

From the President

Dear IIT Alumni,

Indian Institutes of Technology Alumni Victoria (IITaV), Australia, is entering its third year as an Incorporated Association. I am very pleased to report that our membership and activities have grown steadily during this period.

We hold regular events which provide opportunities for professional and social networking among our members and guests. These have included talks by prominent speakers, workshops and follow up events on topics of interest and benefit to our members such as entrepreneurship, marketing professional services and climate change. IITaV is working to increase the awareness of the IIT brand in Victoria and Australia, highlight the achievements and contributions of IITians and promote their welfare. We have developed professional association with Engineers Australia and plan to do joint events of mutual interest.

Membership is an important indicator of the collective interest of the IIT Alumni community. It gives members a voice in setting the IITaV direction; and effectively liaise with business, academia and the government to develop networking opportunities and enhance the IIT brand in Australia. Membership also provides concessional rates to attend IITaV social and networking events. Members who attended IITaV social and networking events in 2012 more than recovered their annual membership fee of \$50.

Events planned in the next couple of months include: Social Holi lunch on 17 March (it was a big success last year), a networking event on 11 April, and the Annual General Meeting on 27 April 2013. Please renew your membership if you have not already done so.

Non-member IITians are invited to become members and contribute to the activities and direction of our Association. Please contact Abaran Deep, IITaV Secretary, or any one of our Committee members if you need additional information.

I look forward to catching up at the Holi function on 17 March.

With warm regards,

Arun

arunkumarau@gmail.com

IITaV Diwali dinner, November 2012

Our Diwali dinner on 24 November at Cafe Mod Oz had over seventy attendees. The ambience was great and the entertainment was remarkable for its variety including songs, jokes and dancing.

We thank all our performers including Aditi Ghuman, Dolon Ghuman, Ramona Bhattacharya, Swarna Bhartula, Radhe Shyam Gupta, Raman Singh, Sunny Chandra and Arun Kumar for their brilliant contributions. Our MC, Sangeeta Singh and the ladies who put together the beautiful Diwali lights and decorations were marvellous. The Bollywood dance session led by Marshie Perera Rajakumar of Jhoom Dance Company encouraged many to take on the fun challenge of dancing to Dhoom Taana from the hit film Om Shanti Om.

The networking continued late into the balmy, summer evening. Thank you to Ravi Singh and team for organising the successful event.



Upcoming event: Holi Hungama lunch on Sunday, 17 March 2013 at Spirit of India, Preston

Holy Hungnam event will be held on Sunday, 17 March at Spirit of India Reception Centre, 1 Oakover Road, Preston, Vic 3072 starting at 11.30am. It will be a lunch with entertainment and opportunity to network.



iit ALUMNI VICTORIA **holi hungama**

Enjoy Indian lunch,
Entertainment and Networking

Sunday, 17 March 2013 , 11.30 am
Spirit of India Reception Centre, Preston

The charges for this event are:

- Members and partners – \$25 per person
- Non-members – \$35 per person
- Children 4 to 15 years – \$15 per person
- No charge for children below 4.years

BYO (beer, wine and spirits).

If you are not a financial member of IITaV, now is a great time to act. If you join now, you can take advantage of the member rate for the dinner. The annual Membership subscription of \$50 will be valid till the end of December 2013.

We also request you and your family members to contribute to the Holi entertainment through poetry, singing dance or other items. Please contact us if you are interested to participate.

We look forward to your registration and support to make the event a success. To book, type www.trybooking.com/CMPN in your browser.

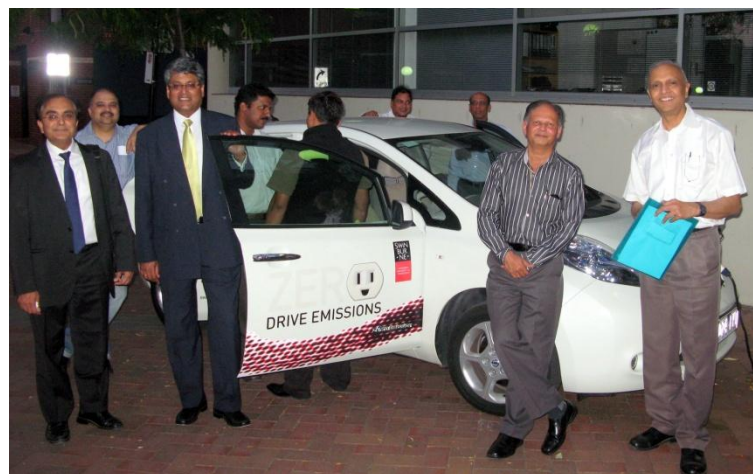
Contact:

