Report on Aakash for Education Workshop

at Department of CSE, NIT Calicut

Venue: CSED Seminar Hall, 10-11 November 2012

Along with 250 technical institutions all over India, Department of Computer Science and Engineering at NIT Calicut also joined in the novel and unique initiative of Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Government of India by hosting the first workshop on the world renowned low-cost tablet computers Aakash. The workshop was conducted by IIT Bombay through distance mode, using the A-VIEW system. Main aim of the workshop was to introduce Aakash and its use to faculty members from various technical institutes in classroom teaching and learning.

The workshop started at 8AM of 10th Nov 2012 with the registration of 24 enthusiastic faculty members from various departments of NIT Calicut. The inauguration of the workshop by Prof. Devang Khakhar, Director IIT Bombay started at 9:05AM, followed by talk on Introduction to Aakash project by Prof. Deepak B Phatak. Later technical team from IIT Bombay demonstrated Aakash education applications.

After the tea break, Clicker application developed by IIT Bombay Aakash Project team was demonstrated and all the participants of the workshop successfully took part in the online quiz conducted by IIT Bombay using the Aakash tablets. The local server and the configuration were set up with the help of technical team from Campus Networking Centre of NIT Calicut. In the post-lunch session, details of Institutional participation in Aakash project and programming of C, C++, Python and Scilab using Aakash tablets were discussed, followed by limited interaction of participants with IIT Bombay.

On the second day 11th Nov 2012, the registration of individual teams formed among the participants for submitting the final assignments started at 8AM. Technical teams from IIT Bombay demonstrated more educational applications using Aakash tablets, followed by Prof. Uday Gaitonde's introduction on the forthcoming workshop using Aakash entitled "T10KT", Train 10 Thousand Teachers at the same time. From 11:30 AM all the participants of the workshop watched the Inauguration of National Education Day celebrations held at Vigjan Bhavan, New Delhi, in commemoration of Independent India's first education minister Sri. Moulana Abdul Kalam Azad. Honourable President of India, Sri. Pranab Mukherjee unveiled Aakash 2 tablets in that function.

Post-lunch session included more interactions with IIT Bomaby Aakash team and discussions on team project on Aakash. After the valedictory function, all the participants registered their feedback of the workshop through Moodle server at IIT Bombay and the workshop came to a successful end at 4:30PM of 11th Nov 2012, with the aim of contributing technically to the Aakash project from the faculty as well as students side of NIT Calicut.