

From the President

Dear IIT Alumni,

With the success of the social and networking events undertaken by the 2011-12 Committee, the new Committee elected for the period 2012-13 has reaffirmed the mission and vision of IITaV. It has developed a framework and an action plan to focus activities in four areas: Membership and member needs; Networking and Professional Development; Social & Professional events; and Marketing & Communication. Within the committee there are four groups co-ordinating efforts in these areas. Active participation of all IITians will help deliver great results in each of these areas.

We continue to develop alliances with other organisations to help deliver outcomes for our members. We recently commenced developing a collaborative framework with Engineers Australia (EA) and will work together for the benefit of the engineering community both in the short and long term. The National President of Engineers Australia will launch this initiative by speaking at our social dinner on 18th August as a joint activity of EA and IITaV. Pitcher Partners and RMIT are supporting the event. The collaboration with Swinburne University of Technology has secured us a great venue for the networking functions. Our members actively contributed at the *Industry Night for Overseas Qualified Engineers* organised by EA on 16th July.

I urge IITians to participate actively in various community services, networking events, social and professional activities planned for the coming months. Please feel free to contact me or any committee member to contribute to any of the four areas outlined above.

With warm regards,

Arun Kumar

IITaV Annual General meeting, 15 April 2012

IITaV's Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 15 April 2012 at Waverley Meadows Primary School, 11-27 Columbia Drive, Wheelers Hill

The President's and Treasurer's reports were accepted unanimously. These have been sent to members.

The 2012-13 Committee, elected unanimously, is:

President:	Arun Kumar
Vice President:	Dr Raj Rajakumar
Treasurer:	Surinder Lamba
Secretary:	Abaran Deep
Committee Members:	Rajiv Lal
	Ravi Singh
	Satish Varma
	Rahul Tyagi
	Dr Amar Garg

Brief profiles of the Committee members are in this Newsletter.

The formal AGM was followed by a productive open session on the directions for IITaV.

Holi Hungama, 11 March 2012

IITaV held a successful "Holi Hungama" program at Cinnamon Club in Cheltenham on Sunday 11th March that had something for everyone – adults and children alike.



Photos; Saby Bhattacharya

Dr S Behera, Consul General for India in Victoria was our Chief Guest. On arrival, all attendees were treated to a tilak ceremony – a traditional welcome. President of IITaV, Arun Kumar welcomed everyone and mentioned some of the achievements of the young organization during the past year.

The entertainment included two beautiful songs by IITian Radhey Shyam Gupta and his daughter Kokil. In typical Holi Hasya Kavita tradition, the attendees were entertained by poems written and recited by IITian Subash Sharma who appeared all the way from Brisbane through a live video link. Dr Behera's poems in English and Hindi drew much admiration and applause.



Dr Nalin Sharda, who compered the program, chipped in with his own poem.

The festivities continued with the help of Marshie Rajakumar of Jhoom Bollywood Dance Company. With Marshie's expert training and suitably energized by "Rang Barse Bhige Chunarwa", the song made famous by Amitabh Bachan, the IITaV family quickly became a well synchronized Bollywood dancing troupe! Some of the motivation may have come from the fact that there was a prize each for the best performing male and female Bollywood dancer; these awards were won by Surinder Lamba and Amruta Shree Behera.

Aditya Chibber's rendition of "Ben", a song by Michael Jackson, was a hit. Not to be outdone, "nextgen" IITians, Aditi Ghuman and Nimeshika Singh, took to the stage and made an impassioned appeal to include some activities for the younger generation to encourage them to keep coming to these events with their parents. Their proposal to form an IITaV Kids Committee was received with enthusiastic applause and encouragement.

The event ended on a sweet note with desserts and lots of networking. Committee member Dr Raj Rajakumar thanked everyone for making the day a great success.

IITaV Networking events – April and June 2012

IITaV's networking events have been growing from strength to strength. These events provide an opportunity for alumni to meet each other in an informal environment, build their network and pursue their professional goals.

April event: Individual Contracting

About fifteen members attended the event held on Thursday, 12 April 2012, at Riversdale Hotel, Hawthorn. The President of TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs), Rod Smith, also joined us for the evening.

