

NC1 | January 2021



NITCONNECT



A T W E L F T H M I L E P R O D U C T I O N

Hello, world.

NITCAA presents the first edition of our newsletter - NITConnect.



TIME TO BELONG.

FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

It is with profound pleasure, humility and anticipation that we celebrate the launch of NITConnect with this inaugural issue. On behalf of NITCAA, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the readership of this Newsletter and NITC Alumni from all over the globe.

NITConnect's goal is to become the primary forum for our global community of 30,000 alumni to keep abreast of the latest happenings at NITC, in the various Alumni Chapters around the world, and to celebrate alumni who achieve excellence in their chosen fields.

While Alumni outreach and Institute / Alumni connect will be the cornerstones of this quarterly newsletter, we welcome contributions that are relevant to our readership and captures the zeitgeist of the age.

NITConnect will be published in electronic form to ensure rapid dissemination, and distribution of this inaugural issue will be via the various alumni chapters, email groups & other social media. The newsletter will migrate to its permanent home on the NITCAA website as soon as the same is launched.

We close this editorial by inviting all NITC Alumni to support your Newsletter with your time, contributions, suggestions and by spreading the word in your respective alumni circles. Your newsletter will only grow with your blessings.

We hope to hear from you soon, and we welcome your valuable feedback! If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please address them to hariborg@gmail.com

Thank you. We hope you will find NITConnect to be enjoyable and informative.

NITConnect EDITORIAL TEAM

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Chief Editor

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Batch 2007 (Architecture)
Creative Director

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Alumni Affairs Secretary

NITCAA

OF THE ALUMNI, BY THE ALUMNI, FOR THE ALUMNI

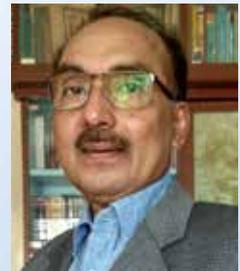
The year 2003. Regional Engineering College (REC), Calicut was upgraded to a National Institute of Technology (NIT), like all other RECs and came under the direct control of the Union Government. And with this, the NIT Calicut Alumni Association (NITCAA) began its march to its current form.

But how did it all begin?

The erstwhile REC Calicut, now known as NIT Calicut (NITC), was established in 1961 and currently offers undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral research courses in several engineering and science streams. In the years since the first batch graduated in 1966, NITC has amassed over 30,000 alumni around the world.

The path to setting up NITCAA came early on with a rudimentary 'Regional Engineering College Calicut Alumni Association (RECCAA)' being formed on campus through the efforts of some faculty members and alumni in Calicut. Having remained dormant for a long time, attempts to revive the association was initiated on 4th September 1983 with a general body meeting held on campus, the formalisation of a constitution and the election of an executive committee. Unfortunately, the revived RECCAA also remained practically dormant for years to come.

The 2000s saw things evolve and local alumni chapters were established in many cities. Most importantly, since 2001, several world alumni meets, known as World NITCAA Meets (WNMs), have been successfully hosted by the local alumni associations. The first WNM was in Muscat, followed by Chennai, UAE, Cochin, Bengaluru, Goa (Mumbai) and Calicut.



John Joseph
Batch 1972 (Mechanical)
Past President



Given that the parent body of RECCAA was not very active and did not involve the local associations in its affairs, a World NITCAA Council (WNC) representing all chapters was formed on the sidelines of WNM 2013 in Bengaluru, with John Joseph of Mumbai chosen as its first chairman. It was at WNM 2013 that the new association named NITCAA, instead of RECCAA, was conceptualized. It received its form during WNM 2016 in Goa and took final shape during WNM 2018 in Calicut. NITCAA was registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act of Kerala.

The first NITCAA AGM was held during WNM 2018 and a Governing Council of the Apex Body was



WNM 2016 at Goa: NITCAA took form

WNM 2018 at Calicut: First AGM



formed with nine members elected by the general body, two members nominated by the NITC Director and two members to be nominated by the NITCAA President. The Governing Council in turn elected the first Executive Board comprising of John Joseph (Mumbai) as President, K.S. Sudhakaran (Bengaluru) as Vice President, Nityanand Kamath (Calicut) as Hon. Secretary, Joseph Philip (Cochin) as Hon. Joint Secretary and M.A. Naseer (NITC) as Hon. Treasurer. All Presidents and Secretaries of the chapters were inducted as ex-officio members of the council. The composition of office-bearers show, for the first time, that NITCAA has gone pan-Indian. The first Board had three major achievements:

- Establishing systems and procedures for the conduct of meetings, and proper documentation of all activities.
- Integrating all chapters as active partners in all NITCAA affairs and increasing NITCAA footprint and visibility.
- Initiating NITCAA projects in the NITC campus.



MoU signed between NITC & NITCAA establishing NITCAA as an Authorized Entity

MOTTO

"Of the alumni, By the alumni, For the alumni"

VISION

NITCAAs vision is to champion a lifelong relationship between NITC and its alumni and to inspire, care and empower all NITC students (past, present and future).

