

## Techkriti 2012 – Event Conduction Report

**Techkriti**, the annual technical and entrepreneurial festival of IIT Kanpur, was organized from **27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2012**. With 10000 plus online participation, including over **1000 participants from overseas** and **1500 participants** coming to **campus** from about 500 different colleges of India, including IITs, IIMs and NITs, the event was one of the biggest technical extravaganzas held in India. With a generous support from **sponsors** as well as IIT Kanpur administration, we were able to realize our dream of taking Techkriti to an all new level of excellence.

### 1. Competitions

Talent on full throttle participated in about 38 versatile events. Each event was made a benchmark with high standards, comprising of well thought of and innovative problem statements. The events held in Techkriti scrutinized not only profound scholarly knowledge but also intuitive and applicative dexterity. Continuing the legacy of unparalleled reputation from the past years we brought a multitude of events ranging from **SocCon: The Social Conquest** - biggest platform to **tackle social problems using technology**, **IDEAS** - India's biggest business plan competition which became the **1<sup>st</sup> B-Plan competition in India where 9 out of 10 finalists were funded and incubated**, Robogames – the robotics extravaganza, TakeOff - Aero modeling Competition, ECDC - Electronic Circuit Design Competition, IOPC - International Online Programming Contest - which saw a record **844 teams participating and 7 out of 10 top teams belonged to international universities**, IORC - Indian Open Rubik's Cube Challenge - that **3 national records** were created at the **India's biggest** cubing event, Endeavour - Open Hardware and Software Competition, Eureka - Paper Presentation Competition, Tremor - National Earthquake Design Championship, Gearloose - Mechanical Vehicle Design Competition, Software Corner, Junkyard Wars and many more which explored all possible arenas of Technology as well as Entrepreneurship. This year Techkriti was a perfect balance of fun filled competitions and mind boggling problems.

Many of our events had problem statements that were directly relevant to the industry and which attempted to solve one of the existing problems within their framework, like **Battlefield-Case Study Challenge** by **Harvard Business Review**, **South Asia & JK White Design challenge**. Judging also reached new standards with the best people from corporate like CEO of GE, Head of T-Labs, Vice president of Ericsson and academia coming over to our campus and gracing the event as Judges.



## 2. Talks

In the talks and panel discussions section, we had some of the most inspiring persons who graced us with their presence. These personalities were the ones who innovate and channelize thoughts of many to achieve laurels in the respective scientific fields thereby transforming thoughts.

The lecture & panel discussion series at Techkriti'12 is meant to provide an avenue to the student community to get acquainted with ideas on the frontiers of technology and entrepreneurship and to motivate them to refine their way of thinking. Talks in Techkriti'12 featured 14 one hour long lectures and a panel discussion as part of our India Innovators series. The highest degree of care was taken this time around to have the most diverse portfolio of speakers. There was at least one lecture for everybody- whether you are a mathematician, an economist, a physicist, an engineer or just an average student. We had big names like **Richard Stallman: Founder, GNU, Rollo Carpenter: Creator, Cleverbot, Deborah Berebichez: the Science Babe, Victor Hayes: The father of Wi-Fi, Chris Phillips: The Invisible Man, Deepak Mohanty: Executive director, RBI, Jack Gallant: Pioneer in Mind Reading, Sanjoy Mahajan: Street Fighting Mathematician, Philip Leduc: creator of world's smallest fuel cell, Marcus Norton: CIO, CDP Project, Richard Noble: THRUST SSC, Land Speed Record Vehicle, Dr. Pawan Agarwal: CEO, Mumabi Dabbawallas and Ramesh Raskar: inventor, faster than light camera— EyeNETRA, Ravi Gomatam: Macroscopic Quantam Physicist.**

This year's Talks witnessed a phenomenal turnout. All the talks saw an attendance in excess of 300 and some even reached the magic figure of 1000 which was unheard of in Techkriti till now.

