

From the President

As the tenure of the committee for 2011-12 draws to a close with the Annual General meeting on 15 April 2012, I am delighted to provide a brief reflection on the IITaV activities during the year.

To set the collective direction of IITaV, a planning workshop was held in May 2011 attended by over 20 members. It was agreed to increase the visibility/brand of IIT; provide a platform for professional networking among IITians, entrepreneurship, and social interaction.

IITaV's vision is to contribute to the social, economic and environmental development of Victoria in particular and Australia in general. A key objective of IITaV is to provide a platform for networking among IITians, business, academia and the government through the expertise, creativity and commitment of its members.

With a view to build collaborative relationships with universities, IITaV and Monash University jointly organised a lecture by eminent Indian scientist, Dr Ramesh Mashelkar in April 2011. He focussed on opportunities for collaboration in technology and research between Australia and India.

To increase our visibility, the IITaV Newsletter was started in August 2011 that will keep the alumni connected and inform the community of the contribution our Alumni's are making in Australia. The second issue of the newsletter was released in November 2011. A LinkedIn Group for IITaV has been activated to provide a professional platform for dialogue and the IITaV Website developed where our activities are regularly updated.

An Entrepreneurship Workshop held in August 2011 jointly with Pitcher Partners and presentations from RMIT and the Department of Business and Innovation was attended by over thirty participants with follow up opportunities.

Informal networking get together was started in December 2011 and are held every two months. Two networking events have been held with great success.

To provide social get-togethers, two formal dinners were held in August and November 2011. These have been very popular with nearly eighty attendees at each function. A third is planned as Holi lunch on 11 March 2012.

It is pleasing to report that our membership has doubled from thirty in April 2011 to nearly sixty. As the Association grows, attention is also being focussed on forming partnerships with organisations such as the Australia-India

Institute located at the University of Melbourne with the aim of having mutually beneficial joint activities in the future. Similar discussions have been initiated with TIE (The Indus Entrepreneurs).

I thank all members of the committee for your dedicated hard work, strong team spirit and the broader membership of IITaV for your support during the year. Without your support the progress we have made would not have happened. A brief profile of the management committee members is included in this newsletter.

Arun Kumar

IITaV Annual Dinner, 12 November 2011

IITaV organised the Annual dinner on 12th November 2011. The successful event, held at Cafe Saffron in South Morang, was attended by over 80 members, their spouses and children.

In a fun filled evening, with a Bollywood Diwali theme, there was plenty of dancing and a film quiz compered by Sangeeta Singh, Vipin Gaindhar and colleagues which attracted much excitement and competition.

IITian Rakesh Agarwal was congratulated on receiving the Victorian Exporter of the Year Award and he spoke briefly about his work and challenges. Rakesh's profile was published in our October 2011 Newsletter

As with all our functions, it was wonderful to have new IITians in Victoria participate and introduce themselves and the interaction continued long into the night.



IITaV Networking event – a great start

The Association's networking event is progressing well with sessions held on 8th December 2011 and 9 February 2012. We had an encouraging attendance of about fourteen in the first and seventeen in the second event.

Both events were held at the Pavilion in Doncaster. The venue provided an environment that encouraged people to talk and exchange ideas. When you put two IITians together, you get lots of animated discussions on a range of topics including strategies, technologies and business ventures. You can imagine what 14-17 IITians got up to! Discussions went long into the evening on both occasions.

In the first event, participants shared their background, passion (personal and professional) and vision. For example, did you know that Devinder Thethi, an IITian (and a Victorian), took up Australian citizenship on Antarctica?



The second event was focussed on finding interests which are common across the board. Potential themes for sessions were explored. These include:

- Frameworks to deal with complex problems
- Selling professional services
- Managing high risk assignments
- Role plays around difficult discussions – salary increase; firing people
- Presenting current challenges at work to broader group
- Outsourcing (IT/engineering/medical etc)
- International assignments
- Engineering/IT service contracts formulation.



As a starter, Rajiv Lal spoke on outsourcing of Engineering Services which generated animated discussion.

These networking events are a great way for IITians to stay connected and strike up professional relationships for mutual benefit towards their own goals and visions.

The next networking event is planned for **Thursday, 12 April - 5:45 pm** for a 6 pm start. Please make an entry in your diaries. Venue details will be sent out shortly. Remember **"6 pm every second Thursday of each alternate month is IITaV networking time"**. IITians are invited to attend future sessions and also contribute topics of interest to add to the list above.

If there are any queries, please contact:

Satish Varma ([0438 130 260](tel:0438130260); satishkvama@gmail.com) and Rajiv Lal ([0409 528 473](tel:0409528473); lalrajiv@optusnet.com.au).

Upcoming Events – Holi Hungama and AGM

IITaV's next event is Holy Hungama on **Sunday, 11 March** with a sumptuous lunch, entertainment with poetry, songs, dancing and networking opportunities. The event will be on Sunday 11 March at 11.30 am at Cinnamon Club.

