

Dr. R Natarajan is the new chairman of BITES

Dr. R. Natarajan , former Chairman, AICTE and former Director, IIT, Madras took over as the new chairman of BITES from Dr. KRS Murthy.



Professor R. Natarajan was till November, 2004, the Chairman of AICTE. Before that he served as the Director of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras from 1995 to 2001.

He is the Vice – President of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, and the Chairman of the Research Council of the Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad. He is on the International Board of Directors of the Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS).

He received his Ph.D and M.A.Sc degrees from the University of Waterloo, Canada. and ME from the Indian Institute of Science

He has been conferred Honorary Doctorate Degrees by The University of South Australia, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (A.P.), Kanpur University, Nagarjuna University (A.P.), and Purvanchal University (U.P.)

He is currently on the Editorial Boards of: International Journal of Engineering Education, and Staff and Educational Development International.

His areas of Expertise are: Combustion, Propulsion, Energy and Engineering Education.

The governing board of BITES was also reconstituted with the induction of three new members: Dr. AL Rao, COO, Wipro, Ms. Meena Ganesh , CEO, Tesco and Prof. SS. Prabhu, Professor, IIITB.



Dr. A. L. Rao received his MSc and PhD degrees from Andhra University; He joined ECIL in 1973 and was associated with the development of OS and Compilers.

He joined Wipro in 1981 and has served in various capacities such as Head, R&D, Vice President, Technical, and Chief Technology Officer. Currently He is Chief Operating officer, Wipro technologies and also Member of the Corporate Executive Council of Wipro Corporation.

He is responsible for the implementation of ISO 9000 Quality processes and SEI CMM initiatives at Wipro.

Dr. Rao has been elected as a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering for distinguished service to the field of Computer Science & Engineering.



Meena Ganesh is at the helm of Tesco HSC. As the CEO, she has been involved in setting up the Hindustan Service Centre from scratch. Prior to this, she co-founded one of India's pioneering BPO companies; CustomerAsset. During her five years at Microsoft India, she set up the Microsoft Consulting, Internet and Application Development / Business services units. She was with PWC and with NIIT during the initial 11 years of her career.

She received her graduation degree from Madras University and PGDM from IIM Calcutta.

She plays the keyboard, listens to music and has plans of establishing a support mechanism for schools for providing a holistic approach to education.



Professor SS. Prabhu obtained his BE, M.Tech, and Ph.D degrees from the Univ. of Mysore, IIT, Kanpur and Univ. of Toronto respectively.

He served as Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Dean of Faculty Affairs at IIT Kanpur. He has visited University of Toronto, Canada, several times as a CIDA Research Fellow and was a Visiting Professor at IIIT-Kerala. He was also a member of the Governing Council of CPRI. Currently he is serving as a professor at IIITB.

His research activity has spanned control of distributed parameter systems, electric drives, robot path planning, and power system dynamics. His current interests are in industrial informatics, modeling and simulation of discrete event systems and e-education

Activities of BITES

Project INVITE

Project INVITE (Initiative to Nurture a Vibrant IT Ecosystem) is a unique initiative created jointly by BITES, IBM and supported by Government of Karnataka, to fuel academic excellence in the State.

INVITE is an ambitious program aimed at significantly contributing to capacity building efforts in the state of Karnataka by enhancing the local talent pool and creates an ecosystem by networking faculty, students, and Industry and government departments.

Objectives

- Build a repository of E-Governance -Proof of Concepts (POC)
- Involve students and faculty for creating prototype solutions for local E-Governance needs
- Conduct technical seminars and workshops for college faculty and students. The training workshops will cover Linux, Java, Eclipse, PHP and Localization issues (Kannada user interface).
- Promote cross-platform **open source and open standards based technologies**.
- Support local IT community activities.

Benefits

- POC will provide departments a better appreciation and understanding of the benefits of IT.
- Students will get opportunities to work on real world projects and interact with Industry experts
- IT industry would be able to recruit students with real world project experience.

Project IINVITE drew a very good response from the stakeholders; some numbers are given below.

No of Participating Departments	20
No of Project Scenarios	24
No of Colleges	50
No of students who took projects	562
Number of faculty guides trained	100
No of E-mentors who provided support	25
Number of training & Interaction sessions held	6

As part of Project INVITE, top 10 teams will be given Awards, which include servers for winning institutions, Rs 10,000 cash award and certificates for students and Rs 10,000 cash award and a citation for faculty guides.

Electronic Library

BITES has created an electronic library of over 23,000 books, case studies and reports for the benefits of students and faculty. Twelve engineering colleges have subscribed to this service and a total of 31,800 student login-Ids have been created.

This is a multiple access, any where any time of service and students will be able to bookmark, down load and create their own notes.

