

From the President

Welcome to this edition of our Newsletter.

My Committee colleagues and I have had a busy time during the past four months. The well-attended June networking event heralded our collaboration with the Melbourne Business School. The gala dinner in August in collaboration with Engineers Australia (EA) was by all accounts a successful event. The address by Dr Marlene Kanga, President of EA, and contributions of the panel members were highlights.

We had a high profile networking event on 25th September with Will Irving, Group Managing Director, Telstra Business presenting a lecture on innovative opportunities created by the National Broadband Network.

A great source of satisfaction is the growing attendance of our members and guests at these events. Attendance has more than doubled in the networking events and we had for the first time well over a hundred attendees at the August dinner. Thank you for your strong interest and support.

We are also devoting effort to increase our membership. We are working hard to provide tangible benefits. In addition to the high profile networking events, our strengthening relationships with organisations such as the Australia India Institute, companies and universities, are resulting in our members being invited to their events through IITAV. Our members have enthusiastically taken up these invitations and networking opportunities.

Pandu Maruti, our Committee member is moving to Singapore to take up a senior company role. We thank him for his contribution and wish him all the best.

The success and profile of our Association rely on the active participation and support of our members. We are always receptive to fresh ideas and feedback to take our Association forward and increase the profile of IITs and IITians. I earnestly request all members, indeed all IIT alumni in Victoria to join in the journey with us. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any Committee member.

I look forward to welcoming you at our Diwali event on Saturday, 9th November. It promises to be a fun night with great food, entertainment and networking opportunities.

Best wishes,

Raj Rajakumar
raj.rajakumar43@gmail.com

IITAV – Engineers Australia Gala Dinner: The Role of Engineers in Australia in the Asian Century

IITAV and Engineers Australia held a successful Gala Dinner on 10th August at the Whitehorse Club, East Burwood. The theme was the role of engineers in Australia in the Asian Century.

Attendees included senior representatives of universities including Swinburne, Deakin, Monash, Melbourne, RMIT, and University of Western Australia, companies, Government of India, the Victorian Multicultural Commission, journalists, members and friends of IITAV.

Mr Raj Kumar, Acting Consul General for India in Melbourne inaugurated the event. Dr Raj Rajakumar, President of IITAV, welcomed the guests, spoke about the work of IITAV and introduced the speakers.

Dr Marlene Kanga, the first Asian and the first Indian to become the national President of Engineers Australia, and a distinguished alumnus of IIT-Bombay presented the keynote address on the opportunities stemming from the growth of the Asian economies and the work of Engineers in Australia to grow Australia's engagement with Asia. Dr Kanga said, "A strong engineering profession will underpin the future growth of relationships with the Asian region by ensuring engineering educational standards, ongoing professional development and joint programs in areas of mutual interest such as promoting innovation in engineering. The intellect, energy and drive of Engineers Australia and of IIT alumni is an invaluable resource which I hope will soon be utilised to build networks that will ultimately benefit Australian engineering and technology, thus contributing to the national priority of becoming part of the Asian Century".



Professor Amitabh Mattoo, Director of the Australia India Institute, Ms Rohini Kappadath, Director of Cross-Border Business at Pitcher Partners and Jai Kaudinya, Managing Director of Eco Pacific, joined Dr Kanga in a Panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges for



engineers in Australia in the context of the growth of India's economy.

Ravi Bhatia, IITAV member and President of the Victorian Chapter of the Australia India Business Council highlighted the recognition achieved internationally by IITians.

Ravi Singh, Vice President of IITAV, thanked the guests, sponsors – Deakin University, Pitcher Partners and Eco Pacific - and IITAV Management Committee colleagues for making the event a success.

IITAV Networking event – June 2013 The Innovation Paradigm – From iDEA to INVESTMENT

IITAV and Melbourne Business School's (MBS) Innovation Club jointly organised a networking event on 19 June on the topic "The Innovation Paradigm - From iDEA to INVESTMENT".

Dr Lim, Associate Professor at MBS and Sameer Babbar, IITAV member and MD of SVB group, talked about idea generation, entrepreneurial growth and funding from their research and practical experience. This was followed by a stimulating panel discussion moderated by Mr. Nikhil Kumar, IITAV's Coordinator – Networking.

Sameer Babbar highlighted several issues faced by a young entrepreneur like defining the product and appropriate market segment and pricing of the product. On the investment front, he suggested that investors look for people skills and commitment to the idea and cautioned future entrepreneurs to avoid pretend-preneurs, and vulture capitalists.

Professor Lim's advice to budding entrepreneurs is to immerse themselves in an entrepreneurial ecosystem since the founder and founding conditions are the key to shape the culture of an organisation. He stressed that a strong, fundamental disciplinary background with knowledge-brokering across technical domains can provide ideas for entrepreneurship, citing the success of



biotechnology firms as an example.