IITaV Annual General Meeting will be held on **Sunday, 15 April 2012** at Waverley Meadows Primary School, Wheelers Hill. A separate notice with the Agenda and request for nominations for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and five Committee members for 2012-13 will be sent to all members of the Association.

IITB – Monash Research Academy – Partnership and progress

The IITB Monash Research Academy is an exciting partnership between the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB), India and Monash University in Melbourne, Victoria. The Academy is an independent, autonomous, not-for-profit joint venture research academy. It has been formed to augment the pace and intensity of research -- particularly applied research -- through collaborations between IITB, Monash and external industry partners.



Research is conducted through a PhD program. Students receive a dual degree from both institutions, are jointly supervised by academics from IITB and Monash and have access to a full range of facilities at both institutions.

The main aims of The Academy are:

- to produce the next generation of smart and talented research scholars that will engage in collaborative research of national (whether for India or Australia) and international significance in specific fields of strength.
- to expose India's best to research facilities and practices overseas and engaging with Australian/Indian Industry
- to attract industry to engage with academia as partners.

Research projects are centred on six major themes: Advanced computational engineering, simulation and manufacture; Infrastructure Engineering; Biotechnology and Stem-cell research; Clean energy; Water; and Nanotechnology.

The Academy has achieved a lot in its short history. Currently student numbers are at 80 with the most recent intake completed in December 2011. Students have commenced the Monash-stay component of the program

where they spend at least 6 months at the Clayton campus collaborating with Monash faculty. This is proving useful from both an academic and a personal-growth perspective.



The Academy continues to strive towards its objective of delivering high impact research outcomes on a global scale with already 25 publications in top-quality journals. The number of joint projects between academics at IIT Bombay and Monash is growing with approximately 150 specified across all major research themes.

To date a total of ~\$14m in partnership funds have been secured which are set to flow through to The Academy in the next 5 years. There is growing momentum and acceptance of this model by the business community. Key industry partners include in Australia: - BHP, CSIRO, ASCC and ORICA Mining Services. In India - Infosys, JSW, TCS.

The Academy continues to deliver an innovative multi-disciplinary research platform that tackles the talent pipeline challenges in India and Australia by placing an attractive value proposition to students interested in a career in research whilst, simultaneously, addressing Industry needs. More information at www.iitbmonash.org

(Article contributed by Adrian Gertler, Monash University)

IIT Roorkee car enters Formula SAE competition

Mechanical Engineering students from the Indian Institute of Technology- Roorkee (IIT-R) brought a racing car, designed and built by them, to enter the Formula SAE competition. Victoria University supported them by providing workshop space to assemble the car they had airlifted from India.

It was a steep learning curve for the IIT-R students involved: Ashmeet Sidhu, Aneesh Mittal, Raman Goyal, Prashant Arora, Sourabh Puri, Digendra Rathore, Ranveet Singh, Gurkamal Pannu and Deepak Diwaker.



There were many moments when it seemed that the car may not run at all. However, due to their perseverance and great support from the Formula SAE organisers and competing teams from Australia, these students managed to overcome all breakdowns. Consequently, they did well in a number of categories.

Local alumni organisations, IITaV (IIT Alumni Victoria) and IITAA (IIT Alumni Australia), supported the venture financially by raising close to \$2000. As representatives of these alumni organisations, Assoc. Prof. Nalin Sharda from Victoria University, Dr. Subhash Sharma from Central Queensland University, and Mr. Pattabhi Raman from RMIT supervised and mentored these students.

School of Engineering and Science's technical team led by Mr. Donald Ermel were a great help in getting the car assembled. Some the comments and acknowledgments from the IIT-R students can be viewed on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/iitrms.in>.

(Article contributed by Nalin Sharda)

IITian Dr Sharad Gupta wins Victorian Multicultural Excellence Award



IITaV congratulates Dr Sharad Gupta, (BTech, MTech, PhD from IIT Delhi) on receiving an Award for Multicultural Excellence 2012 from the Victorian government. The award was in recognition of his services to the Hindu and Indian communities. Following his arrival in Australia in 1996, Sharad has held various senior roles in Hindi Niketan and is currently President of that Association. He is also Vice President (Community Services) of the Federation of Indian Associations of Victoria. In his professional career he has worked in managerial roles with several companies including Visy Industries, Orica Australia Pty Ltd, Polymer Daystar Pty Ltd and Fonterra.

GET TO KNOW YOUR ALUMNI

Abaran Deep; IIT Delhi 1990

Why did you choose to go to IIT?

It seemed like a good idea at that time is probably the best answer I can come up with. I was interested in Science and Maths so like most of my peers the next logical step was to have a go at getting into an IIT or Delhi College of Engineering (I finished school from Delhi). It was also a low risk option in the Indian context in the late 80's. There were of course some guys (I went to a St Columba's – an all boys school) who were keen and willing to take risks. For one of them it paid off very well – he's now a famous movie star in India!

What is the best memory you treasure from your IIT days?

