

Melbourne IIT Postgraduate Program (MIPP) Conference - MIPPC 2017

The inaugural MIPP conference led by MIPP PhD students of the University of Melbourne was concluded on 31st Jan 2017. The conference kindled highly intellectual interaction among the attendees - senior dignitaries, students and their supervisors from IITs/IISc and University of Melbourne. High quality presentations were made by the current MIPP students provoking discussions and questions from expert as well as non-expert audience reflecting the applied nature of the research being undertaken. The Indian guests were impressed by the academic rigor and excellent presentation skills the student cohort displayed.

The conference was inaugurated by Prof. Margret Sheil, the Provost of the University of Melbourne. She expressed her appreciation on the progress



***Inaugural session: Top, Left to Right: Prof. Sheil, Prof. Scales, Prof. Struggnell, Prof. Day.
Bottom, Left to Right: Dr. Das, Prof. Nagarajan, Prof. Lohani, Prof. Ashokkumar
Middle, Left to Right: Prof. Ramasesha, Audience, Dr. Arora***

made by MIPP. The opening session of the conference was chaired by Prof Dick Strugnell (Pro Vice-Chancellor Graduate & International Research). The Deans of MSE, Faculty of Science and representatives from partnering institutions shared their views on existing collaboration and future opportunities. The session highlighted the purpose and achievements of MIPP.

The whole event was organized by the student committee (Aakash Gupta, Himanshu Mishra, Gokul Siva Sankar, Chinchu Mohan, Neeta Lohani and Mukesh Soni) under the guidance of MIPP staff (Ashokkumar Muthupandian, Meenakshi Arora and Udaya Parampalli). The conference boasted a summary of technologically advanced research being carried out by the MIPP PhD students through 25 student-presentations spanning over 5 sessions in 2 days.



Participants networking during lunch/coffee break

A dinner was hosted at the world famous Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) for all the students, supervisors and dignitaries on day 1. Students and Indian supervisors also enjoyed the MCG tour followed by a delicious dinner. The participants were welcomed by Prof. Jim McCluskey and treated with an inspiring speech from the chief guest, Ms Manika Jain (Consul General of India Melbourne). Musical performance by Himanshu Mishra, a PhD student, made the evening a memorable one.



Conference Dinner at Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG): Top, Left to Right: Prof. Strugnell and Prof. Day with Prof. Sangwai and Prof. Jha, Chief Guest Ms. Manika Jain, Prof. Evans Bottom, Left to Right: Delegates enjoying MCG Tour, MIPP Students Middle, Left to Right: Networking over drinks, Prof. Jim McCluskey, Himanshu Mishra

At the concluding session, Prof. Strugnell highlighted the importance of multi-institutional involvement in solving key research questions with an interdisciplinary approach. He noted the role of MIPP in bringing young and bright minds to Melbourne and MIPP students' role in keeping the partner institutions working together on major research problems. Prof. Strugnell also talked about the proposed Melbourne India Postgraduate Academy (MIPA), a joint PhD program involving MIPP partner institutions. The visiting delegation expressed their support to MIPA. The conference concluded with a number of action items to move forward and keep MIPP/MIPA partnership sustained in the years to come.