

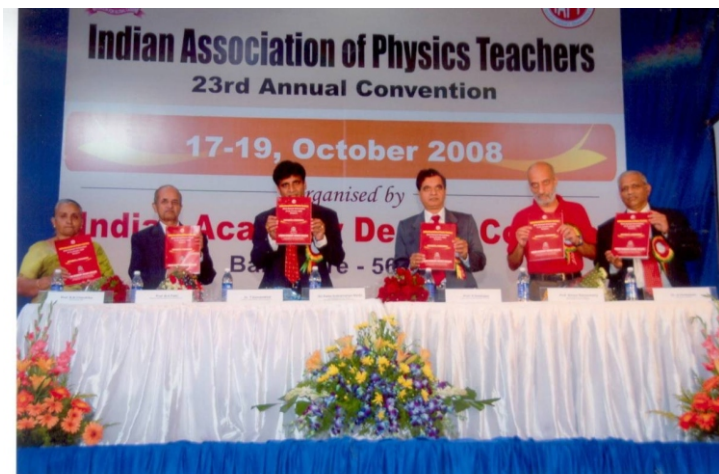
Report of the 23rd IAPT Convention held on 17,18 and 19th October 2008 at the Indian Academy Degree College, Hennur Cross, Bangalore-43

INAUGURATION

The 23rd IAPT Convention, organized at the Indian Academy Degree College, Bangalore in collaboration with the Indian Association of Physics Teachers (IAPT) was attended by the delegates of almost all the states of the country numbering about 180.

Dr. G. Venkatesh, Co-ordinator of the Convention and Principal, Indian Academy Degree College Welcomed the dignitaries and the delegates. In his welcome address he gave a brief account of IAPT, the Indian Academy Degree College and the background of the convention and the main theme viz the Impact of Physics on Biological Sciences.

The convention was inaugurated by Sri Katta Subramanya Naidu, Honble Minister for IT, BT, BWSSB and Excise, Govt of Karnataka on the morning of 17th Oct 2008. In his address he stressed the importance of such conventions and also suggested that the youngsters should come forward to study basic sciences. He also spoke on the maintaining bio-diversity and ecological balance in the country. He complemented the Chairman, Indian Academy Group of Institutions and also the organizers of the convention.



Dr. T. Somasekhar, Chief Patron of the Convention and Chairman of the Indian Academy Education Trust released the Abstracts and Proceedings of the Conference, containing the full papers that were to be presented at the Convention. In his brief address, he thanked the Executive committee of IAPT for selecting this college as the venue of the convention and wished the convention a great success.

Prof K. Siddappa, former Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University, who presided over the inaugural function in his address impressed upon the need for such conventions where Teachers from all parts of the country discuss and debate the problems facing the Physics teaching community. He also felt that such discussions will go a long way in motivating the young minds to take up studies in basic sciences.

The Key note address was delivered by Prof. Sriram Ramaswamy, Professor of Physics, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He spoke on Physics in Biology and expressed why Physicists need to study biology and vice-versa. He also suggested the framing of the syllabus at the lower levels keeping in mind the changes that are taking place in both the branches of science.

The Program concluded with vote of thanks by Mrs. Meena Laad, H.O.D Physics, Indian Academy Degree College.

Prof B.A. Patki and Prof B.N. Chandrika were Guests of Honor on this occasion, which was attended by members of the Governing Council of Indian Academy Group of Institutions, delegates, faculty members and students of the college.

On this occasion Gold Medals were presented to the winners in NGPE examinations of 2007. Prof B.P. Thyagi, the convener of NGPE presented a brief report of the activities of NGPE.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The main theme of the convention was Impact of Physics on Biological Sciences.

Prof M.R.N. Murthy, Prof of Molecular Biophysics Unit, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore spoke on contribution of Physics to Biological Science. In his address he highlighted how the new techniques have helped in the rapid analysis of biological systems. His lecture was very illuminating and highly informative studded with contributions of brief biographical notes of the physicists and biologists spanning over a period of almost a century.

Prof N. Udayshankar, Scientist, Raman Research Institute, Bangalore delivered the other invited talk on "A Journey in the Dark Universe" which focused on the understanding of the Past, Present and Future of the Universe. The lecture was illustrated with wonderful slides.

Two other special talks were also delivered one by Prof P.K. Ahluwalia of the Dept of Physics, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla on Instructional objectives-means to undertake Physics Education Research and the other by Prof Vivek Wagh of Nagpur on the diagnosis and remediation of learning obstructions in view of Physics. There was also an invited talk by Sri Ramji Raghavan of Agastya Foundation on "Sparking Scientific Curiosity among Children".

Apart from the main theme, there were six sessions on the various sub themes. In all there were 24 papers presented orally and 40 papers by way of Poster Presentations. All the talks were well attended by the delegates and had very good interaction between them and the speakers.



On the second day the delegates had the opportunity of visiting Raman Research Institute, International Technology Park, Bangalore and also Sri Satya Sai Super speciality hospital.

This year the National Competition for Innovative Experiments in Physics (NCIEP) was organized a day in advance on 16th Oct 2008. All the 10 entries which were selected by the NCIEP convener were presented and judged. The following were the prize winners.

- 1) Prof R N Kapoor - Kanpur
- 2) Prof Ved Radna - New Delhi
- 3) Prof Sharmishta Sahu - Bangalore

VALEDICTORY

The Valedictory of the convention was held on Sunday the 19th October 2008. Dr. H.T. Rathod, Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University delivered the valedictory address and distributed the prizes to the winners of NCIEP and the Atom 200 essay competition. Dr Patki, President IAPT gave the presidential remarks.



Prof B.N Chandrika proposed the vote of thanks. She profusely thanked the all the sponsors, invited speakers, delegates, volunteers and invitees to the convention.

The convention came to a close with the National Anthem.