

# IEEE CS R10 (India) Training for CS Chapters

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20 November 2010

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

The IEEE Computer Society GUOC meeting held at Denver in June 2010 discussed several ways of enhancing member services delivery. One suggestion that came up *inter alia* was to have face-to-face meetings in Regions where trainings could be provided Chapter leaders to enhance membership services delivery. Two Regions offered to take up pilot meetings: Region 1 and Region 10. It was decided to have the Region 1 meeting in August 2010. However, Region 10 was too large to have a single meeting of all Chapter leaders, and as a beginning, it was decided to take up all Chapters in India as the second pilot. Nita Patel, R1 GUOC Co-ordinator was designated the lead organizer for the R1 program and Satish Babu, R10 GUOC Co-ordinator was designated as the lead organizer for the event in R10.



Figure 1.1: From the self introductions

The Region 1 meeting was successfully conducted during August 2010. The trainers (John Daniel, Nita Patel and Jim Ziobro) shared their training material online with the other Regional

Co-ordinators.

## 1.1 Background

The experiences of Region 1 as well as the material prepared for the event were valuable resources for planning for the R10 training program. The planning process was kicked off after Pieter confirmed both the R1 and R10 (India) training events during June 2010. Prof. SV Sankaran, VP (MGAB), was also brought in into the planning team from this time. The actual planning took place through several conference calls, mostly involving Pieter, Sankaran and Satish.

It was decided to invite leaders of CS Chapters of all Sections in India as well as the leadership from Student Branch CS Chapters. After a discussion with the potential participants, Hyderabad was chosen as the location for the one-day training program, both on account of its central location, as well as because it would be easier to obtain facilities for the event in this metropolis.



Figure 1.2: Three of the four trainers: MGPL, Sankaran, Satish

The Hyderabad Section Chair, MGPL Narayana of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS, the largest IT company in India)—himself the immediate past Chair of CS Chapter of Hyderabad Section—offered to support the event. He was also instrumental in obtaining support from TCS in terms of the meeting venue free of cost.

It was estimated that most of the 9 Section CS Chapters in India would send their representatives for the event. In addition, about 4-5 student representatives were also expected. IEEE CS committed to support airfare for the Section CS Chairs, and train fare for Student Branch CS Chapters.

There was some difficulty in identifying Student Branch CS Chapters, and we could finally identify only about 8. In some of the cases, students had examinations that overlapped with the dates of the event, and thus could not make it.

## **Chapter 2**

# **Planning the Event**

### **2.1 Objectives**

The stated objectives of the training program were the following:

- Bringing together the IEEE CS community in India in order to nucleate further dialogue and co-operation between organizational units of IEEE CS.
- Providing training inputs to Chapter leaders in order to provide better services to CS members at the Chapter level
- Providing feedback to IEEE CS on the issues, problems and successes at the grassroots level.
- Updating Chapter level leaders on new developments within the structure and functioning of IEEE CS.

### **2.2 Participants**

- Chairs or representatives of CS Chapters in the IEEE Sections in India
- Chairs or representatives of CS Chapters in IEEE Student Branches in India
- Representatives of institutions where there are sufficient Student members for initiating a Chapter

### **2.3 Date and Venue**

The date of 20 Nov was chosen after consultation with the participants. As mentioned earlier, TCS had agreed to let us use one of their office premises, located in downtown Hyderabad. Since the venue also had a guest house where participants could stay if required, it was good choice. The venue could seat about 30 comfortably and came with a digital projector.



