

Here is the inaugural issue of TechS Vidya e-Journal of Research

Volume 1 (2012-13)

With much satisfaction and with a little apprehension we present this inaugural issue of TechS Vidya e-Journal of Research before the engineering academic community of India.

Why a new Journal?

Naturally, this would be the first question that is likely to arise in everybody's mind when one begins talking about a new journal. This is quite natural when we consider the online publications scenario. There are literally thousands of online journals devoted to every conceivable area of knowledge. As an editor launching a new journal remarked: *Why add another drop into today's information tsunami?* It is because we believe that there is still much more to be published and disseminated. From an Indian point of view, there are not many such publications originating from Kerala. Considering the latent talent remaining hidden in the land of Sangamagrama Madhava¹, it was thought that an e-journal of research would give a fillip and boost to the research efforts taking place in this part of the country. An accessible high quality neighbourhood journal is the dream that is guiding the launching of this journal.

What content?

The stated purpose of brining out such a journal is to provide a forum for all those who are engaged in academic activities in the engineering colleges and the universities to publish their research findings. The Journal will be publishing papers in all areas of engineering

¹Sangamagrama Madhava (c.1350 - c.1425 CE) was a fourteenth century C.E. Kerala mathematician/astronomer who discovered and gave proofs of the power series expansions of the trigonometric sine and cosine functions two centuries before the same were discovered in Europe.

and technology and also in the basic science disciplines of physics, chemistry, mathematics and other related fields. In addition to papers reporting original research, the Journal will also carry articles of an expository nature. Well researched review essays will also find a place in the Journal. Every person working in the area of engineering education is likely to find something of interest in this Journal.

That the current academic scenario in many of the recently started engineering colleges in India is dismal needs no emphasis. This fact has been highlighted by several independent Governmental authorities including the judicial establishments. The quality of teaching, the quality of faculty, the quality of subject content, the conduct of examinations, all have suffered severe degradation. Virtually no new learning is taking place in such institutions. In such a scenario to hope for the flourishing of genuine research and development activities in a new-generation engineering college in India is to hope for the rising of the dark sun in the west! Our apprehensions in launching this Journal are centered around these concerns.

In spite of the apprehensions, the Editors of TechS Vidya e-Journal of Research are optimistic and believe that the Journal has a definite role to play however dismal the current academic scenario is. The institution from where the Journal is originating is the result of a dream, a dream of a few non-resident Indians, to establish a not-for-profit engineering college for the benefit of the society at large. Within a span of ten years the college grew to be one of the most sought-after engineering colleges in Kerala. In the coming decade the institution visualises a quantum leap in its search for excellence. The institution sees big roles for research and development activities and has taken several steps to accelerate the momentum of these activities. The establishment of an e-journal of research is one of the steps taken along these lines. An area where the institution has made some progress is in organising 'erudite talks' by illustrious academics.

Even though the overall academic ambiance is very discouraging, we are aware that there are islands of excellence in many colleges. An institution as a whole may present an unacceptably low level of accomplishments, but, there are likely to be isolated individuals, small energetic teams, pursuing higher level academic activities. These activities need encouragement and support for the advancement of engineering education in India. This Journal is basically addressed to this intellectually active community. We hope to tap their resources for the development of this Journal. They can support us by contributing papers, by being reviewers, by spreading information about the Journal among their colleagues and friends.

In this inaugural issue

A noteworthy contribution in this inaugural issue is a review paper by K.B.M. Nambudiripad, Retired Professor of Mechanical Engineering, NIT Calicut, and currently a Visiting Professor in Vidya Academy of Science & Technology. His paper is not presenting any new original results; but it presents the basic equations of solid mechanics in a significantly new light. The paper also illustrates one key policy for acceptance of papers for publication in the Journal. It is not necessary that a paper should contain original results; it would be enough if it could offer some new insights, some new sparks of understanding on an estab-

lished body of knowledge. There is also a very interesting paper by Sudha Balagopalan, *et al.* presenting a method and a device for proactive detection of sag or snapping of conductor, one paper discussing a certain integral in the theory of special functions in mathematics and also a paper devoted to a discussion of certain probability distributions of the same kind. There are a few more papers presenting new results in other areas of engineering. There is also a paper discussing material which are of historical interest. This paper by V.N. Krishnachandran, *et al.*, discusses the contributions of the Kerala astronomer-mathematician Sangamagrama Madhava (c.1350 - c.1425 CE) from an algorithmic point of view. The editors thank the contributors to this inaugural issue of TechS Vidya e-Journal of Research.

Welcome to TechS Vidya e-Journal of Research

With all humility we present this TechS Vidya e-Journal of Research before the engineering academic community and request everybody to help us serve you better by becoming partners in the advancement of engineering education in India.

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Editors
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