

NEWSLETTER

IIT ALUMNI SOUTH KOREA

YEAREND 2016 EDITION



OUR VISION



"Every IIT alumni in Korea proudly calls this place a home"

OUR MISSION

To provide a platform to IIT alumni in Korea where they can connect and create value both for themselves and for the community. More specifically, our objectives are:

1. To foster a sense of belonging, friendship and family ties among IIT alumni
2. To welcome and assist new IIT alumni adapt to Korea
3. To lead initiatives that contribute to our local community in Korea, our Alma Mater, and to our motherland.

OUR CORE VALUES

1. Integrity - We will uphold all our actions/decisions with strong ethics and will be perfectly comfortable even if all that we do gets published in tomorrow's paper.

2. Bias for Action - We won't wait for all the answers. We believe in "Just do it", "Its ok to make reasonable mistakes and learn on the fly"

3. Togetherness - We will help each other and collaborate to accomplish our goals.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"2016 was another awesome year for our alumni association. We continued our community outreach activities in international schools and gave a book form (available for free download on our website) to our ideas from last year's DISC Task Force in partnership with Tomorrows India Summit in Seoul.

This year, we kick-started new initiatives such as monthly lecture series and annual plant visits to get fresh perspectives, learn from each other and from experts outside our network. We also had a great participation in our other annual events such as games night, Table Tennis tournament, and photo competition.

All this and more would not have been possible without the unwavering support of all our members, in particular our enthusiastic office bearers who put in a lot (I mean it!) of their time to plan and organize events. Thank you! I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our three advisors (Mr. Lee, Mr. Sundaram and Mr. Yoon) for guiding us whenever we needed them. Kamsahamnida!

Going forward, we will continue to be aware of the rising expectations from us and will relentlessly strive to scale our efforts in making a marked positive difference to our association and to the world at large.

Like any other year, many of our members left Korea for better options in 2016 and many fresh faces came to play on this turf. I wish all our current and past members a very fulfilling 2017. It has been a privilege serving as your President. Thank you for trusting in me and our team of office bearers to lead this association."



DISC BOOK LAUNCH

A 19-member task force comprising the members from the IIT Alumni Association of South Korea was formed in October 2015 to source ideas centered on the pillars of Digital India and Smart Cities. We compiled those ideas into an e-book (available for free download) and launched the same at Tomorrow's India Global Summit in Seoul on Sept. 28, 2016. Our hope with this DISC book is that relevant stakeholders here and back home will take some of the DISC ideas to build the India of tomorrow. Also, this book is just one of the examples of our service to the nation.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH GSIS PROGRAM SESSION 1

Our association with Gyeonggi Suwon International School (GSIS) now enters the second year with seminars to the middle and high school students by our members. The introductory session this school year was on 27th August.

"Wearable Technology - Status, Impact and Challenges"

The session on wearable tech was given to the students of class Information Technology in a Global Society to provide insights in to this promising field. Starting the presentation with a visual presentation, speakers Nupur Kala and Kunal did a short exercise of coming up with aspects of good wearable. This interactive session concluded with a discussion on technical and social impact on society and various ethical and privacy challenges it poses. Students and teachers alike appreciated these inputs coming from professionals who work daily in & out in these disciplines.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH GSIS PROGRAM SESSION 2

Introduction to Robotics Robotics Club

Nishit Bhandari and Gaurav Poonivala presented about this new and exciting field to the students of Robotics Club. The session began with brief history and current trends in the field and included a glimpse in to average day in life of a robotics specialist. Speakers introduced few core technologies and how they functioned and the session concluded with a to-do guide on how to build a simple robot from scratch and how important it is to get hands dirty. Few more hands-on sessions are planned on this topic, judging the interest from students.

IIT Alumni Association Korea (IITAA-K) is looking forward to much such opportunities where its members can contribute to their local communities and create meaningful impact for themselves and people they serve. We thank G SIS especially Mr. Yong Jun, who helped us in conducting the sessions for extending this opportunity and supporting us all along and our volunteers for making all this possible.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

KIS PROGRAM

Understanding mathematics as a language

KIS Anonymous, a club in Korea International School (KIS) organized a mathematics hackathon. As part of Hackathon, students from the ages of 8-18 participated in an overnight coding event. In the opening ceremony our member, Nupur Kala presented the need to see mathematics as a language rather than just a tool for computing. She also highlighted importance of mathematics in different spheres of our lives.

