Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Robots, internet rule last day of IIT-B Techfest

TNN | Dec 29, 2015, 01.00 AM IST

MUMBAI: IIT-B's Techfest 2015-16, held in association with The Times of India, drew to a close on Monday with a celebration of wars between robots and people-powering technology, and a display of the latest breakthroughs in science and technology.

At one of the most awaited lectures of this year's Techfest, Eric Klinker, president and CEO of BitTorrent, spoke about the internet and its future. He addressed the topics of centralization of the internet, network neutrality and BitTorrent's recent and emerging developments, and also shared BitTorrent's vision of a "people-powered" internet.

Klinker spoke about how the internet leads to greater innovations as it is a network through which anyone can create and shared his thoughts on network neutrality, an on-going debate in India.

He also gave the audience an overview of BitTorrent's softwares, such as Sync for fast and private file-sharing, Bleep for secure communication without the use of a server and On-Air that broadcasts live at a low cost with no lags. He also introduced Project Maelstorm, an upcoming internet browser by BitTorrent. BitTorrent's aim, said Klinker, is to create a content addressable, peer-to-peer accessible and secure network platform for its users.

Other lecturers included Latif Nasser, director of research at Radiolab; Nik Powell, co-founder of Virgin Group; Roni Zehavi, CEO of Cyberspark; and Shai Reshef, president-founder of the University of People. Each of the speakers addressed different topics in the vast fields of innovation, technology and development.

Among the exhibits were Jinn Bot, the first Swiss 3D printed Walking Humanoid Robot; NASA Chondrobot, an automated robot capable of mining in lunar environments; Dutch Nao Team, an autonomous football-playing Nao Robots from RoboCup and Kilobots; and low-cost programmable Swarm Robots from K-team. Other exhibits included Poker Robot (Hungary), All Terrain Rescue and Relief Robot (Bangladesh), Minirobots (South Korea).

Like the past few years, Technoholix was a blend of science and technology with the additive ingredient of entertainment, in the presence of the world's renowned artists and their work. Among the artists was Afishal from the UK, the father of the unique technology of Visual DJ Drums. Having performed for the Royal Family of Britain and in Britain's Got Talent, Afishal showcased his class for the first time in India. Fireflies, a shadow theatre and dance company from Ukraine, took the novel, yet simple, idea of using the human body to create different shapes that challenged many a imagination.