Figure 2.1: SV Sankaran taking his session

## 2.4 Trainers and Training Content

The following were identified as trainers for the event based on mutual discussions:

- SV Sankaran
- Satish Babu
- MGPL Narayana (Chair, Hyderabad Section)
- Aditya Rao (chair, CS Chapter, Hyderabad Section)

Of the different training content used at the Region 1 training put up by Jim, Nita and John, based on discussions amongst the trainers, it was decided to 'localize' the material available and compile it into four presentations:

1. Introducing IEEE and IEEE CS; CS Organization; Member Benefits (SV Sankaran)
2. Chapter basics; resources; budget; meeting planning; Online tools (Aditya Rao)
3. Advanced Information on Chapter Operations (Satish Babu)
4. Leadership skills and Skill Development (MGPL Narayana)





Figure 2.2: A view of the class

## 2.5 The Budget

An overall budget of USD 4,877 was arrived at by the planning team. Of these the most significant cost was travel (about 80% of the total). It was also decided to provide certificates to the participants, trainers and also to TCS, which gave us the use of their premises for the event. The actual expenses incurred was USD 3,874 (of which USD 3,090 was for travel).



Figure 2.3: Listening to Aditya



Figure 2.4: Aditya at work



Figure 2.5: Aditya at the hands-on Demo



## Chapter 3

# Conducting the Event

### 3.1 The Program Schedule

It was decided that the event should begin at 10:00 am and end at 4:30 pm. This would enable participants to take a morning flight to reach Hyderabad and return by an evening flight. However, this did not work out as planned, as about 7 participants had to arrive at the previous evening and/or leave the following morning on account of lack of connecting flights.



Figure 3.1: Listening avidly

The final program schedule was as follows:

Table 3.1: Program Schedule

09:30 AM	<b>Registration &amp;</b>	
	Tea and snacks	
10:00 AM	<b>Introductory Session</b>	
	Session Chair	Prof. SV Sankaran, Vice President, MGAB, IEEE CS
10:00 AM	Welcome	Satish Babu (5 mins)
10:05 AM	Chapter Introductions	All Sections (2 mins each, total 60 mins)
11:05 AM	<b>Training Sessions</b>	
11:05 AM	<b>Session 1</b>	Prof. SV Sankaran (60 mins, Session1.ppt)
		Introducing IEEE & CS, CS organization & member benefits
12:05 PM	<b>Session 2</b>	Aditya Rao (70 minutes)
		Chapter basics, resources, budget, meeting planning
01:15 PM	<b>Lunch break</b>	Lunch (35 mins)
01:50 PM	<b>Session 3</b>	Satish Babu (70 mins, Session3.ppt)
		Advanced Information on Chapter Operations
03:00 PM	<b>Session 4</b>	MGPL Narayana (40 Minutes, Session2a.ppt)
		Leadership Skills
03:40 PM	<b>Discussions &amp; follow-up</b>	30 min
04:10 PM	<b>Valedictory</b>	Handing over of Letter of Appreciation to TCS
		Handing over of certificates
04:25 PM	<b>Vote of Thanks &amp; Closing</b>	Satish Babu



## 3.2 Conducting the Event

The event started off on schedule at 10:00 am after coffee and snacks were served at the meeting hall. Some participants joined somewhat late on account of delayed flights, trains and buses. By 11:00 am, all the participants were able to join in. There were a total of 20 participants (including trainers), and the full list is provided in Appendix 1 (page 25).

After welcome by Satish, and an introduction to the event by the Session Chair, SV Sankaran, the participants introduced their Chapter and Chapter Activities. This took about 45 minutes to complete. The participants were very interested in the activities conducted by other Chapters, and listened with interest.



Figure 3.2: The training hall: another view

SV Sankaran started the first session on the basics of IEEE and IEEE CS. Many participants were unaware of these basics, especially the students. The audience had several veterans as well, who knew most of the basics.

The highlight of the second session by Aditya Rao was a hands-on demonstration of several online tools that IEEE provides (SAMIEEE, eNotice, ListServ and the vTools family of tools). This was exceedingly interesting for many participants, especially the students and relative newcomers to IEEE CS.

To save time, a working lunch was served while Aditya's session was on. The participants had lunch, and then took a 10-minute break before resuming.

The next session was on Advanced Topics by Satish, and included Management Tips, Chapter Organization, Event Management, Funding and Communication tools.

The next session was on Leadership Skills Development by MGPL Narayana, who had extended the material from the R1 event with information from his personal experiences, providing an exceedingly interesting session.