F1 Program

It is a program in which 8-12th grade students design F1 racing cars in groups of 3-5 members and race each other. KIS is planning to do a pilot next year and IITAAK has agreed to provide mentorship to the teams. This 10 week long program starting from Jan 20 will include guiding the students to successfully build a car by sharing problem solving skills and introducing them to engineering design process. Each 90 minute session will be led by our volunteers and Ankit Kumar, Kunal Chawla, Lokesh Gurram, Nishit Bhandari and Nupur Kala, have come forward already.



ALUMNI TALKS - #3

Upender Singh Rawat

24th July

Transform Your Outward Life to Your Inner World

Transform your outer life into your inner world. Mr. Rawat introduced us to the idea of yoga and meditation as he understands. He shared his own rendezvous with Vipassana a very rigorous meditation technique and the positive effects he has reaped from them. Also, discussed how it is important to know your self to better understand the world. A diplomat of high stature, Mr. Upend-er Singh Rawat, is currently the Counsellor & Deputy Chief of Mission at Embassy of India, Seoul, South Korea.



ALUMNI TALKS - #4

Jalaj Jain

28 August
Myths and Realities of finance

Having many recent graduates in our association, who started their professional careers quite recently, this was a much required and must attend event. Jalaj talked about what financial freedom and introduced the basics of finance, explaining what a portfolio is, what constitutes stock movement, how financial market is a multiplicative system and various kinds of assets. He explained how uncertainty is the hardest thing about financial markets, and stressed on the importance of having your own philosophy and sticking by it even if you have some losses.



ALUMNI TALKS - #5

Akhil Khedia

25 September
Hacking 101 : Breaking and Entering

Akhil a hacker by passion, talked about some of the earliest attempts at hacking - the Morris worm, Stuxnet, Ukraine power outage, Melissa virus. He introduced us to different types of hacking techniques, some of the tools as hacking beginners, and typical workflow in a hack. He further discussed the measures we can adopt to keep ourselves safe in the connected world.



ALUMNI TALKS - #6

Surya Rai

6th November
Proactive Leadership

Surya, Country head HR, P&G, Korea, and trained in seven habits for personality development by Stephen Covey talked about proactive leadership, the first of the seven habits. He talked about being proactive vs being reactive and urged to focus on circle of control instead of circle of concern. Highlighting that proactive people are aware of the choices they are making and examine themselves, he made our members do exercises which demonstrated the same.



TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

July 10th

Singles - 1. Sahil Agarwal 2. Sudhakar Sah

Doubles- 1. Rohan Prinja/ Jatin Garg 2. Nishit Bhandari/ Nupur Kala

In the summer heat, we went indoors to compete in the first ever IITAAK Table Tennis Championship. Spin Seoul Club played the venue with 20 members competing in the singles and doubles categories. After few preliminary rounds of elimination, the finals came down to two exceptional players Sahil Agarwal and Sudhakar Sah. The victor Sahil came from behind after 1st set loss to eventually claiming the title by 2-1. Doubles didnt disappoint with a suspenseful point-to-point match and the trophy went to Rohan Prinja and Jatin Garg who scored the final few crucial points to take win from the mixed team of Nishit Bhandar and Nupur Kala. With the intense cheering and competitive plays by everyone, the championship had to end with a sumptuous lunch of desi food and it did.



INDOOR GAMES NIGHT

October 23

Poker: 1. Pankaj Agarwal 2. Sai Kiriti Badam
Dominion: 1. Nupur Kala 2. Nishit Bhandari
7 Wonders 1. Nupur Kala 2. Vivek Agarwal

Every autumn on its coldest spell, we head indoors to the warmth of a cozy cafe to shuffle, dice and bluff our way to winning board games. Cafe Street 54, our regular venue for all involving brains laid witness to 15 of our members playing in the Games Night. Pankaj emerged victorious beating Sai Kiriti in the game of Poker and Nupur Kala, Queen of the boards claimed both Dominion and 7 Wonders titles.



SSANGYONG MOTORS TOUR

8 of our Members got a unique chance to visit Ssangyong Motors in Pyongtaek on August 26. They took an hour drive all the way to their manufacturing plant to see Car production happen live. This hour tour consisted seeing the assembly line for cars where humans and robots (terminator style!) working together to produce popular card. Site engineers explained various details about each stage of the production and made the visit informative and insightful.