**Entrepreneurs' Enclave:** Entrepreneurs' Enclave - a flagship initiative by Techkriti'12 provided a unique platform for the amalgamation of ideas of ingenious startups and noteworthy Venture Capitalists. Highly acknowledged VCs graced the event by their cogent ideas. The event featured short 10 minutes presentations by startups followed by a panel discussion of VCs.

The panelists for this year's edition were Mr. Ajay Sood (Vice president, Ericsson India), Mr. Gaurav Ahuja (Co- founder, Red Ginger Hospitality India Ltd), Mr. Anil Joshi (Head, Mumbai Angels) & Mr. Sujit Panigrahi (Co-founder and CTO, Convergent Technologies).



### 3. Exhibitions

Exhibitions at Techkriti'12 were a splendid display of the latest in technology from all over the world. International exhibitions this year featured **Nao Robots** (From France), **CityCluster Avatart** (a virtual reality system for networking between cities from Italy), **Rezero** (world's first ball-bot from Switzerland) and **PaPeRo** (emotionally intelligent robots from Australia) among others. Apart from these, two new adhoc segments were introduced this year- In-house exhibits which showcased IIT Kanpur's indigenous research and Indian Techies which had the desi innovators showing off their inventions.

For the very first time in Techkriti at such a big level, All the participants were provided 10\*10 feet octanorm stalls in the **Techplanet**- a completely waterproof hanger set up in the Media grounds especially for this purpose. Described by ET Now as **a scene straight from the sets of a sci-fi movie**, this imposing structure was a major centre of attraction for the crowd throughout the festival and saw an average daily attendance of around 2500 people.

### 4. Megaworld

Continuing with the legacy of MegaWorld, different events were organized across the 4 days of the festival, based on the concept of virtual currency called MegaBucks (MBs).

Events conducted this year were **I Need You, Age of MegaEmpires, The Price is Right, Informals, Pit Trading, Business Tambola, Scavenger Hunt, Treasure Hunt, Lottery, Horse Race Betting**. Two **new events were introduced** namely, 'The Price is Right' based on popular US game show and 'Pit Trading' (real scale offline version of stock market). All these events like previous years were well appreciated and each got good participation.

### 5. Fun@Techkriti

To add enjoyment and spice in the moments of intense competition and fervor, we had **Fun@Techkriti** - a section of events featuring fun activities like Paintball, Human Foosball, Zorbing, Sumo Wrestling, Board Games Corner, Casino among many others!

And for the very first time it was all **free** for everyone.



## 6. Shows

For the very first time **each night** in Techkriti'12 featured a professional show to help everybody unwind after the technical and entrepreneurial rigors of the day.

The festival was opened by **Spontaneous Fantasia- a real time 3D animation show**. Performed by **J-Walt** - graphic artist from Los Angeles, this show is said to be the equivalent of a Pink Floyd concert only updated to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It was seen by a staggering crowd of 3000 people.

The revelry continued on the second night with performances by **Art4Dance- a group of professional acrobats** from different corners of the world. This show consisted of **Silk Acrobatics, LED Robot Dance** and **a fire show**. The 2000 strong crowd simply went mad on seeing 12 feet long dancing LED robots, gravity defying feats of the silk acrobats almost 40 feet above the ground and the unimaginable maneuvers of the fire dancers.

The third night featured a **Hand Shadowgraphy act** by the world renowned artist **Mr. Amar Sen**. Nurtured only by only a handful of individuals around the world, Hand Shadowgraphy is a rare art form where shadow images are created with bare hands only. Amar Sen left the crowd flabbergasted with his dexterous hand movements and at other times had them splitting their sides with laughter.

The festival ended with a mesmerizing **live concert** by **Kailash Kher**. The soulful master singer had the 8000 strong crowd of students from all over India swaying to some his most popular songs for two hours and still left everybody wanting for more in the end.

In the end, Techkriti'12 was a magnificent success and a true celebration of **Technical and Entrepreneurial Spirit at its best!**

