The Summer Camps over the last 7 years have been designed to provide an opportunity to budding Civil Engineers to appreciate that Civil Engineering is not a ‘dying’ branch of Engineering but a ‘happening’ branch.

The cornerstone of the Camp is the Industry-Academia Interaction through which students meet successful professionals in Civil Engineering.

The Summer Camp this year was held from 6th June to 3rd July 2007 and as in the previous 6 years, was organized jointly by IIT Kanpur (IITK) and Tandon Consultants Pvt Ltd, (TCPL) New Delhi. From across the country 38 students were selected for the Camp, including for the first time, a student from Cornell University, USA.

A team of 19 motivated volunteers (Civil Engineering post-graduate students) was engaged to handle activities ranging from registration, room allocation and distribution of material to the organization of lectures, games and sports and cultural activities.

This year the participants were lucky to be invited to the Rashtrapati Bhavan to meet the Hon’ble President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on the 29th June 2007 for an hour long interactive session with him. The President spoke for twenty five minutes on Vision India 2020 and the role of Civil Engineering in building the Nation.

A typical day for the participants began at 6:00 AM with the morning exercises. The pre-lunch session was dedicated to interactive lectures from practicing civil engineers invited from the industry and IITK faculty and project presentations by the participants.

Post-lunch the students watched interesting videos on historically important Civil Engineering projects and applied their mental agility and knowledge of Civil Engineering to games and quizzes. Evenings saw the participants on the field competing with each other in a variety of tournaments like badminton, football, etc. Post-dinner the students gathered for cultural activities and light entertainment. The day ended at 10:30 PM.

A total of 37 lectures were presented by dedicated Civil Engineering professionals representing 24 organization from the Industry and Academia during the 28 days of the summer camp 2007. Various disciplines of Civil Engineering were introduced and covered a wide range of topics that further showcased the current needs and challenges to build our nation.

The students got an opportunity to participate in various Civil Engineering Games such as Constructing a Bridge using wooden sticks, Construction of Retaining Wall using Flyash and tissue paper.

The students made presentations on live civil engineering projects being executed at their respective states/areas of residence. All of these presentations, games etc were evaluated and counted as a performance measure in identifying the best summer camper.

Field trips are an integral part of all Summer camps. Two trips were organized for the participants:

1. A short one day trip to Lucknow to learn about the Historical Civil Engineering structures of India. Mr. Mukul Singh from Gov. College of Architecture gave a lecture on historical and architectural aspects of Imamabadas of Lucknow, made in seventeenth century.

2. A week long trip to Delhi to experience the current state-of-the-art construction methodologies used in infrastructure projects. The students visited different project sites of PWD, such as Mukarba Chowk Interchange, Geeta Colony Bridge project, G.T.B Hospital Base Isolation project, and the office of Mr. R. Subramaniam, Engineer-in-Chief of PWD. A site visit to the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway was arranged by NHAI and a lecture was also presented by Mr. A.K. Sareen from DDA on “Planning of Games Village for Common Wealth Games” to the summer campers. They also had an hour-long interaction with Mr. E. Sreedharan, Managing Director, DMRC who motivated students to make a career in Civil Engineering.

Communicative skills and assertive attitude are important in all walks of life as demonstrated by Ms. Rashmi Datt for a period of two days. Actual real life scenarios were presented which helped them understand nuances of positive and negative behaviour and their repercussions. The workshop thus focused on the development of professional attitudes and the ability to work together as a team.
Specialists organized the sports activities during the summer camp, conducting various competitions for volleyball, basketball, badminton, table tennis etc. The winners were declared at the end of the camp.

Based on the overall performance of the candidates in personality development sessions, quizzes, laboratories and games. Best camper and 2 runner ups were selected from amongst the 58 students:

(1) Mr Ujjawal Mehta (Best Camper) from School of Building Science and Technology, CEPT Univ., Gujarat
(2) Mr V. Pramodh (First Runner up) from Hindustan College of Engg., Tamil Nadu.
(3) Mr. Rudrabir Ghanti (Second Runner up) from V. I. T., Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

Thanks to the spirited support of dedicated Civil Engineering professionals from the Industry and Academia, including apex bodies like the INAE, Summer Camp 2007 was an unqualified success.