



Dr. Sunil Karad

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ABU ASIA-PACIFIC ROBOT CONTEST
ROBOCON
2018

PUNE - INDIA

Dear Sir/Madam,

The technology today is developing at a rapid pace. In this era of globalization, the exchange of knowledge and skills has given a further fillip to the exponential growth in the field of technology. Such phenomenal advancements have revolutionized almost every sphere of human life today. The emerging disciplines like Robotics and Artificial Intelligence have brought in many possibilities and opportunities for us to explore the various ways in which technology can be developed and utilized for the well being of mankind. It is imperative for the developing countries like India to excel in these disciplines if they wish to reach the level of other developed nations. The events like Robocon play a crucial role in nurturing the youth, the budding engineers, and to foster their skills in Robotics. It gives them a platform to learn and explore this field and develop insights into the interdisciplinary approach to technology.

Robocon India started in 2002 with merely three participating teams. Later the Doordarshan of India, in collaboration with the MIT group of Institutions, notably the MIT Academy of Engineering (MITAOE) Alandi (D), Pune brought this number to 110 in the National Robocon held at Shiv Chatrapati Krida Sankul, Balewadi, Pune in March 2017. The national winner, College of Engineering, Pune represented India in the International ABU Robocon 2017, held in Tokyo, Japan recently. It was a grand show and those of us who attended it, realized how much we Indians need to work and coordinate our effort to be competitive on the global platform.

I am glad to announce that the next International Robocon 2018 will be hosted by the ABU at NinhBinh, Vietnam. The concept of the ABU Robocon 2018's Theme & Rules is based on an interesting folk game called "Shuttlecock Throwing". "**NÉM CÒN**" The Festival Wishing Happiness and Prosperity is on the fast development track. The heart and soul of this game is the Shuttlecock. The shuttlecock is an object made of cotton balls or filled with rice husks, symbolizing prosperity and happiness. To select the Indian participation, the National Robocon will be held from 1st to 3rd March 2018 at the Shiv Chatrapati Krida Sankul, Balewadi, Pune. Further details about the theme and game rules are available on www.robconindia.com & <http://www.aburobocon.net>. The Winner of the National Robocon 2018 will represent India in the International Robocon 2018 to be held at **NinhBinh, Vietnam** in August 2018.

The event is a great festival for exchange of technological know-how and sporting spirit. It has been our pleasure to watch students taking the initiative to participate with a high degree of improvisation each year. They need to be encouraged so that they may bring India to the level she richly deserves. I cordially invite all the enthusiasts to participate with full vigor in this celebrated event which can give immense exposure and global opportunities to our youth.


Dr. Sunil Karad

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