

Golden Jubilee Celebration of Commissioning (2nd April, 1966) of ISIJU-I

The first indigenous 2nd generation digital computer in India

Jointly developed by ISI, Kolkata and Jadavpur University



8th April, 2016

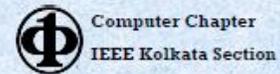


Fig. Photograph of the Memento showing a view of the ISIJU-I Computer prepared on the occasion of celebrating Golden Jubilee of its commissioning (2nd April, 1966) on April 8th, 2016.

Golden Jubilee Celebration of Commissioning (2nd April, 1966) ISIJU-I Computer: the first indigenous Second Generation Digital Computer designed and implemented jointly by Indian Statistical Institute and Jadavpur University, was organized by IEEE Kolkata Section and its Computer Chapter on April 8th, 2016 at DKS Hall, Desapriya Park, Kolkata.

Besides a large number of Executive Committee members of the organizers, a number of senior persons, who were actively involved in the ISIJU-I Computer Project, were present on the occasion and discussed about some aspects of ISIJU-I Computer

Project and its impact on Research and contemporary Computer Education in India as detailed below.

At the beginning of the program of that day(8th April, 2016) mention had been made about the all who were involved directly or indirectly in the vast activities of the implementation of the ISIJU-I computer project.

On behalf of the organizers of this function some persons who were involved in the implementation of the ISIJU-I computer project, as mentioned above, were felicitated with flower bouquet and memento prepared on the occasion. The function became delightful with the recapitulation of memories of those persons.

Some aspects of ISIJU-I Computer Project and its impact on Research and contemporary Computer Education in India:

- A project on indigenous design and fabrication of a Second Generation Digital Computer i.e., a computer built with discrete electronic components, like transistors, diodes, resistors, capacitors etc., was launched in early Sixties of the last Century at the then Telecommunication Engineering Department (renamed in 1965 as “Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering”) of Jadavpur University in collaboration with the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. The computer was named as ISIJU-I.
- This computer used different types of transistors, diodes, resistors and capacitors as circuit elements.
- The word length of the computer was 8bit (6 information bits, 1 parity bit and 1 tag bit, used to indicate the end of a word).
- It had a 32 K byte magnetic core memory having cycle time of 6 microseconds.
- A paper tape punched system was used as input-output device and

- Machine language was used for programming the computer.
- The circuit boards of the system were housed in number of Steel racks, each of which looked like an almeria.
- ISIJU-I Computer was commissioned on Second April, 1966 by the then Central Education Minister Mr.M.C.Chagla.

Impact of ISIJU-I computer in Research and Computer Education in India/ Eastern Region of India:

- After installation the computer system helped the local students and research scholars for solving their complex research problems for several years.
- The expertise developed during the development of the system led to the Launching of the “One-year P.G. Diploma in Computer Science” course in 1968 at the Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering Department of Jadavpur University, which was the first University level course in India in the area of Computer Science and Engineering.
- The expertise also helped in 1976 to set-up the first Regional Computer Centre (RCC) at the Jadavpur University campus with the installation of a Burroughs sixty seven hundred series computing system, which was used for the computation of educational, research and commercial applications. RCC served the initial computational need of the Eastern Region of India for several years.
- It may also be worth mentioning that the Fifth Plan visiting Committee of the University Grants Commission (UGC) at Jadavpur University in mid-seventies of the last century mentioned that the Jadavpur University had taken a leading roll in the area of higher level computer education in India and

suggested that the University should start the undergraduate course in Computer Science and Engineering.

References

1. Booklet published on the occasion of commissioning of the ISIJU-I Computer on April 2, 1966. Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering Department, Jadavpur University.

2. Booklet containing the Syllabus for the UG course of the CSE Department of Jadavpur University; May, 1999.