



IIITM-K News

January 2013



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT - KERALA

The prestigious Manthan Award is back again with IIITM-K !

The institute bags the Manthan Award Asia Pacific 2012 under the category e-Agriculture for developing an Innovative Decision Support System and the farmer-centric approach in delivering the soil Nutrient information services (www.keralasoilfertility.net). This information system has been designed and implemented for the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Kerala in collaboration with several Agricultural Research Organizations and Laboratories in the country. The system provides a robust ICT solution to generate micro nutrient - based fertiliser recommendation and soil nutrient advisory for the farmers



for their preferred crops.

The choice was from 470 valid nominations received from 10 countries stretching across the Asia Pacific region. Mr. Ajith Kumar R., the Principal Investigator and Coordinator of Agri-Informatics@IIITM-K received the award during the Award Gala Ceremony held on 1st December 2012 at New Delhi.

IIITM-K had been the recipient of Manthan Award three times earlier – in 2005 for City Police Portal, in 2007 for Education Grid Project and in 2008 for Kissan Kerala Project : indeed a rare distinction !

Lecture-cum- Open Forum on Open Access Initiatives by Prof. Leslie Chan

Professor Leslie Chan, Head of the Dept. of Social Sciences, University of Toronto, a key signatory of the Budapest Open Access Initiatives (BOAI) Declaration and a leading luminary in the world on Open Access Movement, delivered an Invited Lecture on OAI at IIITM-K on 18th Dec. 2012. Prof. M.S. Rajasree, Director, IIITM-K inaugurated the programme and Mr. KP Sadasivan, Consultant introduced the Speaker. Prof. Leslie in his presentation urged the scholarly community to embrace OAI for protecting their freedom of intellectual contributions for the benefit of their fraternity and the society rather than succumbing to the feudalistic and monopolistic trends of market infiltration happening in the world of knowledge. He highlighted the existence of better quality control systems and more transparent means of measuring impact in the OA environment and reminded the academicians and researchers on the principle of public funded research for public good.



The lecture was followed by an Open Forum on OAI. Mr. Satish Babu, Director, ICFOSS was the Moderator. Prof. Leslie and Prof. Subbiah Arunachalam, Chennai, the 'Messiah of OAI in India', were the panelists. They briefed the contemporary issues on OAI and answered several queries raised by the audience. The programme was co-sponsored by IIITM-K and ICFOSS, Technopark, Trivandrum.

Session on SPIN Bangalore Benchmark Data Highlights

School of Continuing Studies, IIITM-K and Software and Systems Process Improvement Network (SPIN) jointly organized a session on Highlights of Benchmark Data on 18th Dec. 2012 at IIITM-K. The presentation on the Benchmark Data was given by Mr. C. Ravindranath Pandian, Director, Quality Improvement Consultants, who was a member of the SPIN Bangalore study team. Benchmarking is the process of comparing one's business processes and performance metrics to industry best practices from other industries. The study has analyzed 162 software projects during the period of May 2009 to March 2011 and derived the benchmarks for the critical parameters, Productivity and Defect Density. These benchmark data can be used as reference in the software development Industry to target on enhanced process performance. The process of benchmarking and the analysis of benchmark data were addressed in the session which had enthusiastic participation from industry professionals. The session was inaugurated by Prof.M.S.Rajasree, Director, IIITM-K. She stressed the importance of Software Engineering and the need to put efforts in understanding the software requirements in the process of developing quality software. Mr. Arun Ravi, Manager (T&QA), ARS Software Ltd., Technopark, welcomed the gathering and Mr. K. Pradeep Kumar, Design Engineer (SG), IIITM-K, delivered the vote of thanks.



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Short Training Programme on Agricultural Information System

A One day short Training Programme on Agricultural Information System for Agricultural Graduates from Kerala Agriculture University (KAU) was conducted by Agri Informatics Team, IIITM-K on Dec. 17, 2012

NKN Desktop Video Conferencing Facility Enabled

The desktop video conferencing facility provided by National Knowledge Network (NKN-Vidyo) has been enabled in our Institute. This facilitates video conferencing with any one in the 885 institutions so far connected over NKN. The number will go up to 1500 in due course.

Invited Talks given in other Institutions

- Dr. C.S.P.Iyer, Emeritus Professor, delivered a lecture on 'The Progress of Science' at the Centre for Earth Science Studies, Trivandrum on 3rd December 2012. Dr. Iyer highlighted the changes that have occurred in our knowledge of Matter and Energy, culminating in the identification of the hitherto elusive Higgs Boson, during the experiments with the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, Geneva.
- Mr. K.Pradeep Kumar, Design Engineer (SG), IIITM-K, took a session on "Creating an innovation culture" in the Workshop organized by the Entrepreneurship Development Institute and the National Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship at Technopark for the faculty members of various institutions on Dec. 11, 2012

IIITM-K conducted a 5 Days Short Course on Cyber Security [Secure IT User Training-SIT]

Cyber Security project, IIITM-K in association with Mirox Cyber Security and Technology Pvt. Ltd. conducted a week-long Short Course on Cyber Security / Secure IT User Training during December 18-21, 2012. The course was inaugurated by Director, IIITM-K and felicitated by Mr Rajesh Babu, CEO, Mirox.



The objective of the course was to provide participants with necessary knowledge and skills to protect their information assets. The sessions were conducted on interactive environment where the participants acquired fundamental understanding of various computer and network security threats such as identity theft, credit card fraud, online banking phishing scams, virus and backdoors, e-mail hoaxes, loss of confidential information, hacking attacks, social engineering, etc. The skills learnt from the sessions are expected to help the participants to take the necessary steps to mitigate their security exposure. This course was a mixed format of theory and hands on. The participants got full advantage of the resources, faculty and the ambience of the institute for a better understanding of the subject.

There were 22 participants from different parts of the State. Principal Instructors were Dr Tony Thomas and Mr Meraj Uddin from IIITM-K and Mr Melvin John and Mr Danesh Elias from Mirox Cyber Security Pvt. Ltd.

Workshop attended

Mr. David Mathews, Design Engineer, IIITM-K attended Digital Video Analytics and Processing Workshop (DVAP-2012) conducted in IIT Madras on Dec. 21-22, 2012. Details at: <https://sites.google.com/site/dvap2012/>

Christmas / New year celebrations

ASCIIT Club, IIITM-K organized Christmas and New year celebrations on 21st December. Director addressed the gathering. In her speech she highlighted the significance of the occasion and the need to recollect the achievements of the year vis-à-vis the expectations ahead. This was followed by the customary practice of cutting the cake. There was also the prize distribution ceremony for the winners of the Gandhij Jayanthi competitions jointly organised by ASCIIT Club & Prakrithi Club.



Forthcoming Short Course / Workshops

- Short Course/Workshop on **Web and Multimedia Computing for Education Community** Jan. 9-11, 2013 , Course and registration website: <http://www.iiitm.ac.in/wmmc2013/>. Email: saml.wmmc@gmail.com
- Short Course on **Cyber Security[Secure IT User Training]**, 3rd week of January, 2013. Organised by IIITM-K in association with Mirox . For details: visit Web www.iiitm.ac.in and E-mail: shortcourse@iiitm.ac.in
- 3 day Workshop on "Analyzing data for scientific and industrial applications using statistical software- R" K on 27th and 28th February and 1st March 2013. Co-sponsored by IIITM-K and ICFOSS. For details: Web:www.iiitm.ac.in, email: workshop@iiitm.ac.in

Observing of Human Rights Day

IIITM-K observed Human Rights Day on 10th December, 2012 by taking Human Rights Oath.



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