IEEE Artisanal Deep Sea Fishers SIGHT
(IEEE Madras Section)
Report on Inaugural Function

The inaugural function of the IEEE Artisanal Deep Sea Fishers SIGHT (IEEE ADSF SIGHT) was held at Rotary Community Hall, Nagercoil, Kanyakumari District on 16th May, 2015. The function was inaugurated by Mr. Satish Babu, Director-ICFOSS[1]. It was started at about 11:30 am with the IEEE Code of Ethics read by Mr. P.R. Vishnu, Student Lead, IEEE ADSF SIGHT. Dr. Seldev Christopher, the Project Lead of IEEE ADSF SIGHT welcomed the esteemed gathering. The dignitaries who were present initiated the function by lighting the traditional lamp. A technology lamp[2] was also lighted by Mr. Martin Pragasam, DDM-NABARD[3], Kanyakumari. These remarked the association of IEEE with technology and humanity.

Mr. Darwin Jose Raju, the Treasurer of IEEE Madras Section also the Vice-Chairman of IEEE ADSF SIGHT introduced the office bearers of IEEE ADSF SIGHT. The action plan for the year 2015 was presented by Er. C. Jinesh, Secretary, IEEE ADSF SIGHT. Followed by Mr. Babu delivered the inaugural address. He spoke about his passion for IEEE, technology and fisheries and his experiences in IEEE SIGHT as a Global Chair back in 2003. He appreciated the members of the IEEE ADSF SIGHT for taking initiative for the formation of the special interested group.

The president of the meeting Mr. Julian Teelar, Chief Executive, SIFFS[4] shared how IEEE SIGHT helps common people and makes them utilize the benefits of technology. Dr. Y. S. Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO[5] delivered the keynote address. He said that the fisheries sector is highly technology-oriented and at each step of the operations, technological interventions are necessary. In this regard he referred to boat building, navigation and communication, harvest and post-harvest, safety at sea and processing. He also said that at present, very little scientific and technical inputs are going into these core fisheries functions and there is a need for the engineering institutions to get involved. He also suggested the need of the word 'colour' in point number 8 of the IEEE Code of ethics.

Mr. Pragasam, spoke about the potential of using solar emerging in fishing. He said that if the fishermen were able to use the solar equipments in their boats they can earn better profit too. Mr. Anand, Chair, IEEE Madras SIGHT shared his experiences through various volunteering activities at IEEE SIGHT. He also presented an IEEE SIGHT T-shirt to Mr. Vincent Jain, Chairman of our IEEE ADSF Sight as a token of love and appreciation. A special address was given by Dr. Kirubakaran, scientist-G& Group Head, Marine Biotechnology Division, NIOT[6]. He mainly talked on 'Cage Culture' which is a new information to the fishermen as well as to the students. He suggested that it is one of the ways and means of protecting the resources of the sea and how to use them sustainably to yield maximum profit.

[1] International Centre for Free and Open Source Software
[2] Designed by J.Vincent Jain
[3] District Development Manager-National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
[4] South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies

The morning session ended at 1.15 pm and followed by the networking lunch. The fishers and students had got an opportunity to discuss closely many problems in fishing and they also shared to the dignitaries during the lunch time.


Participants from right side of the meeting hall

An interaction session was organized in the post-lunch which was lead by Dr. Tata Sudhakar, Group Head, Ocean Electronics Group, NIOT with Dr. Kirubakaran and Dr. B. Priestly Shan, Principal, Royal College of Engineering and Technology, Thrissur. Students, fishers and faculty members interacted with the team and it benefitted the participants. The following are the main points of the deliberation.

- Locating cut off fishing gears while at fishing by ships or boats
- Monitoring of boats, ships etc passing around the boats
- Alert system for falling of fishermen on board
- Availability of Electronic marine chart
- Cheap and quality life saving equipments
- Cheap and quality communication system
- Engaging deep sea fishermen of Thoothoor for deploying data buoys
- Engaging engineering students in developing cage for fish culture
- Possible training opportunities for fishermen in cage culture
- Project opportunities to the students in NIOT
- Guiding students in carrying out projects

The function ended with vote of thanks by Mr. B. Sharath, IEEE ADSF SIGHT steering committee member.

Reported by:

Ms. I. Agnes Miriam
IEEE #: 92394897
aggiemiriam@gmail.com
Affiliation: St. Xavier's Catholic College of Engineering