The camaraderie and the inter-hostel rivalry from the IIT days is something I remember quite fondly. Both these came together when our hostel (Nilgiri) won the GC (General Championship) trophy. The GC trophy was given for overall excellence across all the different disciplines – cultural, sports, hostel management etc. – the hostels competed in. As the winning hostel we not only celebrated within the hostel but took every opportunity to remind our competitors of who the champions for the year were!

If not an engineer, what other profession you would have chosen?

Very hard to say, but probably joined the Indian Army. My dad was in the Army so it was an environment I was very familiar with and given my interest in sports it would have suited me very well.

What was your first job?

I moved into a sales and marketing role right after my B. Tech when I joined a company called IDM in 1990. IDM took on IBM's assets when multinationals were forced to leave India. At IDM I was involved in selling workstation and mainframe based systems to large corporates.

One account I can still remember is the work we did with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). They needed a Geographical Information System which they could interface with their Terrain Modelling software as part of simulating war games. It was all very interesting stuff technically and I could relate very well to the subject matter having grown up in an army environment. I however left to do my MBA before the sale was concluded.

What superpower would you most like to possess?

Several come to mind but you wouldn't print them so maybe we can settle for the power to control time! That way I will be always able to achieve deadlines at work – to say the least!

IITaV website refresh

A new-look IITaV website is now live at www.iitav.org.au. Apart from look and feel changes, which will continue to be refined, the new website is easier to maintain with a Content Management System. Functionality to provide a members' area has also been included. In time, member profiles and access to other Association documents will be provided in this portion of the website. A website accessible via smartphones is also under consideration with a trial version already completed.

In time these improvements will help establish a stronger platform for online information sharing between the members.

Mystery object

To refresh your memory, the picture below was the mystery object in the last issue of the newsletter.



Disappointingly, there were no correct answers to the mystery object question. The correct answer is "Abbe Refractometer".

Let's see if this issue can break the dry spell. If you can guess the object in the picture below, please submit your guess to mail@iitav.org.au. To win you need to provide the full name of the object. The first three correct submissions will be announced in the next newsletter and

the person with the first correct answer will get a special bottle of wine (committee members excluded).



(Clue – it is an electrical device.)

Pan IIT Global Conference 2012 , Kolkata, 7-9 December

PanIIT is a global forum for alumni from all the IITs. The annual Global Conferences facilitate IIT alumni to leverage their urge to "give back" to India. The conference alternates between India and the US every year. The strength and the theme are enhanced each year and new initiatives are launched to further the objectives of the organization.

This year, the IIT Alumni Global Conference is being held at Kolkata from 7 to 9 December 2012. More than 3,000 alumni from all over the globe are expected to attend the event. The focus this year is for the IITians to **Excel, Transform and Sustain**. Details are available at <http://www.paniit2012.org/>

From the production team

This edition of the IITaV Newsletter was produced by Raj Rajakumar and Abaran Deep. We thank Arun Kumar, Rajiv Lal, Nalin Sharda, Satish Varma and Adrian Gertler (Monash University) for their contributions. We trust you enjoyed this edition. As the new committee takes shape there will be changes to the editorial team. In the meantime, as they say in show business, the show must go on! So please send your feedback and contributions (news, views and memories) to mail@iitav.org.au for the next issue.

Your 2011-12 Management Committee

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.

Rajiv Lal (Vice President)



He 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 Rajiv

was a graded squash player, and enjoyed hockey and bridge. Rajiv was the initiator of IITaV in 2010.

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 is currently working as Program Manager/Director at the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank.

Surinder is a Judge of the Australian Business Excellence Awards Foundation. He enjoys Yoga, reading and music.

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.

Radhey Shyam Gupta (Committee Member)



Radhey holds B Tech in Textile Technology from IIT Delhi (1971), MBA from University of Mumbai (1978) and M Tech in Internet & Web Technology from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University (2001). He works as a Business Analyst for National Australia Bank.

Radhey is "Sangeet Visharad" in Indian Classical Music. He plays and teaches Sitar and Vocal music.

Ravi Bhatia (Committee Member):



Ravi is a B. Tech in Electrical Engineering from IIT Delhi in 1970. He is the founder and former long term CEO of Primus Australia, one of the largest telecommunications companies in Australia. He was previously the President of Primus USA and of Lingo Inc., a leader in the VoIP telephony space. Ravi is regarded as one of the pioneers of telecommunications competition in Australia. He is member of Board of Directors of Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman and President of Australia India Business Council – Victoria.

Raj Rajakumar (Committee Member)



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)

he led major programs with a number of companies in application of research. He was Director of CSIRO's Light Metals National Research Flagship program (2005-2011).

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.

Yogendra Vashishtha (Committee Member):



Yogendra did his B. Tech in Electrical Engineering from IIT Roorkee (1983), PG Diploma in Management from Bajaj Institute Mumbai (1987) and Ph.D. from IIT Bombay (1996). He has worked in engineering, management and leadership roles for 27 years including 13 years in the Australian energy sector. Yogendra is

currently manager for Innovation & Research in one of the largest electricity and gas utilities of Australia. He enjoys meditation, Hindi literature and attempts to write drama, satire and poetry.