

Role and Responsibility of IEEE

Dr. B.Satyanarayana, Senior Member, IEEE
Scientific Officer (G), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai
Mail: bsn@tifr.res.in, Web: <http://www.tifr.res.in/~bsn>

IEEE is the world's largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity. IEEE and its members inspire the global community through IEEE's highly cited publications, conferences, technology standards, professional and educational activities.

IEEE offers a wide range of learning, career enhancement, and employment opportunities within the engineering sciences, research, and other technology areas. The goal of these programs is to ensure the growth of skill and knowledge among professionals as well as to foster individual commitment to continuing education among IEEE members, the engineering and scientific community, and the general public.

Some of the IEEE's major societal connections and responsibilities are listed below, which should apply by default to our Bombay Section.

1. Academic Institutions

Academic Institutes, comprising of the students and faculty undoubtedly are the main beneficiaries of the IEEE. As student members of IEEE, they have a variety of resources and valuable opportunities available to help advance their career. They also benefit by the IEEE student programs such as competitions, scholarships, awards, continuing education courses and certifications and conferences. Hence or otherwise, the students will turn out to be the best brand ambassadors of IEEE and its sections.

In order to strengthen this interface and improve these mutual benefits, the following areas might be focussed.

- a. Organisation of student conferences, lectures and workshops in the colleges and universities. At least partial financial assistance where requested must be provided by the Section for these programmes. Students must be encouraged to take active part in the organisational matters. Technical experts from research and industrial houses must be invited to teach in the workshops and in the skill development programmes. Lectures and job fairs focussing on the career and employment opportunities are always a big hit with the students. Even in the student conferences, good quality technical talks by senior and eminent personalities should be invited. IEEE, technical standards and quality should go together.
- b. Internships, industrial visits and facilitating opportunities for working on final year projects are other major requirements of the students, which are often not adequately addressed. If the Section can take lead in these matters, it will make an immense impact with the student community. This can be best achieved by inviting active roles by the Section members from industry and research institutes.

- c. Awards to the faculty and students under various academic categories will undoubtedly motivate them and will serve in spreading good will of the Section.
- d. Free access to IEEE libraries will benefit the academic community to keep themselves abreast with the state-of-the-art in their fields of interest.

2. Research Institutes

Resources of the research institutes could be appropriately utilised to benefit the academic community as stated above. While it is hard to bring the researchers into the active organisational machinery of the Section, they are usually more than happy to participate in conferences and workshops and interact with the students and faculty. The networking which gets built during these interactions, will lead to the students and faculty in particular to develop further collaborative proposals and programmes.

Another important axis which the Section can help build is of research-industry. Modern day research is increasingly getting complex and often requires strong industrial participation both for their manufacturing and management contributions. It has already become a successful partnership paradigm in many major basic science research projects abroad and has just started catching up in India. Again our Section can play an active catalysing role in this area.

3. Industry

Like the research community, this is another major resource provider community. There is a large potential untapped so far from the senior members of the Section coming from Industry. They bring with them a good access to technology deployment and opportunities that they can share and provide, besides a huge organisational skills. We need an industrial relations liaison to work on modalities and provide the necessary interface with them.

4. Government and policy makers

As the largest professional body of scientists and engineers, we must influence the policy of making of the government towards the areas of our interest. This is our major responsibility towards the entire community. Based on our service to the community as articulated above, we deserve our role to advice and influence our policy makers. A strong public outreach programme reaching various stakeholders goes well in achieving this goal.

Finally, while it is always rather easy to wish many good things that we want to do through the Section, the difficulties start when we are about to embark on execution of even a very simple programme. A collective contribution - however small and uneven it is, will help achieve our goals. Senior and young members of our Section have distinct roles to play in fulfilling its agenda and aspirations of its beneficiaries. Let us volunteer and win along with our Section.