The theme was **Individual Contracting (Freelancing)**. A member of TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs) - Albert Kalaja was invited as Guest Speaker. Albert Kalaja runs a well established, highly successful recruitment and contracting company - Paragon Recruitment - and he is also a Charter Member/Past President of TiE Melbourne.

Albert shared his experiences, thoughts and advice on contracting. The message was quite clear: if you can accept the risks of contracting - uncertainty about the next assignment, possibly some travel, varying charging rates depending on the state of the economy - by all means go for it as it can be rewarding. However, if one is looking for a steady (perhaps lower) income to manage a mortgage, kids' education and other commitments, it may be a good idea to look for a permanent (as can be in today's economy) position.

A couple of our members - Sanjiv Bhasin and Steve Bungay, who are entrepreneurs with established businesses in electronic instrumentation and software development respectively - also shared their experiences.

Most attendees had something to share - ideas, experiences and anecdotes. The group dynamics worked well and it provided us a good opportunity to get to know each other and understand how we could help each other - a key purpose of networking.

June event: Entrepreneurship in the Digital Age

The networking event held on **Thursday 14 June** had all the right ingredients: a venue at Swinburne University of Technology arranged by Prof. Ajay Kapoor (IIT-BHU Alumni), a formal discussion titled **Entrepreneurship in the Digital Age** by Dr David Gilbert, Acting Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor & Associate Professor, Entrepreneurship & Innovation, RMIT and over 22 interested and lively attendees from IITaV, TIE and Telstra.



Photos: Raj Rajakumar

Prof. Gilbert noted that in this digital age, the world of business has changed dramatically and entrepreneurs have to think of increasingly innovative ideas just to get noticed. In addition there is a significant shift from traditional businesses to grasp the online opportunity - these are established businesses that have a track record and greater access to capital and provide a competitive challenge. Moreover, it has become obvious that the traditional business model needs to adapt to online opportunities, not only by establishing websites but by exploring social media and e-commerce options.



Satish Varma, Arun Kumar and David Gilbert

Our survey of attendees has helped us to identify and prioritise the following topics for future networking events:

- Effective Marketing of Professional Services
- Innovation at the Workplace
- Dealing with Difficult Situations

- Effective Work / Life Balance
- Engineering / IT Service Contracts Formulation
- Effective Mediation/ Dispute Resolution/ Communications
- Outsourcing Challenges
- Opportunity Creation

The next event is being planned for September. Your feedback and suggestions for future events are always welcome. Please contact:

Satish Varma (satishkvarma@gmail.com) or Rajiv Lal (lalrajiv@optusnet.com.au).

Next event: IITaV Dinner on Saturday 18 August , 6.30 pm at

A social dinner evening is being held jointly with **Engineers Australia** on Saturday 18th August.

David Hood, National President, Engineers Australia will be our special guest. He will present on: **“Climate Change - Real or Not?”**

Professor David Hood, an accredited Presenter with Al Gore’s Climate Project, is Immediate Past, and Founding Chairman of the Australian Green Infrastructure Council, a new industry association developing the world’s first sustainability rating scheme for infrastructure. David is the 2012 National President of Engineers Australia. In August 2011, he was included in the ABC Carbon list of the top 100 Sustainability leaders in the world, and was listed this year by Engineers Media as one of Australia’s 100 Most Influential Engineers.

This will also be a great event for networking among IITians, with Engineers Australia members and other guests and attendees.

Please register early and we look forward to seeing you at what promises to be a great social evening of entertainment and networking.

Registration can be done on-line at <http://www.trybooking.com/BPJP> .

For enquiries contact:

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

Internationalisation of new IITs and Global Mobility



The new IITs will focus on internationalisation of curricula and greater mobility of staff and students with partners at home and abroad. Some of the new IITs are planning to provide every academic and student some foreign experience whether with an academic institute or at industry or research organisation. This is where Australian universities and industry can play an important part.

New IITs have adopted the concept of schools rather than departments to allow greater co-operation. All new IITs are adopting multidisciplinary teaching and research and seek input and advice from foreign partners.

A brief on New IITs

IIT Ropar or IIT R, located at Rupnagar, is keen to start collaborative ventures with universities, industries, and other research institutes (both in India and outside India).

IIT Bhubaneshwar - The Institute has broadly adopted the course curricula, syllabi and other academic regulations of IIT Kharagpur, the mentor institute.