He pointed out that Australia is an untapped opportunity that could provide a jump start for Asian communities to test their products and services before entering the western world. On the other hand, he said that scaling, funding and access to overseas market are the biggest obstacles for entrepreneurship in Australia. He suggested that a lean start-up along with early ties with funding organizations is a key to growing low-risk entrepreneurial firms in the current climate.

Dr. Raj Rajakumar, IITAV President, thanked Dr. Lim and Mr Babbar for their talks and MBS Innovation Club for hosting the collaborative event.

The event was well received by the attendees who also appreciated the networking opportunity before and after the event.

IITAV Networking Event – September 2013

Our successful networking event on Wednesday, 25th September in collaboration with Swinburne University of Technology at Hawthorn had more than forty attendees.



IITAV was privileged to have Mr. Will Irving, Group Managing Director, Telstra Business, present a stimulating talk on "Innovation Opportunities in a digital world enabled by the NBN". His presentation created enormous interest and discussion.

Our next event – Diwali Dinner, 9 November 2013
6.30pm, Cafe Mod Oz, 492 St.Kilda Road

The Management Committee is delighted to invite you to our **IIT Alumni Victoria Diwali Dinner on Saturday, 9 November 2013**, 6.30 pm. We request you to join us with your partner and children. Expect an informal evening with plenty of opportunity to relax and network with fellow IITians, family and guests. It will be a three course Indian dinner with BYO (wine only). There is ample parking at the venue.

If you are considering IITAV membership, now is a good time to act. If you join now, you can take advantage of the member rate for the dinner and the membership subscription of \$50 will cover your membership until the end of December 2014.

Please register and pay by **Thursday 31 October**. Type <http://www.trybooking.com/DRHF> in your web browser. Please contact Ravi Singh (Mob:0435 657 413) or Neeraj Kesarwani (Mob: 0438 933 457) for enquiries.



Indian Institutes of Technology Alumni Victoria
invite you to a fun night of food and entertainment to celebrate

DIWALI

Saturday, 9 November 2013, 6.30 pm
Café Mod Oz, 492 St Kilda Road, Melbourne

Three course Indian dinner, BYO (wine only)
IITAV Members and partners: \$25 /person
Non-members: \$35/person
Children 5 to 15: \$20 /person
Children under 5: free

Register by 31 October at
<http://www.trybooking.com/DRHF>

Enquiries:
Ravi Singh, Mob: 0435 657413
Neeraj Kesarwani, Mob: 0438 933457

HAPPY DIWALI

Indian Sun's report "**IIT alumni hold innovation meet for entrepreneurs**", IITAV's June networking event held in collaboration with Melbourne Business School Innovation Club is available at <http://www.theindiansun.com.au/iit-alumni-hold-innovation-meet-for-entrepreneurs/>

Indian Sun published an article "**Building brand IIT in Victoria**" by Shveeta Chandel Singh in their August 2013 edition. It included an interview with Dr Raj Rajakumar, President of IITAV. Raj Rajakumar, came to Australia in 1982 and has since been active in the Australian Science and Technology scene. He briefly answers questions about his career, IITAV's inception and evolution in the past 3 years, and a future vision for IITAV.
<http://www.theindiansun.com.au/building-brand-iit-in-victoria/>

The full article, "**IITians' Tryst with Australia**" was published in the **Indian Executive** on pages 30-31, August 2013 edition. <http://www.theindiansun.com.au/indian-executive-august-2013/>

Bharat Times (September 2013, page 8) published a positive report titled "**IIT Engineers in Australia in the Asian Century**" covering the IITAV-EA August dinner. http://www.bharattimes.com/e_bt.html#8

Meet IITAV members

MADUR CHAND



Madur Chand completed his B.Tech. in Electrical Engineering at IIT Bombay in 1985. On his return to Fiji Islands, he joined a computer company and later worked in the Telecom public sector. After migrating to Australia in 1988, he worked for a telecommunication company in Melbourne. His role involved extensive global travel to mentor, train technical professionals and successfully integrate leading edge telecommunication products and solution for many Tier 1 operators worldwide.

"I still have many wonderful memories of IIT Bombay, from wild life animals - alligators , monkeys, cobras - to fishing and boating all at our doorstep - hostel 7 also known as "Lady of the Lake". I also recall the time when we freshies got outwitted by the girls during Holi and ended up with buckets of colour on us."

Madur enjoys Bollywood music, soccer, home renovating, travelling, and is involved in community service. He played soccer for IIT Bombay in Inter-IIT meet. Currently he is the Vice President of HSM of Victoria - a Fijian social, cultural and spiritual organization. madur.chand@yahoo.com

IITs, IITians and IITAV in the news in Australia

The **Saturday Age** and **Sydney Morning Herald** (August 10, 2013) published a full page article "**Tapping into India's huge talent pool**" by journalist, Peter Cai. The article highlighted IITs, IITians and their contribution to India and the world. IITAV members Deepak Saxena, Rakesh Aggarwal and Raj Rajakumar and IITian Marlene Kanga are quoted.