Ravi Singh, Tel: 0435657413, rsingh_se@hotmail.com
or Raj Rajakumar, Tel:0432474385,
raj.rajakumar43@gmail.com

IITaV Networking event, February 2013

Our program of networking events for 2013 commenced on 13 February. The focus of this well attended event was **"What's Humming in the Labs at Swinburne"** presented by Professor Ajay Kapoor, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International Research Engagement) and Deputy Dean Faculty of Engineering & Industrial Sciences at Swinburne University of Technology. After Ajay's informative presentation, Ambarish Kulkarni hosted a visit to their Virtual Reality laboratory and a display of and exciting ride in Swinburne's Electric Vehicle.

Thank you to Ajay and the Swinburne team for the great evening.



Next Networking event, 11 April 2013

This event takes us on a work-life balance journey.

“Have your cake and eat it too: Musings of an entrepreneur about making money and having good health, peace of mind and a fulfilled spirit”

by

Mr Saurabh Mishra

Mr Mishra is a “serial entrepreneur” who has co-founded five innovative businesses in the healthcare sector in the past 12 years.

Please pencil 11 April in your diary for what promises to be an informative Networking experience.

For suggestions, enquiries and feedback about our Networking events, please contact:

Satish Varma (satishkvarma@gmail.com) or

Rajiv Lal (lalrajiv@optusnet.com.au)

Meet IITaV member, Professor Ajay Kapoor



Ajay completed his BTech in Mechanical Engineering and MTech in Machine Design at Institute of Technology, BHU, Varanasi. Subsequently he studied for a PhD at Cambridge University, UK and returned to India to start lecturing at IT BHU, his alma mater. He also started a successful TV accessory manufacturing industry and a computer training and computer programming business in Varanasi.

In the United Kingdom

In 1990s he moved to UK to join academia. He held a professorship at Newcastle University, UK and was the Deputy Director of Newcastle based rail research centre

NEWRAIL. He is internationally known for his research on contact mechanics, ratchetting, wear and rolling contact fatigue and has contributed 1 Book, several patents, over 200 papers, articles and reports in this area including 3 prize winning publications.

Ajay is member of the Editorial Board of the prestigious IMechE Journal of Rail and Rapid Transit, I.Mech.E – Journal of Strain Analysis, International Journal of Surface Science and Engineering, and Transport Problems – International Scientific Journal. He has been an active member of the Executive Committee – UK and Ireland Section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. In the past he has served the committee as Treasurer (1998 – 2000) and as Chairman (2002 – 2006).

At Swinburne University

In 2007 Ajay moved to Swinburne University in Melbourne. He ran the offices of the Associate Dean International and then Associate Dean Research for the Faculty of Engineering and Industrial Sciences and is currently the Deputy Dean for the faculty. He also served as Higher Education representative to the University Council.

Recently Ajay has taken up the role of Pro Vice Chancellor (International Research Engagement) for Swinburne. Ajay plans to develop new partnerships and nurture and grow current linkages such as those with IIT Madras, IIT – BHU, Mahindra Reva, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

AKapoor@swin.edu.au

Ph. +61 (3) 9214 8202

Congratulations

IITaV offers hearty congratulations to our members, Radhey Shyam Gupta and Ajay Kapoor, for their recent awards and recognition.

Radhey Shyam Gupta:

1. **Victoria's Multicultural Award for Excellence - Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria – Arts (2012)**
2. **Indian Executive Club Award - Business and Community Award - 2012 - Indus Age Person of the Year - Male**

Professor Ajay Kapoor:

The Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Welfare Society of India's **Hind Rattan Award (2013)**.

