

**“FRONTIERS OF RESEARCH ON SPEECH AND MUSIC (FRSM - 2008)”,
FEBRUARY 20-21, 2008, KOLKATA**

The annual international symposium “Frontiers of Research on Speech and Music (FRSM – 2008)”, the only symposium of its kind in our country, has reached its 20th year. It was jointly organised by ITC Sangeet Research Academy (ITCSRA), Kolkata, CDAC, Kolkata, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata and Sir C V Raman Centre for Physics and Music, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. The special theme for the symposium was “Acoustic and Cognitive aspects of Speech, Music and Language”. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Ministry of Information Technology (MIT), Govt. of India, Microsoft Research Laboratories India Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore and Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur.

The organisers are grateful that the efforts of the small community of researchers in India with their sustained effort have kept this unique annual event alive. The most heartening aspect is that the community is growing at a stable rate. For the third time the symposium was held in the state of West Bengal. Objective of the effort is to encourage resources in the field of physics, mathematics, artificial intelligence, musicology, psychology and neuro-sciences etc to provide new ideas and directions in the objective research in speech and music.

The inaugural programme of the symposium and the technical sessions was held at the Dr. K P Basu Memorial Hall at the Engineering Science Building, Jadavpur University, during 20-21 February, 2008.

The welcome address were delivered by the following: Prof. Dipak Ghosh, Co-ordinator, Sir C V Raman Centre of Physics and Music, Jadavpur University, Dr. Vidyadhar Vyas, Executive Director, ITCSRA, and Dr. A B Saha, Director, CDAC Kolkata. In his address Dr. Vidyadhar Vyas mentioned about the research activities of the Scientific Research Department, ITCSRA with special emphasis on the recently developed prototype tunable harmonium. He also said that both the scientific and the music communities must work together for the betterment of music performance. Dr. Bikash Sinha, Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, Kolkata and Prof. S G Dhande, Director, IIT Kanpur, could not attend the inaugural programme due to prior commitments.

The symposium was inaugurated by Prof. A N Basu, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board and Ex- Vice chancellor of the University. In his inaugural address he mentioned different problem areas, which needs immediate attention. He also mentioned the background of the formation of the Sir C V Raman Centre.

The objective of the symposium was narrated by Prof. A K Datta, Chairman, Organising Committee, FRSM-2008. In his address he emphasised the need of a platform for bringing together all researchers working in the area of speech and music in the country as well as promoting novel approaches to the solution of cognitive problems from the viewpoint of artificial intelligence.

The focal theme address was given by Dr. Hiroya Fujisaki, Emeritus Professor, University of Tokyo, Japan. In his speech he said that spoken language and music are interrelated and has many common features. In his opinion speech research has to learn from the prosody research in music.

In his Chief Guest address Prof. Pabitra Sarkar, Eminent Linguist, said that language and music are infinite systems having limited number of sounds producing infinite number of

expressions.

In the absence of the Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University, the session was chaired by Prof. Siddhartha Dutta, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. In his address he mentioned about the need for interdisciplinary research in the said area.

Vote of thanks was delivered by Smt. Dipali Nag, Convenor, FRSM-2008. She specially thanked the Sir C V Raman Centre of Physics and music, Jadavpur University, for their initiative for hosting the workshop at Jadavpur University and Dr. Bikash Sinha, Director, SINP and VECC, Kolkata for his active interest in the symposium. She also thanked the participants of FRSM-2008.

The technical session for the workshop was started at 11.30 AM in the. In total, Ninety four contributory papers (Fifty eight oral and thirty six posters) with nine invited talks were presented during the two days (20-21 February) in seven technical sessions (six oral and one poster session) at Dr. K P Basu Memorial Hall at the Engineering Science Building, Jadavpur University.

The Session I was chaired by Prof. H Fujisaki, University of Tokyo, Japan, and Prof. P Gupta, IIT Kanpur. There were ten contributory papers and one invited talk. Session II began after the lunch with Dr Mukul Sinha of DIT and Dr. M Pushpavathi of AIISH, Mysore in the chair. The session had eleven contributory papers and one invited talk.

After the tea break Session III started with Dr. Keikichi Hirose of Tokyo University, Japan and Prof. Kristoffer Jensen, Aalborg University Esbjerg, Denmark in the chair. The session had ten contributory papers and two invited talks.

Session - IV was started at 10.00 AM. on 21.2.2008, with Prof. Preeti Rao of IIT Mumbai and Dr. A B Saha, Director, CDAC, Kolkata in the chair. The session had ten contributory papers with one invited talk.

Session V was the poster session which started after lunch. It was chaired by Prof. Francesco Guerra, University of Rome, Dr. Mykhaylo Khramov, Ukraine and Prof. Bhaskar Gupta of Jadavpur University, Kolkata. In total thirty six posters were presented in the session. It had a very good interaction.

Session VI started after lunch and was chaired by Dr. Didier Grandjean, University of Geneva. The session had eight contributory papers and two invited talks.

Session VII started after tea break and was chaired by Prof. Clarence Barlow, University of California, USA and Prof. D K Bhattacharya, Jadavpur University. The session had two invited talks and ten contributory papers.

The valedictory session was addressed by Prof. P N Ghosh, Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University. The proceeding of the symposium was published and distributed amongst the participants. The total number of participants in the symposium was more than 110 including ten foreign participants from Japan, USA, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark and Ukraine.

It was decided that that the venue of FRSM-2009 would be IITM, Gwalior and the symposium would be of three days duration.

Prof. A N Basu, Chairman, WB Pollution Control Board, lighting the lamp, as other dignitaries look on.



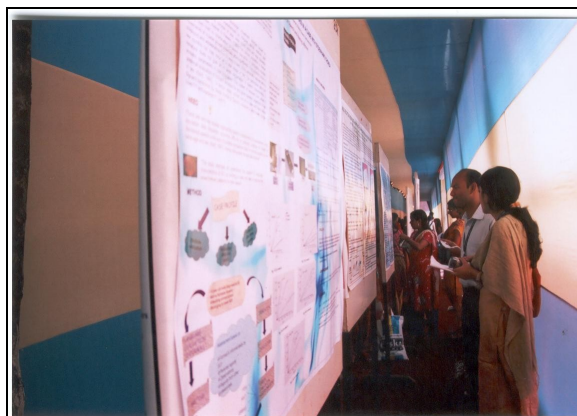
Prof. Clarence Barlow, University of California, presenting his paper



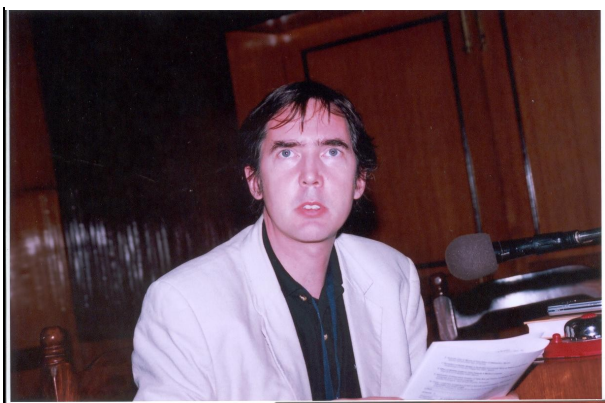
Dr. Didier Grandjean, University of Geneva, presenting his paper



Participants in the poster session



Prof. Kristoffer Jensen, Aalborg University Esbjerg, Denmark presenting his paper



Smt. Dipali Nag delivering vote of thanks in the inaugural session



Prof. Francesco Guerra, University of Rome, presenting his paper