

## **Report on the “Industry Day” program organized by IEEE Kolkata Section**

The “Industry Day” was organized by IEEE Kolkata Section on 6th July 2012 at M/s Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), GDC Bldg, Salt Lake, Kolkata and it was first of its kind in Kolkata. The theme of the program was “Fostering synergy between industry and academia for technological innovation”. About 20 participants from various academic institutes and industries attended the program. A brief overview of the program is given below:

- The program was designed as a round table discussion and direct interaction between industry and academia.
- Prof. Sivaji Chakravorti, Chair, IEEE Kolkata Section gave welcome address and set the tone of the program and talked about the importance of such initiatives.
- Dr. Gargi Keeni, Professional Activities Chair, IEEE Kolkata Section and the Convener of the program, gave inaugural speech putting emphasis on the fact that in countries like US such synergism between industry and institute works very well. However, in India this approach is lacking. She also mentioned about the importance for root cause analysis of lacking of such partnerships.
- Participants from different industries presented their activities in this direction. Presentation by M/s Ericsson explained how they are preparing talent pool of students for Telecom and IT from various institutes in India like, IITs and IISc. They are offering training programme for approximately 4000 students from several institutes, universities and colleges and are planning to introduce elective papers in the B.Tech and MBA courses of those institutes.
- Presentation from M/s TCS highlighted about their R&D initiatives and explained how are those initiatives exercising a synergy between industry and academia. Their focus for the research includes areas like Cloud computing, Sensor signal processing, intelligent infrastructure and machine to machine interaction. Their plan is to get theoretical support from academic institutes to develop and implement the algorithms. They have certain ongoing programs with ISI, and IITs. Intelligent campus and intelligent transportation related programs are examples of those.
- CESC, one of the leading power utilities in West Bengal, talked about their programmes with different institutes especially with IITs.
- After the presentations, a highly interactive session revealed many interesting facts and thoughts.
- The matter of long term investments from industries in research was discussed in details. It was emphasized that many small and medium industries with limited amount of investments produced significant contribution in innovation.
- Participants also shared their mixed experiences regarding collaborative works with different institutes as well as industries.
- Some of the participants also felt that there must be a common point of interest for both industry and institute for such program to succeed. Finding such common interest may come up as success stories in the case of such ventures.

- It was also discussed that there should be enough transparency between industry and academia during execution of collaborative works. Participants agreed on the point that “lack of faith” between industry and academia will not help in improving the situation in India. Participants also agreed upon the fact that IEEE can and should play a major role in removing such shortcomings to improve and strengthen the interaction between industry and academia.
- The role of the Government to form guidelines in this direction was discussed also.
- Importance of the Graduates Of Last Decade (GOLD) programs in this scenario was highlighted by the IEEE GOLD activity Chair of Kolkata.
- The strategic plan of IEEE Computer society and their areas of focus in 2012-14 were presented which includes smart grid, cloud computing, computer vision and machine learning etc.



Industry Day presentation in progress



A section of the participants