The hallmark of this collection are the real world case studies and reports which give students a very good idea about issues to be tackled and pit falls to be avoided in implementing software systems

The BITES E-Brary collection covers the following broad categories

1. Business, Economics and Management: (3004 collections)
2. Computers, electronics and communication: (2324)
3. Life Sciences, Medicine & Allied Health (2900)
4. Career & General Education (4398)
5. Humanities: (5400)
6. Social & Behavioral Sciences: (5700)

Contributing Publishers (partial list):

AMACOM, Cambridge University Press, Career Press, Idea Group, McGraw-Hill Professional, Palgrave, Penguin, Random House, Springer Verlag, Syngress Publishing, Taylor & Francis, Coriolis Group, ITRG, Kluwer Academic, MIT Press, Pantheon, Princeton University Press, Routledge, Stanford University Press, University of California Press

Faculty Development Programs

BITES has organized, with the support of industry, several faculty development programs aimed at giving faculty an understanding of the latest technology and industry standards. The following programs have been conducted

- Two-week Program on Software Engineering conducted by IIIT-Bangalore and sponsored by Digital India Ltd. (Sep1-14, 2001)
- One week program on Object Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) conducted by IIIT-Bangalore and sponsored by Infosys Technologies Ltd. (Oct 16-22, 2001)
- Five-day workshop on Data Base Management Systems for Engineering College Teachers conducted by IIITB and jointly sponsored by Dept. of IT and Intel India Ltd. (Nov12-18, 2001)
- BITES and Microsoft jointly conducted four five-day workshops on "Microsoft.Net framework–Train the Trainer" two at Bangalore and one each at Davanagere and Belgaum. (Mar 8-12 & Aug 23-27, 2004)
- At the request of the Government of Karnataka, BITES organized a five-day residential workshop to train degree college lecturers from north Karnataka districts in *Soft Skill Development*. The program was conducted by People One consulting. (Feb 7-11, 2004)
- Two Five day workshops on Database concepts and enterprise application development using Oracle 10G suite of products. Program was sponsored by oracle Corporation. (Jul 18-22, 2005)
- Three day workshop on open source technologies and standards based software application development sponsored by IBM and Redhat India. (Feb 24-28, 2006)

Over 500 faculties have been trained so far in various technologies and free software has also been distributed to colleges to enable them to make use of the emerging tools and techniques.

Workshops had extensive hand on sessions during which faculties were given opportunities to interact with industry experts and become proficient in the use of these advanced technologies

Center of Excellence Started at Hubli

BITES , IBM and BVB Engineering College have jointly set up a Center of excellence devoted to Linux and open source technologies. The Center has the following objectives.

- A focal point for engineering colleges around North Karnataka for Open Source based platform learning and projects
- Leverage existing IT skills in 20 engineering colleges around Hubli and create **Quality Talent pool** for emerging Open Technologies
- Create innovative and reusable solutions through projects based on Open Source Software like Linux, Eclipse, Apache Derby etc. in colleges
- A hub for students and faculty to take up specific e-Governance projects and develop low cost applications based on Open Standards
- Help small and medium business entrepreneurs to develop **Proof of Concepts** with support from Karnataka Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Design / Develop live components for Independent Software Vendors and application Service Providers
- Create Set of Distinguished Technology Offerings to make the Center Self sustaining

The Center has been setup with two dedicated servers, twenty five desktops and a high speed internet connectivity of 1 MBPS.

IBM has donated Linux, Websphere, Cloudscape and Derby software for the center. A total of 80 faculty members have been trained in the use of these technologies at the Center.

What is new in the world of Information Technology

OECD Information Technology Outlook 2006: The *OECD Information Technology Outlook 2006* analyses the development and impact of the changing global distribution of services activities and the rise of China and India as significant suppliers of ICT-related goods and services. ICT skills across the economy are also examined to provide insights into the dynamics of job creation and international sourcing. The full report is available at www.oecd.org/sti/ito

MIT Researchers Are Developing an 'Engine On A Chip': Scientists at MIT are close to putting together the pieces of a miniature gas-turbine engine with hopes that it could replace today's battery technology and be used to power laptops and Cell phones in the future: The researchers, who are spread across different disciplines at MIT, hope to get the pieces to work together by spring. Eventually they hope to implant a tiny engine--the size of a quarter--in silicon. Considering the current recall of millions of laptop batteries, the MIT project takes on heightened importance. Source: [TechWeb News](#), Oct 24

IP Theft Up In First Half of Year: An estimated 760 copyright and trademark intellectual property thefts in 69 countries between January and June 2006 cost companies nearly \$700 million, up 7 percent from the year-ago period, according to Gieschen Consultancy's [2006 Mid-Year Counterfeit & Piracy Intelligence Report](#)

Useful Links

[EDUCAUSE Review](#) is the general-interest, bimonthly magazine, which takes a broad look at current developments and trends in information technology, what these mean for higher education, and how they may affect the college/university as a whole.

www.sfia.org.uk: Skills Framework for the Information Age Foundation

www.uk-spec.org.uk: UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence

We need Your Feed back

Please give your suggestions on improving the quality and content of the Newsletter. Your feedback and suggestions may be sent to:

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