<http://www.theage.com.au/business/tapping-into-indias-huge-talent-pool-20130809-2mgt.html>

SABY BHATTACHARYA



Saby (Sabyasachi) Bhattacharya graduated from IIT Delhi in 1993 with a Bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering. He started his career with Philips Electronics NV as a management trainee and soon found himself involved in software projects. He accepted a job offer from an Australian

company to develop specialist software in their Melbourne office in 1997. After a stint as Software Development Manager he joined Coles Myer as Manager of Software Engineering, helping establish structured methodologies across the group companies. He was later tasked with development of some of Australia's largest data warehouses as Delivery Centre Manager- Information Management.

He held a number of roles at Coles, Target and Kmart. He is currently the Operations Manager for Kmart Online and is responsible for all aspects of business operations, having established Kmart's online presence in 2009.

Saby is also a professional Indian Classical musician and plays the sarod, having trained under Ustad Amjad Ali Khan. He is one of the few professional sarod players in Australia. He has recorded many albums, performed in numerous festivals and has authored the first ever book on playing the sarod. Saby is engaged in "open sourcing" the mystical world of sarod through his popular website www.sarod.com.au

Other Events

- **India Business Forum** was held by Pitcher Partners on 11 September to meet visiting Indian delegation from SMEs and discuss mutual business interests. They addressed the opportunities and challenges faced by SMEs in conducting business in Australia. Key speakers included IITAV member Deepak Saxena and Saurabh Mishra, Director of Health Enterprises who was the keynote speaker at our April 2013 networking event. Several IITAV members attended.
- **The Australia India Institute Oration on 15th October** is by Nandan Nilekani, distinguished IITian and co-founder of Infosys. He also co-founded India's National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM). He was awarded one of India's highest civilian honours, the **Padma Bhushan**. He is Chairman, Unique Identification Authority of India. His book, **Imagining India: The Idea of a Renewed Nation** is an international bestseller. Nilekani is President of the

governing body of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), India's premier independent economic research institute, and a member of the Board of Governors of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). He also serves on a range of other advisory boards. Details about the event are at

<http://www.aii.unimelb.edu.au/events/australia-india-institute-oration-nandan-nilekani-india%E2%80%99s-transformation-role-information>

- **Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2013**

The seventh event in the series will be held in Sydney on 10-12 November. It aims to bring together the knowledge and expertise of Indians who live across the Asia-Pacific. www.pbdsydney2013.com.au.

- **PAN-IIT 2013**



The IIT Alumni Global Conference will be held at Hilton Americas, Houston, TX, USA. More than 1,500 alumni from all over the globe are expected to attend the event. The focus this year is "Sustainability, Technology, Education, Energy and Life Sciences". Register at <http://iit2013.org/>

Alma Mater News

- IIT Madras Alumni Association has released "**Journeys 2013**", a book that contains many interesting articles from the institute's alumni. http://www.iitmaa.org/0.iitmaa_doc/JOURNEYS%202013.pdf
- IIT Bombay is celebrating the Silver Jubilee Re-Union of 1988 Batch. <http://www.sarc-iitb.org/88batch/#>
- Project '**Sandhan**' is a multi-linguistic search engine, allowing queries in Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Telugu and Tamil. Give it a go and see, this would help the team to collect queries and improve the system. <http://www.tdil-dc.in/sandhan/locale.jsp?hi>
- IIT academics were awarded **National Academy of Sciences India - Young Scientist Platinum Jubilee Awards (2013)** in several disciplines – Dr Subimal Ghosh and Dr Debabrata Maiti (IIT- Bombay), Dr Amit Kumar Agarwal (IIT- Kanpur) and Dr Biman Behari Mandal (IIT-Guwahati). <http://www.nasi.org.in/NASI-Young%20Scientist%20Platinum%20Jubilee%20Awards%202013.htm>

Contact Us

This edition of the IITAV Newsletter is produced by Dilip Desai, Sridhar Karuppasami and Raj Rajakumar. We thank everyone for their contributions. Previous editions of the newsletter are available at www.iitav.org.au/newsletters.

To help us improve the newsletter, please send your feedback and contributions (news, views and memories) for the next issue to mail@iitav.org.au.

Members are also requested to visit our IITAV website and complete their profiles www.iitav.org.au/members.

Thank you,

IITAV Management Committee 2013-2014



Left to right: Ravi Singh (Vice President), Surinder Lamba (Treasurer), Rahul Tyagi (Secretary), Nikhil Kumar, Pandu Maruti, Rajiv Lal, Dilip Desai, Raj Rajakumar (President), Neeraj Kesarwani

IITAV –EA Gala Dinner, 10th August 2013 - HAPPY MEMORIES



Photos by Neeraj Kesarwani