YEAREND PARTY

We organized a party celebrating the completion of another year on 3rd December at Taj restaurant in Myeongdong, Seoul. Blessed with the presence of Mr. Dilip Sundaram, Mahindra Korea chief and Mr. KR Yoon, head of GTMI, it was attended by over 40 members and their families. Starting with few motivational words from the chief guests, hosts Nupur and Nishit with help from Pankaj summarized the journey we together took in 2016. With kind help from State Bank of India-Seoul, who sponsored a very entertaining magic show that awed the audience. Children of our members displayed their ballet and music skills with their captivating performances and three widely popular and enthusiastically participated games were organized by the spouses of our members. Not to forget the delicious snacks and dinner buffet we had at the restaurant, every member that evening left with a memento and a memory, for life.

Special thanks to SBI-Seoul for the sponsorship and we wish to build our partnership for the years to come.



QUICK SNAPSHOT Q1

We had an amazing first half of this year with a variety of activities and events organized to bring our members together. Here is a brief glimpse of those fun times.

New Year Meetup

New Year with new dreams. We all got together in Suwon for a delicious meal and bonding over chai to begin another exciting year and cherish sweet old memories.

Alumni Talks #1:

Pankaj Agarwal spoke on "Maximize your life" sharing his wisdom on how to approach life, setting goals and pursuing them with rigor.

Alumni Talks #2:

Subhojit Chakladhar gave us a peek in to the world of birding and his wonderful journeys to wilds of Kenya and forests of Indonesia.

1ST PRIZE



PHOTO CONTEST

To celebrate the beauty of spring, we invited all our members to share their best photographs as part of "Spring Photo contest." Stunning mountains, pristine beaches and nature in all its beauty were subject of most entries showing our yearning away from concrete hogwash. Sandeep Gupta takes the crown, while Sudhakar Sah surprised everyone with both his entries taking a podium finish..

2ND PRIZE



3RD PRIZE



OFFICE BEARERS 2016



Pankaj Agarwal is a Creative Leader at Samsung Electronics and has spent a decade with company in several capacities - engineer, innovation manager and advisor to the CTO. He is also a trained magician and is fluent in Korean. He has Bachelors in EE from IIT Kanpur, an MS from SNU and an MBA from the Harvard Business School...



Jalaj Jain spent most of his career in video signal processing, hardware design and understanding the Indian stock market and internet startups. He did his Masters in Micro-electronics from IIT-Madras and wishes to continue his career full time in startups and stock market going forward as life is too short to spend time on mundane things.

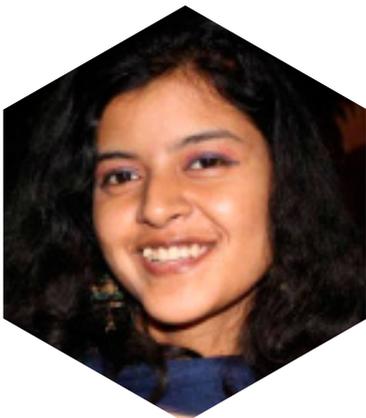


Jitendra Kumar is a B.Tech (honours) in Electronics and Communication Engg. from IIT, BHU, Varanasi. He is currently working on Bluetooth Low Energy in Convergence Technology R&D group in Samsung Electronics HQ. His areas of interests are Bluetooth, UMTS, GPS and WIFI in connectivity.

OFFICE BEARERS 2016



Vishnu Vinjam is a Product Manager for Samsung Pay. A 2014 Computer Science IIT Bombay graduate, he was awarded Institutional Organizational Citation for leadership in non-profit social causes. A problem solver both at work and outside, he is on lookout for next challenge and book, travel and food recommendations.



Nupur Kala is an Electronics Engineer in Samsung RnD Campus, Seoul. A 2015 IIT Delhi graduate, she works in the area of human visual processing focusing on Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality devices. Recipient of institute Gold Medal for academic performance, she has been highly active in social work with experience in teaching and organising events.



Nishit Bhandari is a software engineer working at Samsung Electronics R&D Campus in Seoul. A 2015 IIT Bombay graduate, he handles android security using cryptographic techniques and secure key management. He is passionate about algorithmic trading, travel & an amateur photographer on lookout for new challenges.

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