The 2009 Civil Engineering Summer Camp was held from 3rd - 30th June 2009, at Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. IIT Kanpur and M/s Tandon Consultants Private Limited (TCPL), New Delhi have been jointly hosting this camp annually since 2001, for the second year undergraduate Civil Engineering students from across the country. The objective of the camp is to re-create the romance of Civil Engineering profession and motivate the participants to excel in this fascinating field of human endeavour. Its objective is to provide the students with an excellent opportunity to develop their personality and get a more meaningful exposure to Civil Engineering by interacting with leading professionals from the Industry and Institutions.

The 27-days long 9th Summer Camp kick-started in January 2009, with the sending of letters to the Principals and Heads of the Civil Engineering Departments of 435 colleges all over India. They were requested to forward applications of two best candidates of their colleges. About 250 applications were received from 106 colleges, out of which 66 students were selected on the basis of academic and curricular performance. Not more than one student was selected from any colleges including IIT Kanpur.

A total of 51 students (20 girls and 31 boys) participated in the camp. The participants were divided into 4 clusters viz., Darwin, Kelvin, Raman and Faraday.

Camp 2009 welcomed 18 distinguished speakers from the Industry and 6 faculties of IIT Kanpur, who addressed the students and opened windows to their particular areas of expertise in the Civil Engineering profession. In addition, the participants also contended keenly in 11 Civil Engineering Games which were held cluster wise. Various sports activities such as football, basket ball, cricket, table tennis, badminton, etc., were also conducted during the evening hours and competitions were held cluster wise.

In order to inculcate the qualities of leadership, a participant from each cluster was made the Camp leader for one week and the group leaders were rotated on daily basis, thus giving each participant an equal opportunity to develop their leadership skills.

Personality Development has been an integral part of the Camp since its inception. This year too, Ms. Rashmi Datt of Dialog, Gurgaon, conducted the Workshop on 4th - 5th June 2009. It is an eye-opener for the students since the program guides them in reinforcing the positive aspects of their personality, and the only regret expressed by one and all was that, it was for only 2 days.

A field-visit to Delhi was organized from 15th to 19th June 2009. During the field-visit, the students visited the construction site of the Signature Bridge, they observed the construction of Commonwealth Games projects, the construction being undertaken by DMRG in Lajpat Nagar and Laxmi Nagar area, the GTB Memorial being constructed by DTDC, etc. Visits to the Lotus Temple and the Akshardham Temple, unique examples of Construction Engineering, were also organized.

Like the previous year, there was a lecture by nutritionist Ms. Shipra Mathur of Personal Point, Kanpur. Her presentation provided the students with a wealth of information on the right mix of nutritious diet and regular workouts, which are essential to combat a sedentary lifestyle.

On 29 June 2009, the students showcased their talents through skits, songs and dances, riveting the audience with their time management, innovative ideas and high standard skills.

Camp 2009 has been supported by a number of prestigious Civil Engineering organizations, committed to their profession; some in the form of financial contributions and some by volunteering their time, and traveling all the way to IIT Kanpur to interact with the students for this unique venture. IIT Delhi provided invaluable help in arranging accommodation for the students and volunteers of Camp 2009 during the latter’s field visit to Delhi.

In conclusion, the success of Camp 2009 is a testimony to the commitment of the Civil Engineering profession for making an all-out, continuing effort to ensure that the budding engineers of tomorrow imbibe the romance, sense of accomplishment and fulfillment, dedication and perseverance that is inherent in the profession and use the same to build for posterity!