

Message from the General Chair

The research and development efforts in Computer Science and Technology have witnessed a phenomenal growth particularly over the last four decades. Most of the developed and developing countries including India are putting major emphasis in the computer and information technology research to achieve higher economic growth and also to have a fair share in the modern knowledge driven world economy. In India, a humble beginning in this direction was initiated about 50 years ago, when the first digital computer of the country—HEC 2M—was installed and started its operation in 1956 at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata. The first formal research and teaching programs in computer science in India were also initiated by this institute in 1960.

The Indian Statistical Institute was founded by the late Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis in 1931. Since then, ISI has played a pioneering role in theoretical and applied research, promoting research, teaching, and training in the fields of Statistics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Economics, Statistical Quality Control, and other related disciplines. In 1959, the Institute was declared the Institution of National Importance by the special act of the Indian parliament. Since then, many scientists of ISI have earned national and international honors due to their excellent research contributions in computer science, mathematics, statistics, and other disciplines of natural science. In a recently published survey on research activities of Indian institutions, ISI is reportedly the number one research institute in India in computer science, mathematics, and statistics—considering the quality and quantity of research publications in the top-rated international journals.

The Institute is celebrating 75 years of its foundation by organizing a year-long program from December 2006. This also coincides with the 50th year of computer operations (1956-2006) in India. As part of this celebration, the Computer and Communication Sciences Division of the Institute is organizing the International Conference on Computing: Theory and Application (ICCTA 2007) into four distinct tracks resembling current research focus in computer science of the ISI, Kolkata. We are happy to note that researchers and eminent speakers from 16 countries besides India are participating in this three-day conference, rendering a truly international flavor. I hope that this meeting will give all of you—and particularly young researchers—the opportunity to interact and establish contacts with the well-known experts in the field.

I would like to thank Track Chairs, Co-Chairs, the Organizing Chair, and Program Committee for their untiring efforts and their selection of excellent papers.

Have an enjoyable stay in Calcutta (now Kolkata), the city of Joy.

Malay K. Kundu
Kolkata
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