

Education Committee

Visit to USA by Prof. S. Mazumdar

Dr. Saswati Mazumdar, Professor of Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Director, School of Illumination Science, Engineering & Design of Jadavpur University, and Director Education Committee, ISLE, went to Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC), at Charlottesville, USA from October 6-17 on the VACIE-JU exchange programme and there she was hosted by Ms. Valerie Palamountain, Dean of Workforce Services at PVCC.

Prof. Mazumdar delivered the following lectures to the student and staff of PVCC at their request :

- a) Lighting in non-electrified villages.
- b) Education in Jadavpur University.
- c) Activities of School of Illumination Science, Engineering & Design (SISED).
- d) Engineering Education in India.
- e) Vocational Course on Wiring and Lighting in SISED.
- f) Rabindranath Tagore and Indian Music.
- g) Modern Indian Dance based on Indian Classical Dance.

During her stay, Prof. Mazumdar, went to Troy, NY to visit Lighting Research Centre, RPI, USA on October 13 Prof. N. Narendran, Director of Research, Prof. Joan Paul and their team provided all the hospitality for her stay.

There she had thorough discussions with Prof. Frering, Manager of Education. They exchanged their views on Lighting Education System in their respective countries and had discussions on the detailed syllabus. LRC is now running two Master's Courses:

1. One year Master in Architectural Science.
2. Two year Master of Science in Lighting.

Any student from a foreign country seeking admission should apply before January of each year with GRE & TOEFL score and with recommendations from referees. If any teacher from an Indian institute wants to work in LRC, they should stay at least 2-6 months, otherwise it would not be effective for LRC.

There is a four year Ph.D programme also, and if any M.E. degree holder from India wants to join, he/she should complete 68 credits instead of 90 credits as coursework.

There are three on-line web-based courses offered from LRC, each course costs only \$125. The courses are:

1. Lighting Terminology.
2. Lighting Technology and,
3. Residential lighting Design.

There are some publications (of Delta Program) offered free from the LRC website, in which the previous projects taken up by LRC have been thoroughly described.

A few students and researchers, e.g., Ms. Oindrila Hazra of India, Ms. Amela, the Fulbright scholar from Bosnia, Mr. Ranjith Kartha of India spent a lot of time with Prof. Mazumdar during her stay. Oindrila and Amela are working with LEDs under the guidance of Prof. Narendran. Ranjith is working with Light and Health under the supervision of Prof. Ms. Mariana Figueiro.

Prof. Narendran took Prof. Mazumdar to visit the laboratories of LRC and spent quite a few hours showing her the different laboratories including life testing laboratories of CFLs and LEDs and the Solid state lighting research laboratories, where one Chinese lady Ph.D student has almost completed her work. LRC is conducting extensive research on the following topics - Efficient phosphorus for white LEDs; LED Thermal Management Using Nanomaterials; Investigating the optical properties of phosphor to improve white LED performance ; Investigator of PV-LED lighting system for airport runways; Evaluation of runway guard light; An energy efficient LED lighting module for PV- Powered lighting systems; Advance Energy efficient LED lighting for residential and commercial Lighting Applications; Novel Micro lens materials for Beam control in Thin profile LED Luminaries; Electronic walls and Ceilings offer Adaptable Solid state Lighting; Materials and measurements procedures for LED Lighting Systems; Developing method to improve the detectability of LED fixtures with IR camera. The laboratory where research on Light and Health is being conducted was also shown to Prof. Mazumdar.

It is understood that as 96% of the revenue of LRC is earned from Partners (Business Organisations) and Collaborators (only 4% from University funding), the staff are too busy for long duration collaborative programs with foreign countries. For taking short workshops, the staff of LRC would visit India if ISLE organizes it. From LRC they regularly visit other countries like, China, Korea, Taiwan, Brazil, Philippines on request as part of their Outreach program.

LRC is ready to train groups of industry people / faculty members in USA for 2-3 weeks. ISLE may think over that and send some willing participants to join such a programme (as was organized in 2002).

With funding from USAID and with Japanese collaboration, LRC is planning to open one Centre for seven South-East Asian countries as part of the SAARI programme. That centre would be physically located in Sri Lanka, where the Government. has agreed to provide all the facilities and space there. ISLE should take the major role for participating in that programme from India.

Dr. Saswati Mazumdar
Chair, Education Committee