The Indian SPS Chapter's Congress
IEEE Signal Processing Society Chapter of Gujarat Section
23rd -24th February, 2019
DA-IICT, Gandhinagar (Gujarat) India

The first Indian SPS Chapter's Congress was organized by SPS Chapter of IEEE (Gujarat Section) during 23rd -24th February 2019, at Dhirubhai Ambani Inst. of Inf. and Comm. Tech. (DA-IICT), Gandhinagar (Gujarat) India, with a purpose to provide a platform to all SPS chapters across India to come to together and share their expertise, achievements, and best practices with peers. It also provided an opportunity to discuss possible collaborative events at PAN India level as well as some of the common issues and challenges faced, and how to tackle them. The representative of **8 out of 11 active SPS chapters across India have participated in the event** and presented their chapter activities. The event also hosted **2 technical talks** as well as **2 talks on chapter best practices** followed by a **panel discussion on "Future Collaborative Events"**. Finally, the event was concluded with key take homes and steps forward.

Attendees: The event was attended by chapter representatives from various SPS chapters across India, speakers, invited guests, organizing committee members as well as students.

Invited Guest:
1. Prof. KVS Hari, IISc, Bangalore, Regional Director-at-Large, R10, IEEE SPS
2. Shri. Deepak Mathur, Vice-Chair, Membership Activities, IEEE R10
3. Prof. Anil Roy, DA-IICT, Gandhinagar

Speakers:
1. Prof. Hemant Patil, DA-IICT, Gandhinagar
2. Prof. H. S. Mazumdar, Head, R&D Dept. DDU, Nadiad
3. Prof. Chirag Paunwala, Chapter Chair Coordinator, SPS Chapters IEEE

Chapter Representatives:
1. Dr. Satyanarayana Bheesette (Chair- SPS Mumbai Chapter)
2. Prof. Pranab K Duttaa (Chair- SPS Kharagpur Chapter)
3. Prof. Satish Kr. Singh (Secretary- SPS UP Chapter)
4. Prof. N. Venkateswaran (Secretary – SPS Chennai Chapter)
5. Prof. Vikram Karwala (Vice Chair- SPS Delhi Chapter)
6. Prof. Edet Bijoy (Secretary- SPS Kerala Chapter)
7. Prof. Susanta Ray (Secretary- SPS Kolkata Chapter)

Day 1 (23rd February 2019)
The first day of the event started with a welcome address by Prof. Suman Mitra, Chair, SPS Gujarat Chapter followed by technical talks by Prof. H. S. Mazumdar and Prof. Hemant Patil. Prof. Mazumdar elaborated on the applications of "Big Data and Machine Learning in Life Science" whereas Prof. Hemant Patil discussed the "Spoofing Attacks in Automatic Speaker Verification (ASV): Analysis and Countermeasures". The talks were attended by chapter representatives, guests, organizing committee members as well as M.Tech and Ph.D. students interested in the field.

The technical talks were followed by the chapter best practice session by Prof. Chirag

Paunwala, Chapter Chair Coordinator, SPS Chapters. Prof. Chirag explained various events, activities, and financial support available from SPS. He also emphasized on the better coordination between chapters to take maximum advantage of events like DL talks. Since SPS Gujarat Chapter has won the best chapter award for two consecutive years, some of the success stories of SPS Gujarat Chapter were also discussed during his talk.

All the chapter representatives also shared their chapter activities, achievement, and best practices through a short presentation before concluding the day.

Day 2 (24th February, 2019)

The second day started with the talk by Prof. KVS Hari, Regional Director-at-Large, R10, IEEE SPS. He presented the current state of the society as of 2018 and also discussed where it is moving next. He emphasized on maintaining the quality of the events along with the quantity. He also shared some tips on writing a good proposal for events and financial assistance from SPS. He also requested all the chapters across India to work as a team to strengthen our claims in organizing international level events within India.

The talk was followed by the panel discussion on "Future Collaborative Events" within India by all SPS Chapters. Prof. KVS Hari, Shri. Deepak Mathur, Prof. Anil Roy, and Prof. Suman Mitra were invited as the panelist in the discussion. Prof. Mitra suggested starting an international conference that will be jointly organized by all SPS chapters across India biannually. He also proposed to start a technical talk series named "Sir J C Bose Memorial Lecture Series" within India and suggested preparing an expert speakers database within India. It was decided to write a special proposal to SPS requesting to regularly support for both the events. Prof. KVS Hari welcomed the suggestions and also emphasized on maintaining the highest quality of both the events. He also added that Indian SPS Chapters' Congress should be a yearly event and suggested to form an India level steering committee to facilitate better coordination between chapters. Shri. Deepak Mathur and Prof. Roy emphasized on increasing the industry participation in the chapter activities and suggested to keep at least one member from industry in the executive committee as a best practice. After the initial suggestions, the floor was made open for participants to contribute to the discussion.

Key Take-Home and Moving Forward:

- It was decided to create an email and chat group of all SPS chapters across India for better communication and coordination.
- All the representative agreed in making the Chapter Congress an annual event. SPS Mumbai Chapter also showed their interest in hosting the event next year. It was also decided to club the event with other major events like Conference, Seminar, Workshop, etc.
- All members agreed in jointly arranging an international conference biannually. It was also discussed to make ASPCON (Applied Signal Processing Conference) organized by SPS Kolkata Chapter as the biannual chapter conference. The representative of SPS Kolkata chapter was requested to discuss the same with their chapter exe-com for the final decision.
- All members agreed in arranging the "Sir J. C. Bose Memorial Lecture Series" across India. It was also decided to prepare a list of the expert as well as the lecture series plan at the beginning of the year and made available to all chapters in advance.
- It was also decided to form an India level steering committee for coordinating India level events.
- All the member also agreed to write a joint proposal to SPS for providing additional support for India level events.

Event Photographs

Welcome address by Prof. Suman Mitra

Technical Talk by Prof. H S Mazumdar

Technical Talk by Prof. Hemant Patil

Chapter Best Practice Session by Prof. Chirag Paunwala

Group Photo (End of Day 1)

Interaction with Prof. K V S Hari

Panel Discussion

Group Photo (End of Day 2)