IIT Gandhinagar - IITGn is operating out of a temporary campus at the Vishwakarma Government college in Chandkheda. IIT Gn has a strong multidisciplinary approach to education and is keen to forge mutually beneficial teaching and research partnerships with premier universities overseas.

IIT Hyderabad - IIT Hyderabad has a temporary campus located at Ordnance Factory Campus, Yeddumailaram village, while the permanent campus in Kandi is under construction. IIT H has several MOUs with foreign universities and seeks further assistance with premier partners.

IIT Patna - IITP permanent campus will be located at Bihta, 25 km from Patna. Until completion of the permanent campus, the Institute operates from a temporary complex in Pataliputra colony, Kurji.

IIT Mandi or **IITM** - IIT Mandi functions from transit campus at Mandi town in Himachal Pradesh.

IIT Indore or **IITI** - The institution started functioning from 2009-10 in a temporary campus at Institute of Engineering and Technology of Indore University under mentorship of IIT Bombay. The focus of IIT Indore would also be on cutting-edge interdisciplinary research. The postgraduate programs include Ph.D. programmes in engineering, humanities and basic sciences.

IIT Rajasthan - also known as **IIT Jodhpur** or IITJ is seeking collaboration with good Australian universities for teaching and research.

My visit to new IITs during Feb-March 2012

I visited five new IITs at Hyderabad, Bhubaneshvar, Ropar, Gandhinagar and Jodhpur during Feb- March, 2012. The main purpose of this visit was to evaluate opportunities for Australian universities and see how the new IITs were currently functioning, and what was the infrastructure at present. It was also an exercise to see how Australian Universities can contribute and provide mentoring in helping them get established.

There is keenness to co-operate and willingness to accept goodwill in the form of formal and informal interactions between staff and students at all levels with emphasis on internships with Australian universities for exposure to their students and staff development opportunities. All new

IITs are open to joint degree offerings at PG levels both in coursework and PhD programmes. They also seek assistance in attracting quality staff.

Winthrop Professor Hema Sharda
University of Western Australia
Hema.sharda@uwa.edu.au

IITaV at the Overseas Qualified Engineers Group meeting of Engineers Australia in Melbourne

Three IITaV members, Ravi Singh, Surinder Lamba and Arun Kumar, participated in a meeting organised by the Overseas Qualified Engineers Group – a special interest group of Engineers Australia, Victoria Division. They were with 20 industry people at the event on 16 July which was attended by over 100 professional engineers. IITaV was included in the slide presentation.

It is noteworthy that the federal parliament's Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations References Committee has recently released a report detailing the findings of its inquiry into engineering skills

shortages. The report is available at (http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate_Committees?url=eet_ctte/engineering/report/index.htm).

Engineers Australia comments: “Over the last decade Australia has experienced acute shortages in professional engineers. With an ageing workforce, and limited number of domestic engineering graduates entering the workforce, the gap between supply and demand continues to grow.



Photos: Arun Kumar

The main source to bridge this gap is engineers who qualified and practised overseas and arrived to Australia as skilled migrants. Well trained and experienced but lacking local experience, these professionals often face difficulties finding a suitable positions in Australia. On the other hand, organisations hampered by shortage of engineers often miss out on great opportunities to employ very capable and experienced readily available engineers.”

The IITian attendees noted that the meeting provided a good opportunity to discuss needs and requirements face to face and ask questions directly without the costs and pressures of formal recruitment processes and interviews.

