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IISc student wins Yahoo! KSC award

BANGALORE, INDIA: Yahoo! India Research & Development today announced the winner of the Yahoo! Key Scientific Challenges (KSC) Honorable Mention Award for 2010-11.

Ramasuri Narayanam, a PhD student from the Department of Computer Science and Automation, Indian Institute of Science-Bangalore (IISc), was recognised for his research proposal on 'Game Theoretic models for Social Network Analysis' which discusses complex communication patterns among individuals in a network and measures the strength of relationships between connected individuals, said a press release.

The Yahoo! KSC Program is a core element of Yahoo! Labs' charter to support new scientific discovery that will contribute towards, or shape the next generation Internet. During 2010, 23 winners from 16 U.S. universities have been selected based on their research proposals on a variety of scientific issues, ranging from discovering insights into the effects of online advertising and defining new sociological models for how people engage with the Web, to mining personally relevant information from Web data.

Ramasuri is the only Indian national to win the Yahoo! KSC Award and he was selected from a short-list of six other candidates from different tertiary institutes. As part of the prize, Ramasuri will receive a cash payment to support his research activities.

"Yahoo! has always supported world-class science and research that enables Internet evolution. Our Key Scientific Challenges Program is a part of our academic relations initiative and we are thrilled to reward Ramasuri for his excellent submission, said Rajeev Rastogi, vice president and head of Yahoo! Labs, Bangalore.

"I am thrilled to be selected for the KSC Honorable Mention Award and would like to credit some of the success to the excellent guidance by Professor Y. Narahari and the research environment at the Department of CSA, IISc. I value the opportunity provided by Yahoo! to pursue my research that studies social relationships and interactions on the Internet," said Ramasuri Narayanam, the award winner.

The Key Scientific Challenges Program from Yahoo! was first launched in January 2009. It enables students from across the globe to work alongside Yahoo!'s leading scientists to solve fundamental challenges and potentially contribute to the next 'big thing' on the Web, the release added.

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