Figure 3.3: The Class

### 3.2.1 Discussions

The last training session was followed by discussions, which brought out several concerns and clarifications which are summarized below:

- Chapter representatives expressed a concern that different IEEE units were organizing events in different geographies without even an intimation to the local Section/Chapter leadership. Participants said that such intimation could be useful in many ways: (a) the local unit could help out the event; (b) it could help local leadership answer queries from members in the region about such events; and (c) there would be a degree of quality control over the event.
- Some participants experienced difficulties in locating appropriate speakers under the NDLP.
- Several chapters expressed financial difficulties. Others raised the issue that often Sections were cash-rich whereas CS Chapters had no access to these funds. It was pointed out that Chapters can request for funding from Sections and in most cases, they were supported by the Sections.
- It was pointed out that Chapters needed guidance and hand-holding in organizing Conferences with CSDL/Xplore support.
- Some members pointed out that IEEE CS is behind some of the other Technical Societies in funding chapters, motivational awards and recognitions etc (for example, PEL has many more awards).
- It was pointed out that CS should better integrate Chapters to make them act as extension points for CS.





Figure 3.4: Satish in the Third Session

- Members wanted to know if CS could use webinars and other online training methodologies for better communications with chapters
- The sponsorship terms of IEEE conferences were seen to be restrictive as these could not be organized jointly with for-profit entities such as companies. This raises difficulties in organizing events
- Several members pointed out that member and chapter information on SAMIEEE was sometimes outdated
- Some student members pointed out that there was apathy among some members and would-be members on account of lack of awareness of benefits. Similarly, girl students were not aware of WIE and its benefits. This needs better communication strategies
- Other student CS Chapter concerns included lack of seed capital; funding deficits; lack of training for volunteers; poor interaction with section; poor professional networking between IEEE members and students; and faculty advisors considering that IEEE fees were very high

Since some of the participants had not prepared the questions/concerns, it was decided to give them another chance to raise them after the meeting. It was decided to create a FAQs based on the concerns raised, and put it up on the website.

### 3.2.2 Quiz and Feedback

At the end of discussions, the participants were given the quiz and the feedback form.

Responses to the Quiz indicated a reasonably high degree of awareness of topics. Some of the students had some amount of difficulties on a few questions.

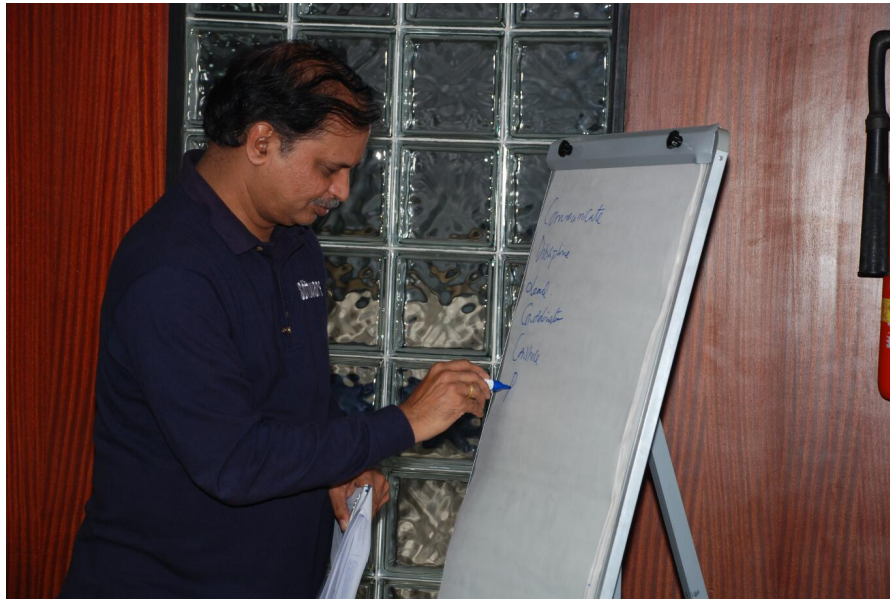


Figure 3.5: MGPL in an interactive mode

The feedback to the event was uniformly and consistently positive. 'Very Satisfied' ratings dominated all the questions relating to the level of satisfaction. Some of the suggestions pointed out included:

- More time is required for the hands-on sessions
- The entire program should have been for a longer duration for the students
- Chapters need to be better integrated into Global events and practices
- Some more networking and brainstorming to feel part of a global society
- More focus on India-specific issues
- Implementing similar training on campuses
- Similar trainings required on other aspects of IEEE CS (eg., standards)

### 3.2.3 Certificates

All participants were given Certificates of Participation by SV Sankaran. In addition, both MGPL Narayana and Aditya Rao were given Certificate of Appreciation. SV Sankaran also gave to MGPL Narayana a Certificate of Appreciation to TCS acknowledging the support provided by TCS for the event.

### 3.2.4 Membership Material

The material dispatched from the CS HQ by John Daniel was distributed amongst the participants. The student participants were most keen on getting the material, especially the membership promotion kit.



Figure 3.6: Satish and MGPL

### 3.3 Closing

After the distribution of certificates and a brief Vote of Thanks by Satish, the event closed at 4:30 pm, exactly on schedule.



Figure 3.7: Sankaran and Satish



Figure 3.8: Engrossed in the quiz





Figure 3.9: Sankaran giving the certificate to Pamela Kumar of Bangalore



## **Chapter 4**

### **Conclusion**

The IEEE CS India training proved to be an exceedingly valuable occasion to touch base with CS Chapters and Student Chapters. This is for the first time that such a group—consisting of Chapter, Student Branch Chapter and GUOC/MGA representatives—are meeting together. While the group was diverse in terms of age, seniority and exposure to IEEE, the diversity actually proved to be valuable in provoking discussions and clarifying points about the structure and functioning of IEEE CS units.

It is hoped that the enthusiasm generated at the meeting would translate to further growth in membership and member-related activities.





# Appendices



## Appendix 1: List of Participants

1. Ms. Pamela Kumar (Bangalore, pamelakumar@ieee.org)
2. Dr. Durgesh Kumar Mishra (Mumbai, dr mishradk@gmail.com)
3. Mr. Aditya Rao (Hyderabad, aditya.rao@oracle.com)
4. Mr. MC Jayakrishnan (Kerala, jayan@inapp.com)
5. Mr. HR Mohan (Chennai, hrmohan@gmail.com)
6. Mr. Peeral Malani (Mumbai (TSEC), peeral.malani@ieee-tsec.org)
7. Mr. P Sai Krishna Parasar (Hyderabad (ATRI, Uppal), krishna.parasar@ieee.org)
8. Mr. S. Agastheswar (Hyderabad (ATRI, Uppal), agastheswar@ieee.org)
9. Prof. HR Vishwakarma (VIT, Vellore, hrvishwa@yahoo.com)
10. Dr. Anil K.Sarje (UP, sarjefec@iitr.ernet.in)
11. Mr. MGPL Narayana (Hyderabad Section, mgpl.narayana@tcs.com)
12. Dr. Debotosh Bhattacharjee (Chapter Chair, Calcutta Section, debotosh@indiatimes.com)
13. Prof. SV Sankaran (VP, MGAB, svsan@ieee.org)
14. Mr. Satish Babu (R10, GUOC, sb@inapp.com)
15. Mr. K. Subramanian (CS Vice Chair, Delhi, ksmanian48@gmail.com)
16. Mr. C. Akarsh (VIT Student Branch, Vellore, akarsh\_cholaveti@yahoo.com)
17. Mr. K. Hari Krishna (SNIST Student Chapter, hari.krishna@computer.org)
18. Mr. Ravi Prasad Ravuri (IEEE Hyderabad Chapter, raviprasad.ravuri@burit.ac.in)
19. Mr. Uday Nagar (Chennai, uday\_nagar89@ymail.com)
20. M. Ram Manohar Sharma (SNIST Student Chapter, ram\_manohar@computer.org)