

Open House for School Children

8th February 2010

An event titled “**Open House: Inspiring Young Minds**” was organized to attract young school children towards the areas of Science and Technology. It provided them with an excellent opportunity to meet and interact with IITK faculty members, researchers and students; they were also given a tour of the beautiful campus. This was only the second time in the history of IIT Kanpur that such a community outreach event has been organized. The first was held during the Silver Jubilee celebrations, 25 years ago.

Around 5000 higher secondary students (9th to 12th) from 50 schools participated in this event along with their teachers. School buses reached the campus in three different time slots and the students were formed into groups, with each group comprising 20 students. Each group had a post-graduate student volunteer guide who took them on an academic tour of the campus.

The 1200 acre campus was divided into two zones: the Academic Area and the non-Academic Area. Inside the academic area, students were taken on a guided tour of the departmental laboratories, with the state-of-the-art research facilities, the hi-tech computer center, the central library and the central workshops. Some exciting demonstrations of the major facilities were given by the IITK students and faculty coordinators to these young children. A poster session too, was specially arranged for them in the main Auditorium Ground where all the departments showcased their current research activities and the significance of their specialization.

There were several other interesting exhibits for the students such as the IIT Kanpur History Exhibition, the Hindi Cell stall, the NPTEL stall and the Student Gymkhana stall. Shiksha Sopan, an IITK based NGO, also set up a stall in the Students’ Activity Centre where they conducted several experiments to explain basic science concepts.

The event wasn’t all about science and technology, however. To give students an exposure to other aspects of development, the Health Center of the Institute, in association with the Adolescence Society, Kanpur and Raptakoss Brett and Co. organized an exhibition on Adolescent Health Issues in the Media Center grounds of IITK. The theme was ‘Yuva Bharat - Swastha Bharat’ (Young India-Healthy India).

Much to the delight of the school children, the organizers also attempted to give them a taste of hostel life. The tour included visits to Halls of Residence VII and VIII where

they directly interacted with the IITK students. Finally, an hour-long movie on the historical development of the Institute was screened in the Main Auditorium for the children. Environment friendly souvenirs, sponsored by the Alumni Association of IIT Kanpur, were distributed to the children when they left.

‘This is for the first time that I came to IIT. It’s an awesome feeling. We also got an opportunity to interact with some students here’, said one excited student. ‘I dream to be a part of this campus one day’, said another student.