First Electrical Sciences Divisional Symposium

**Event Details:**
*Date:* Jan 22-23, 2010  
*Venue:* Faculty Hall, IISc

**About the Symposium:**

The Division of Electrical Sciences hosted the First Divisional Symposium on Jan 22-23, 2010. The goals of the symposium were to provide a forum for senior research students to present their work, networking among students/faculty, and creating an environment conducive to inter-departmental research collaboration within the Division.

The symposium featured student presentations and a panel discussion on the Electrical Sciences Division, and was held in the Faculty Hall at IISc. Twenty-two final year PhD students presented their main research in about 20 minutes each. The symposium started with opening remarks by Prof. Anurag Kumar, followed by an interesting presentation on the topology of strategically formed social networks (e.g., facebook) by Ramasuri Narayanam from CSA. This presentation set the tone for the excellent presentations by the students through the day, leading up to the panel discussion in the evening.

The panel discussion was led by Prof. Anurag Kumar, Chairman of the Division of Electrical Sciences. The panelists were Prof. Vinod Sharma, Chairman, ECE, Prof. Lawrence Jenkins, Chairman, EE, Prof. Y. Narahari, Chairman, CSA, and Prof. K. Gopakumar, Chairman, CEDT. The topics of discussion covered a wide range, including what ties us together as part of the Electrical Sciences Division, can we ever become one single department, what can be done to increase inter-departmental research interaction, how to keep one's core competencies while at the same time promote collaborative research, etc. The discussion was lively and had to be terminated at the end of the day.

The divisional symposium was very well attended on Saturday, perhaps partly because it being a holiday, more students and faculty were able to attend. The presentations were kick-started by Ajit Gupte with a summary of some novel algorithms for power reduction in video encoders, followed by seven more presentations. The final presentation, on nonlinear processing of EEG signals under experimental conditions, generated several questions and lively discussions. The divisional symposium ended with concluding remarks by the Prof. Anurag Kumar, echoing the sentiment of the audience that he looked forward to the symposium again next year!