Re-engineering of IIT admission test format

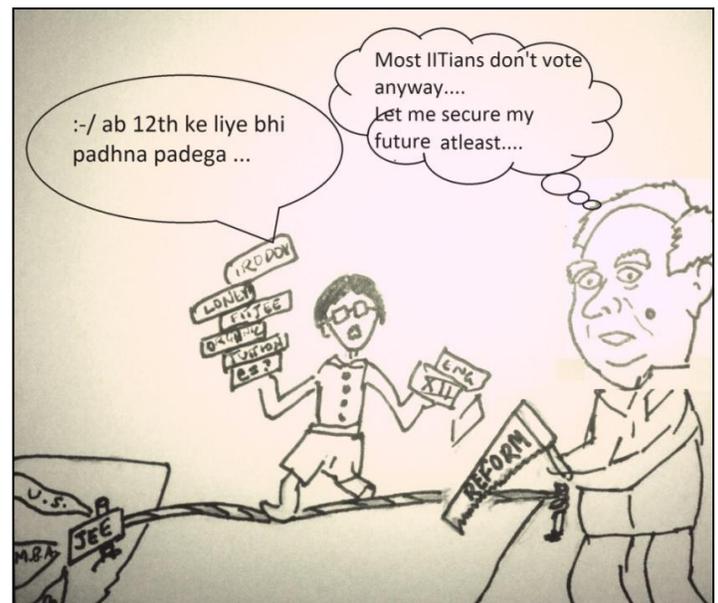
Recent reports from India in several newspapers, for example in the Hindustan Times of 28 May 2012 (<http://www.hindustantimes.com/HTNext/Education/Govt-re-engineers-IIT-admission-test-format/Article1-862643.aspx>), mention that the IIT-JEE (Joint Entrance Examination) will undergo major changes from next year with the aim of reducing stress on engineering college aspirants, The headline in the Hindu newspaper of 29 May 2012 reads js typical: “IIT aspirants worried over admission changes” (<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/article3466758.ece>).

Instead of one exam for admission to the 16 IITs across the country, there will be two exams: JEE-Main and JEE-Advanced. The main exam will be a filtering process in which 50% weightage will be given to performance in class 12.

Admission to the IITs will be determined by a candidate's performance in the “Advanced” exam. The main and advanced exams will also determine admission to the various National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and centrally funded engineering colleges across India. There will be no separate exam for admission to non-IIT institutes from next year. For NITs and other institutions, 40% weightage will be given to performance in class 12.

These reports prompted our resident IITian cartoonist to pen this cartoon. Thank you, Rahul!

Raj Rajakumar



Rahul Tyagi

Pan IIT Global Conference and Exhibition 2012
Kolkata, 7-9 December Update

PanIIT is a global forum for alumni from all the IITs. The Global Conferences, held each year, facilitate IIT alumni to leverage their urge to "give back" to India. The updated program for the next PanIIT Global Conference in Kolkata is available at

http://www.paniit2012.org/templates/rhuk_milkyway/images/PanIITbrochure.pdf

For registration and information, contact:

PanIIT 2012 Conference Secretariat

Room No. 301, IIT Kharagpur Kolkata Campus
HC Block, Sector III, Salt Lake City
Kolkata 700106
West Bengal, India
E-mail: info@paniit2012.org

Contact

Thank you for your contributions and interest in our Newsletter.

Please send your feedback and contributions including items and your articles for possible inclusion. We can be contacted at mail@iitav.org.au. Members are invited to volunteer help with the production of the newsletter.

Please also visit IITaV's website at

<http://www.iitav.org.au>

This site contains useful information. We are continually improving it and look forward to receiving your suggestions.

Raj Rajakumar
Tel: 0432 474 385
raj.rajakumar43@gmail.com



Indian Institutes of Technology Alumni Victoria, Australia

and
Engineers Australia

invite you to

Indian dinner, entertainment and a special presentation by
David Hood, President, Engineers Australia

"Climate Change - Real or Not?"

Saturday, 18 August 2012, 6.30 pm
Café Saffron, 1/5 Danaher Drive, South Morang, VIC 3752

Melbourne CBD with 7m sea level rise



Photo: Courtesy David Hood

David Hood, an accredited Presenter with Al Gore's Climate Project, is Immediate Past, and Founding Chairman of the Australian Green Infrastructure Council, a new industry association developing the world's first sustainability rating scheme for infrastructure. David is the 2012 National President of Engineers Australia. In August 2011, David was included in the ABC Carbon list of the top 100 Sustainability leaders in the world, and was listed this year by Engineers Media as one of Australia's 100 Most Influential Engineers.

