

Golden Jubilee Celebration Conference

The Indian Association for Productivity, Quality and Reliability (IAPQR) has concluded its yearlong Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Founded in 1973 as a registered Society with full support from the Department of Statistics, University of Calcutta, the IAPQR landed in 2022-23 in its fiftieth year. The round the year celebrations included few on-line programmes in collaboration with several universities, departments and institutions within the country on a variety of topics besides an event with the Tampere University, Finland abroad. The climax of the landmark year was Golden Jubilee Celebration Conference(GJCC) on the theme “Productivity, Quality and Reliability: New Vistas” that was organized during January 7-8, 2023 in collaboration with the Sister Nivedita University(SNU), New Town , Kolkata within its premises. The conference had three broad subthemes such as Reliability and Survival Analysis, Improving Quality in Services, Productivity Improvement and on Data Analysis in Emerging Domains. Besides theoretical issues under the subthemes there were large number of contributions from the allied disciplines such as Information Technology, Management Science, Agriculture, Finance & Banking and Safety and Health issues in the area of Industrial Productivity.

The inaugural function of the conference was chaired by IAPQR’s mentor Prof S P Mukherjee. Chief Guest Mr Satyam Roy Choudhury, Founder Managing Director of Techno India Group and Chancellor of Sister Nivedita University could not make it to the inaugural session but provided his blessing and wishes through his message. Prof Dhruvajyoti Chattopadhyay, the Vice-Chancellor, SNU in his welcome address, greeted the participants and gave a brief outline of the Sister Nivedita University in his welcome address. He looked forward to a fruitful interaction with IAPQR. From the IAPQR side Prof Asis Chattopadhyay, General Secretary and presently Vice-Chancellor, University of Calcutta welcomed the audience and gave a brief outline of the growth and evolution of IAPQR on this momentous occasion. Prof Anupam Basu, the Pro Vice-Chancellor also spoke on the occasion and shared his experience on the issues of productivity, quality and reliability in the field of computer technology. An important item of this session was the release of the conference souvenir. Dr Biwswanath Das, Former Chairman of IAPQR who accomplished the difficult task of compilation of souvenir with large number pictures and historical anecdotes of IAPQR introduced the souvenir in a brief talk. The souvenir was then released by the Guest-in-Honour of the session Mr D P S Negi, Member (Finance), Prasar Bharati, and Government of India who provided his greetings and wishes to the organizers and hoped that the IAPQR will prosper further. Prof Srijib Bhusan Bagchi, Chairman, IAPQR in his remarks spoke on the contribution of IAPQR to the quality movement in the country and beyond ever since the inception. Prof Bagchi also handed over mementoes to the dignitaries on the Dias. Dr Goutam Banerjee, Convener of the GJCC provided the Vote of Thanks. Prof Sharmistha Banerjee

acted as the anchor of the inaugural session while Dr Anindita Ghoshal and her colleagues of SNU coordinated the session. Prof S P Mukherjee who chaired the session, later spoke to the media persons and his impressions were later telecast from the Door Dharshan channel of Kolkata.

The inaugural session was followed by P K Bose Memorial Lecture session in which two overseas participants gave lectures. The first was by Prof Malay Ghosh from Florida State University who spoke on Multivariate Global-Local Priors for Small Area Estimation. The second lecture was delivered by Prof Partha Lahiri, University of Maryland, USA. His topic was Multidimensional Poverty Mapping. Both papers dwelt on the small area estimation techniques at length. The P K Bose Memorial lecture session, a yearly programme of IAPQR was a sponsored session by L B Specialities, Mumbai. The plenary lecture of the day was delivered by Prof T V Ramanathan, S V Pune University who presented a Review on Some of the Recent Developments in the field of Credit Risk, which is a topic of currency, especially in the finance and banking sector.

The event in the post lunch session ran in eight parallel sessions namely Design of Experiment for Improving Quality, Quality Improvement in Higher Education, Probability Models, Information Technology: Some Issues, Data Analysis, Advanced Statistical Quality Control, Life Distributions and Productivity in Services

The second day of the conference started with a Special Lecture by Prof Partha Pratim Majumdar who spoke on the current limitations of statistical data analysis techniques in handling voluminous genomic data. He advised the need for development of newer statistical techniques to crunch on large data sets that genomic research generate. The plenary session of the day had two lectures on the role of innovation in productivity improvement. While Ms Dipanwita Chattopadhyay Chairman & CEO, IKP Knowledge Park, Hyderabad addressed the issues faced during the translation of innovation into productivity enhancement, Mr Sanjay Sikdar, Associate Partner - Data Modernization, IBMIndia, Kolkata addressed similar issues in the context of information technology sector. Both sessions were chaired by Prof Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Vice-Chancellor of SNU.

As in the first day, the lectures on the second day were divided into six parallel technical sessions namely Productivity in Agriculture, Data Analysis-New Applications, Inference I, SHE- In Industrial Productivity, Quality Improvement in Financial Services and Data Analysis II respectively.

The sessions on Agricultural Productivity, Quality in Higher Education, SHE in Industrial Productivity and Quality Improvement in Financial services were deliberated by hardcore professional of the respective domains. Mr R K Elangovan, Director General, Factory Advisory Service & Labour Institute (FASLI), Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, Mumbai chaired the session on Safety & Health issues in Industrial Productivity while Mr Bhaskar Sen, Retired Chairman & Managing Director, United Bank of India, Kolkata chaired the session on Quality in Financial Services. In this session, improving quality of services in the three major sectors: asset management, banking and insurance were deliberated. The session on quality improvement in higher education was chaired Prof Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Vice-Chancellor of SNU where in the quality of education in the digital age was also discussed.

On the application side, most papers highlighted the concerns of healthcare industry and the issues of job satisfaction, occupational stress and psychological wellbeing in different work settings and the productivity issues in the public domain. In the Statistics sessions, there were quite a few presentations on theoretical aspects from areas of Advanced SQC, Life distributions and Inference. From the Data Analysis side, a review paper presented that explored the application of directional data in management science and how data analysis can be employed in new applications such as the railway wagon wheel inspection problem.

The conference received financial support from the Tata Steel, Jamshedpur, L B Specialities, Mumbai and Gloster Limited, Kolkata. The programme was attended by about 120 participants from the premiere research and educational institutions such as Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata; Indian Institute of Technology, both Indore and Kharagpur; ISER, Mohanpur, West Bengal; IEST, Sibpur, West Bengal; DST-NATMO, Kolkata; IIT-ISM, Dhanbad; Indian Institute of Management- Ahmedabad, Kozhikode and Indore; Viswabharati University, Shantiniketan, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, University of Burdwan, Purba Bardhaman, Aliah University, Kolkata, Raiganj University, Raiganj Midnapur Collage(Autonomous), Medinipur all belonging to West Bengal and SV Pune University, Pune. Apart from the collaborating Institution of SNU, there were participants from privately funded universities namely Alliance University, Bengaluru; Ravenshaw University, Bhubaneshwar; and few healthcare companies such as the multinationals IQVIA and Inference Clinical Research Services Pvt. Ltd, Kolkata.

The conference came to close after a valedictory function in which participants were encouraged to round up their impressions about the event besides the leaders from both the collaborators: Sister Nivedita University and the IAPQR. A group photo of the participants was snapped at the end of the valedictory session to commemorate the milestone that the IAPQR touched in its 50th year of journey.