IITs in the news

Indian Institute of Technology graduates are highly sought after by global IT companies

In an article in the Business section of The Age newspaper in Melbourne on the future of manufacturing in Australia, Peter Cai writes that manufacturing industry CEOs consistently rank talent-driven innovation as the most important driver of a country's ability to compete. "This is an area in which Australia has an advantage, but it should not be taken for granted. Asian countries are investing heavily in education and research capabilities. In certain areas, China and India are racing ahead of Western competitors. Indian Institute of Technology graduates are highly sought after by global IT companies and disproportionately represented in that Mecca of technological entrepreneurship, Silicon Valley."

<http://www.theage.com.au/business/australian-industry-needs-to-sew-up-future-20121122-29su8.html>

IITs to have Peer review system

The Council of IITs decided that a peer review of each institute would be carried out on a periodic basis, once in every five years. The review will be based on similar well-established systems in world-class institutions. The review committee would consist of five eminent persons from industry and academia. The members would be selected by the Chairman of the Council of IITs from a panel of names given by the Board of Governors of respective institutes –

[Quoted from a Report in the New Indian Express, 8/1/2013](#)

IITs increase fees for its undergraduate programs

The IIT's Governing Council has approved the hike in tuition fees for undergraduate students from Rs 50,000 to Rs 90,000 per year with effect from this year. The fee was last revised from Rs 25,000 to Rs 50,000 from the 2008-09 academic year. HRD Minister Raju also noted that no tuition fee is charged to students belonging to the Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[Quoted from a report in the New Indian Express, 8/1/2013.](#)

IIT Bombay to power up Akash-2 tablets for Indian classrooms

The Aakash-2 tablet's first consignment sent to the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay is ready to be powered with stacks of applications for Indian classrooms. The government has bought the first batch of 10,000 shoe-size [Aakash-2 tablets](#), each costing \$40 (2,200).

Since 2000, the government has been trying to change the stationery in the country's classrooms. It started with the \$10 (550) computing device launched in Tirupati in 2009. Then

came the \$35 (1,925.20) Aakash-1 device that was touted to be India's iPad killer (Aakash was originally called Sakshaat— 'right in front of you').

[Quoted from a report by Hemali Chhappia, TNN | Dec 1, 2012, http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-news/hardware/IIT-Bombay-to-power-up-Aakash-2-tablets-for-Indian-classrooms/articleshow/17435299.cms?inttarget=no](#)

Pan IIT Global Conference, 6-8 December 2013 in Houston, Texas, USA



The mission of this conference is to assemble the best and the brightest minds, including IIT alumni, at this global event to translate today's inspirations to tomorrow's innovations. The theme of the Conference is Inspiring Innovation for tomorrow. Online registration is now open at <http://IIT2013.org/register-now/>.

The early bird special registration package starts at \$175/person. Along with registering for yourself and your spouse, do spread the word around among your friends and batch-mates too, so all of you can enjoy the conference at a great price and plan a reunion in Houston. If you have any question, the organisers can be reached at outreach@iit2013.org or <mailto:outreach@iit2013.org>

Contact

Thank you for your support and interest in our Newsletter. Your feedback, suggestions and contributions to strengthen the Newsletter are welcome.

Dr Raj Rajakumar
Phone; +61 3 (0)432 474385
raj.rajakumar43@gmail.com



*Down memory lane -
Diwali Dinner 2012
Photos: Raj Rajakumar*

IITaV Committee (2012-13)

Arun Kumar, President
Raj Rajakumar, Vice President
Abaran Deep, Secretary
Surinder Lamba, Treasurer
Satish Varma, Coordinator - Networking
Ravi Singh, Coordinator - Events
Rajiv Lal
Rahul Tyagi
Amar Garg

arunkumrau@gmail.com
raj.rajakumar43@gmail.com
abaran@d2e.net.au
synlam@bigpond.com
satishkvarma@gmail.com
rsingh_se@hotmail.com,
lalrajiv@optusnet.com.au
rahultyagiji@gmail.com
Amargarg5@gmail.com

Tel: +61 (0)411 040 481
Tel: +61 (0)432 474 385
Tel: +61 (0)407 319 732
Tel: +61 (0)409 252 077
Tel: +61 (0)438 130 260
Tel: +61 (0)435 657 413
Tel: +61 (0)409 528 473
Tel: +61 (0)433 985 402
Tel: +61 (0)3 9848 1305