S. Sundara Mohan, designer, Niranjan Rudrapaul, Mrs. Gangamma, both skilled craft instructor, Krishna Sutar,

mould maker, Loknath Swain, marketing consultant and Himanish Ghosh, BAIF's the bamboo project coordinator.

Appointments

Dr. Tapan P. Bagchi, has been appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the Industrial Engineering & Operations Research Group from 2nd January, 2007.

Dr. Vikram L. Dalal, has been appointed as a Visiting Professor jointly in the Energy Systems Engineering Group and Department of Electrical Engineering from 3rd January, 2007.

Dr. B.S. Adiga, has been appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering from 8th January, 2007.

Dr. Jayanta Mukherjee, has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering from 8th January, 2007.

Dr. K.C. Gupta, has been appointed as a D. J. Gandhi Distinguished Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering from 12th January, 2007.

Dr. (Ms.) Janaky Narayanan has been appointed as an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering from 15th January, 2007.

Prof. Nand Kishore, Department of Chemistry as Coordinating Warden is extended for a further period of one year w.e.f. 5.1.2007 to 4.1.2008.

Prof. Raghava Varma, Department of Physics is appointed to look after the duties of the Chairman, Sports Activities w.e.f. 4th January 2007.

Prof. D. Chandrasekharam, Department of Earth Sciences continues as Head, Centre of Studies in Resources Engineering (CSRE) for an extended for a further period of two years.

Retirements

(As on 28.2.2007)

1. Prof. A.G. Rao
IDC
2. Ms. Manjula P. Rokade
K.G. School
3. Shri G.T. Wagh
Genl. Admn. Section
4. Shri A.C. Gade
Aerospace Engineering Dept.
5. Shri R.P. Karande
Met. Engg. & Mat. Sci. Dept.

Salt'n Pepper

Dr. Arun Inamdar



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