**Dr Srikanta Bandyopadhyay - MET 68, RP - on sabbatical in IIT Kgp Nov 06 – Jan 07**

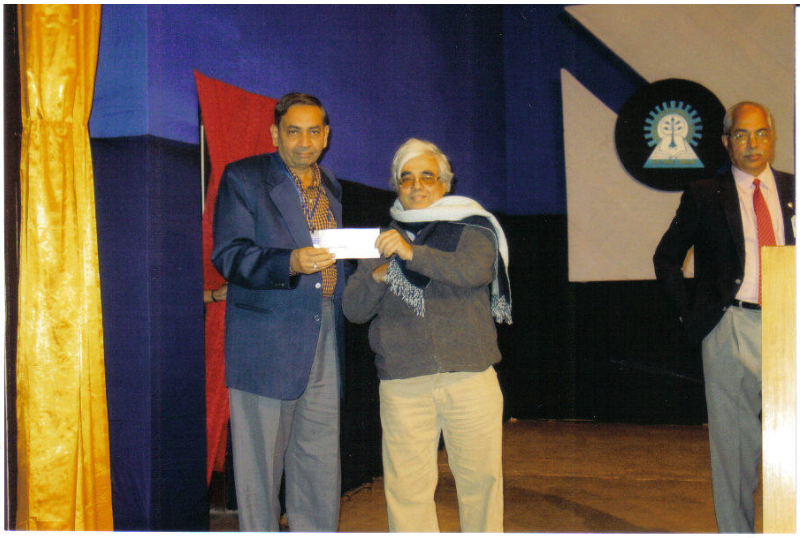
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During Nov 2006 - January 2007 I was a visiting academic at the IITKgp Materials Sci Centre **with Prof Ajit Banthia**. IIT kindly provided me a 2 Bedroom furnished quarter; This place was adjacent to the two restaurants Dreamland and Sahara where for Rs 20 you can have still have a filling big serve of chhole bature [ likewise other affordable dishes].

1. **The 4th Alumni meet during 6 -7 January** was a very good experience. Murmu and others made their presence felt – the Reg fee of Rs2K was very worthwhile. . [ I made an additional small contribution of Rs10K to IIT Alumni Assoc]. At the Alumni Meet, Prof M Chakraborty DD and the current Dean AA Prof Ajay Chakraborty made a very good arrangement.



Dr Sri Bandyopadhyay [left] with Prof B K Mathur [centre], and S Murmu
at the IIT Netaji Auditorium,4th Alumni Meet, 6 January 2007



Dr Sri Bandyopadhyay [middle] with Prof B K Mathur [left],
and Prof Asit Biswas at the IIT Netaji Auditorium, 4th Alumni Meet, 6 January 2007

The evening of 6 January had a musical program at the Netaji Auditorium mostly by students, and some alumnis. Your singing professor was urged to sing a few songs which he obliged including his Hindi composition on Sachin Tendulkar and Bengali song on Sourav Ganguly as well as the old film song 'Mera juta hai japanee' plus 'Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram'. After the musical evening we all went for dinner to our respective halls over camp fire - I went to RP; this was excellent. RP, RP everyone shouted – because the singing professor was their hero.





Dr Srikanta Bandyopadhyay, singing professor with harmonium, singing on stage in the Netaji Auditorium on 6 January 2007evening. A young student accompanying on guitar

The 7 January luncheon was held at the Vikramshila building - after lunch there was a 1-hour interaction between students and alumni - I was extremely impressed by the convention room in the new Vikramshila building which was typically UNO style meaning each seat is fitted with a microphone to interact. The students were very enthusiastic as was their leader VP Mr Deepak Rathi.



7 January 2007 Alumni Luncheon at the Vikramshila building

2. During my stay at IIT Vinod Gupta went to visit there, however I did not have an opportunity to meet him. I was surprised [or perhaps not] that my rickshawala also told me that Vinod gupta was in the campus on that day.

3. In mid January 2007, the Rubber Technology Centre, led by Prof Anil Bhowmick, organised their All- India Rubber Technology Workshop where they kindly invited me to be a Panel member on the 3rd day, and also give a solo singing program that evening at the Faculty Club. I met many other academics including Prof G B Nando and others



Dr Sri Bandyopadhyay [right] at the IIT All India Rubber Tech Convention, with Prof A K Bhowmick, and an Industry delegate from Holland, Jan 2007

4. I used to spend a bit of time in my old department, Metallurgy that is. Some old friends are still there as well as new faces. In the end, leaving IIT was not an easy thing. My professional part there was quite satisfactory - an international journal paper [on PVA – polytungstic acid composite laminates for fuel cells application authored by Mr Arfat Anis, Prof Ajit Banthia and Sri Bandyopadhyay] is ready for submission from the collaborative research produced during my stay there.

5. Prof Banthia's senior Ph d student Mr Arfat Anis is coming to my Dept at UNSW in March 2007 for 3 months in mid-March 2007 to work with me on polymer nanocomposites. Hope the collaboration will be productive too.

6. From India I went to ETH Zurich for 4 days, then spent 15 days with another IITian Prof Sudipta Seal at UCF USA in Orlando under an ARC / NSF Grant – on a collaboration in Nanotechnology. That is another story, if you like to know, tell me

Thank you for your time in reading this.
Regards- Srikanta Bandyopadhyay
IIT MET 68, RP
10 March 2007 Sydney.