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To register type in <http://www.trybooking.com/BPJP>
Enquiries: Ravi Singh (rsingh_se@hotmail.com, 0435 657 413) or
Raj Rajakumar (raj.rajakumar43@gmail.com, 0432 474 385)

IITaV Management Committee 2011-12

Professor Arun Kumar (President)



Arun obtained his B.Tech. in Civil Engineering IIT Delhi (1968), MSCE (1973), PhD (1976) Purdue University USA. He has held several management and leadership roles in research, industry and academia. He has chaired several committees and has been invited to speak in many international conferences/forums. Arun was previously Dean at RMIT University and now is Emeritus Professor at RMIT; Professor at Queensland University of Technology; and consultant/advisor to the World bank

Washington DC. His areas of expertise include: infrastructure management & sustainability, project management, roads, and capacity building. (arunkumarau@gmail.com)

Dr Raj Rajakumar (Vice President)



Raj completed B.Tech. (Hons) and M.Tech. degrees in Metallurgical Engineering from IIT Bombay and PhD and DIC from the Imperial College of Science & Technology (London University). He has over 40 years experience in leadership roles in academia, research, development and commercialisation. At CSIRO (1982-2011) in Australia he led and managed major R & D programs with a large number of companies and universities in minerals processing, metals production and

manufacturing. He was Director of CSIRO's Light Metals National Research Flagship program (2005-2011). (raj.rajakumar43@gmail.com)

Surinder Lamba (Treasurer)



Surinder gained B.Tech. (1972) and M.Tech.(1976) degrees in Chemical Engineering from IIT Kanpur and IIT Delhi respectively. He also holds post graduate qualifications in Business Management and Industrial Relations. He has been working in Business Improvement and Program Management roles for over ten years. Surinder is a Judge of the Australian Business Excellence Awards Foundation. He enjoys Yoga, reading and music. (synlam@bigpond.com)

Abaran Deep (Secretary)



Abaran completed his B.Tech. from IIT Delhi in 1990. He has been in working as a Management Consultant in Australia since 1995. He currently shares the responsibility of running a consulting firm which helps large businesses transform existing processes or develop new capabilities. Abaran enjoys cycling, woodwork and occasionally listening to the rock groups from the IIT days. (abaran@d2e.net.au)

Ravi Singh (Committee Member)



Ravi holds a B. Tech in Electrical Engineering from IIT Roorkee (1983), an M. Tech from IIT Delhi (1988) and also earned his Executive MBA degree from AGSM. Ravi has over 27 years of business development and general management experience in the electrical power and industrial automation industry. He held various senior leadership roles both in India and Australia with a large multinational company and focused on Energy Management and sustainability in his current role.

Ravi is coordinator of IITaV events. (rsingh_se@hotmail.com)

Satish Varma (Committee Member)



Satish completed his B.Tech. in Electrical Engineering from IIT Kanpur in 1982. He has over 30 years experience in Programme / Project planning and delivery at the intersection of Business & IT. Satish has successfully managed several programmes of work in areas like business transformation; enterprise systems development and systems integration. He has multi-sector experience including Business & IT Consulting Services, Automotive, Telecommunications, Discrete Manufacturing, , Government and FMCG. Satish enjoys a circuit at the gym and loves travelling with his family. Satish is coordinator of IITaV's networking and professional development activities. (satishkvarma@gmail.com)

Rajiv Lal (Committee Member)



Rajiv completed his B.Tech. from IIT Delhi in 1976. He has over 36 years experience in the mining industry in leadership roles. Rajiv has a successful record in asset management, process re-engineering, project management, and operations and maintenance roles that cut across a range of cultures. Among his other activities he was a graded squash player, and enjoyed hockey and bridge. Rajiv was the initiator of IITaV in 2010. (lalrajiv@optusnet.com.au)

Dr Amar Garg (Committee Member)



Amar obtained his B. Tech (1966) and M. Tech. (1968) and Ph.D (1977) in Aeronautical Engineering from IIT Kanpur, and IIT Bombay respectively. He was in the faculty of Aeronautics at IIT Bombay for 18 years and now works for Boeing. Amar has also worked as researcher at NASA Ames Research Centre, CA and Cranfield Institute of Technology, UK. Amar has over 45 yrs of research, teaching and industrial experience in the field of aviation structures and composite materials. (Amargarg5@gmail.com)

Rahul Tyagi (Committee Member)



Rahul obtained his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Roorkee (2006). He worked with IBM before starting his own entrepreneurial venture promoting independent artists in India, called TempoStand which was hailed as one of the grooviest startup ventures by Business Today. Rahul holds an MBA from Melbourne Business School and L. Stern School of Business, NYU (Exchange candidate). He currently works as a consultant in process improvement. Rahul enjoys reading, economics, and watching sports, especially soccer which he played in various inter IIT tournaments. (rahultyagaji@gmail.com)