



some students expressed their desire to choose a career in science and technology. Overall, the program was very successful.

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N.5: Experimental Physics & Industrial Control Systems (EPICS) Workshop

Accelerator Control Section (ACS) organised a 4-day workshop on “EPICS” (Experimental Physics & Industrial Control Systems) at RRCAT from January 27 to January 30, 2009, in association with KEK, Japan. The workshop was sponsored by BRNS, India and Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS), Japan. Invited speakers, mainly from Japan and USA had long time experience on EPICS. Total 33 participants attended the workshop and learnt the skills for deploying EPICS for control systems.

EPICS is a SCADA system consisting of a set of software tools, libraries and applications developed collaboratively and used worldwide to create distributed soft real-time control systems for scientific instruments such as particle accelerators, telescopes and other large scientific experiments. Different parts of EPICS were developed at different places, and are distributed for usage. EPICS is a world-wide collaboration and relies upon its users to contribute to ongoing development and support of the software tools.

Consequently, a very important component of the EPICS related activities are the results of freely available international collaborative developments. EPICS device and/or driver support has been written for a vast number of I/O devices over the years by many collaborating laboratories and are readily available. Thereby, commercial instruments, controllers, power supplies and many other devices can be integrated into the control systems. A large community of scientific machine control system developers are ready to help implementation and maintenance of EPICS based control systems.

The workshop also included control system presentations from the participants. The four day, full time workshop included theory classes and hands on sessions. All participants were given workshop material on CD containing EPICS related documentation, hands on experiment material, user presentations etc. Ubuntu Linux and live EPICS DVDs were also distributed to participants to put them on fast track to continue learning EPICS after the workshop.

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N.6: Women's Day 2009 Celebration

Women's day was celebrated at RRCAT on March 18, 2009 with theme “Togetherness”. The program was conducted in two sessions: pre and post lunch. It started with a

welcome address by Mrs. Prabjot Singh. The Chief Guest was Mrs. Annie Pawar, General Manager (Technology), State Bank of Indore. Mrs. Annie Pawar gave a talk on “Changing Role of women”. She emphasized on the importance of self respect with several examples, including some from her own experiences. She mentioned that the role of women is changing from “only an earner” to “a career woman” and women have become confident enough to make such choices for themselves. She wanted women to appreciate what they have achieved and think about how to go further.

An essay competition and a debate competition were organized on March 6th, 2009 as a part of the celebration. The topics of essay competition were “Women’s education and nation’s progress” and “Successful career women can be a good home maker too: agree/disagree”. Total 15 women participated in the competition. Mrs. Anagha Mokhariwale and Mrs. Preetha Jayakumar shared the first prize.

The Topic of debate competition was “Equality before the law and concessions for women: Is it contradictory”. Three participants spoke for yes, it is contradictory and three spoke against. Mrs. Rekha Raikar Kumar and Mrs. Jagriti Khanwilkar were judged best in debate competition for and against the topic respectively.

Dr. Alka Ingale, chairperson, Women Cell RRCAT gave a brief overview of the activities of women cell. She mentioned that the work done over last few years and gathering of women employees for these functions has resulted in increased interaction among themselves and in turn they have shown greater faith in women cell. She said that women cell will continue to work further towards solving their problems and making RRCAT a better working place. Mrs. Rekha Raikar Kumar proposed vote of thanks for pre-lunch session.

Post lunch session comprised presentation by Dr. Chhaya Mishra and cultural programmes by RRCAT employees. Dr. Chhaya Mishra’s presentation was on “Management funda” based on the movie “Sholay”. She discussed many clips of the movie and showed how they teach management funda. Mrs. Anagha Mokhariwale compeered the afternoon session, in which most awaited part was the program presented by RRCAT employees. First, in the lot was a immensely entertaining Liliput show performed by AECS teachers, which involved 6 participants who mimicked 2 liliputs on a film song. Ms. Prachi Chitnis and Ms. Rinky Upadhaya showed the journey of women through life by songs and dance. The songs chosen for each stages of life and their depiction of the same were very much appreciated by all. An excellent “Banana award” function show was put up by Janaki, Shradha, Jagriti and Sonica. It was very entertaining with interesting parody, wherein we could heartily laugh at ourselves. Mrs. Seema Janardanan had shown creativity by reciting a poem woven of women employee’s names. Mrs. Archana Prabhu caught attention of audiences by creating sound of approaching train using ghungrus in a short kathak based performance. The last and most energetic performance