MISSION

NITCAAs mission is to remain a dynamic organization that recognizes and uses the valuable resource of NITC alumni. The mission is also to serve as the primary link between NITC and alumni across the globe, involving the alumni in the advancement of NITC programmes, instilling a sense of belonging to the alma mater and maintaining a lifelong relationship among all alumni.

NITCAA Proposes

- To increase members' participation in all activities at the Apex Body and chapter levels.
- To start new chapters.
- To attract younger members.
- To encourage registration of chapters to achieve better governance.
- To have websites of all Chapters linked to NITCCAA website.
- To have better communication among chapters on all major events.
- To induct more non-Kerala members, since 50% of NITC students and alumni are from outside Kerala.
- To recognize the professional achievements of alumni in various fields (along the lines of the Padma awards).
- To increase the corpus.
- To engage alumni as visiting faculty at NITC.
- To start institute-industry joint projects and programmes.
- To have better institute-alumni interaction.
- To ensure active involvement of alumni and faculty in all NITCAA affairs.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

NITCAA's guiding principles are:

- Build relationships and a sense of camaraderie among the students and alumni.
- Create a platform to enable alumni to actively promote the NITC brand.
- Establish NITCAA as an essential partner of the institute.
- Support NITC to achieve educational and research excellence.
- Consciously promote the personal and professional development of NITC students and alumni.

STAY CONNECTED

All students graduating from NITC automatically become members of NITCAA. Alumni can participate in all programmes and projects of NITCAA parent body and the chapters. Alumni can join any of the 18 existing chapters, which are independent in structure and administration. The 18 chapters are –Trivandrum, Kottayam, Cochin, Calicut, Kannur, Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune, Mumbai, Delhi NCR, Eastern India, Singapore, Muscat, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, USA and Canada. More chapters are in the pipeline.

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

A formal agreement executed between NITC and NITCAA on 25 February 2020, signed by the then NITC Director and NITCAA President, paved the way for the alumni to carry out projects and programmes at the Institute.

Some of the NITCAA projects completed or in progress are the Creative Zone, Gazebo, 350 Laptops for needy students, Centre of Excellence and Amphitheatre. More are underway. All chapters have their own projects and programmes, which are supplementary and complementary to the Apex Body initiatives.



A Gazebo, the 'MAITRI' in front of the Main Canteen. One of the first projects executed by NITCAA - contributed by the batch 1964-69

WAY FORWARD

With the initiative of the current President K.S. Sudhakaran, the Governing Council approved the formation of several committees headed by prominent alumni leaders to take NITCAA forward. The committees and their chairpersons are:

Alumni digital engagement platform, expansion of NITCAA chapters:

K.Vijayaraj, Chennai

Development of assets and collaboration: John Joseph, Mumbai

Knowledge bank: Tom Joseph, USA

Young alumni forum: Amarjit Singh, Bengaluru

NITCAA newsletter: Harikrishnan B, Mumbai

NITCAA website: Sreejith Nair, Bangalore

Law and statutory regulations: P. Somasundaran, Calicut

Finance: Dr. Deepak Lawrence K, NITC

NITCAA global entrepreneur network: K.S. Sudhakaran, Bengaluru

NITCAA OFFICE

NITCAA office in the NITC campus is managed by Radhakrishnan Nair, ex. Indian Air Force. Alumni are encouraged to contact the office through email nitcaa@nitc.ac.in or nitcaa.office@gmail.com



GREETINGS!



K S Sudhakaran
Batch 1975 (Mechanical)
President NITCAA

It gives me immense pleasure in addressing all the Alumni across the globe through this platform of NITConnect.

NITConnect, as the name suggests, will be the medium through which NITCAA will connect with all the alumni directly, through the chapters and the batches. Alumni generally have their affinity towards their respective batches, however, NITCAA is a platform to unite all batches together and create a larger one to interact with other batches irrespective of their chronology.

It is a matter of great pride that the Alumni of NITC are global citizens and they contribute immensely to engineering fraternity to the benefit of the mankind. We, at most of the times, are unaware of the contributions our fellow alumni have made and the accolades they have received.

NITConnect is the platform in airing these accomplishments and make us proud of our fellow Alumni.

NITCAA, whose motto is - Of the Alumni, By the Alumni, For the Alumni - truly comes alive when NITCAA members are connected, exchange ideas, share pleasant memories through a medium like a Newsletter which we call NITConnect.

NITCAA believes that - TOGETHER WE GROW FASTER, STRONGER AND HIGHER.

NITCAA support the concept of ENABLING LEADERSHIP AMONG ALUMNI.

Alumni are the BRAND AMBASSADORS of any Institution.

“

Nobody is bothered about an institution more than its Alumni

-N R Narayana Murthy”

What a statement! NITCAA would live up to this statement.

NITCAA GENERAL COUNCIL 2020-22 assumed office on the 22nd August, 2020 and we decided to have various committees for the effective and result oriented administration of the different activities of NITCAA. One such committee is the Newsletter.



This is the first edition of NITconnect. I sincerely hope you will welcome this edition with a sense of upbeat.

WORLD NITCAA MEET (WNM) is a great occasion to meet, greet and reconnect with our batchmates as well as have camaraderie with fellow Alumni. It is also an event where we enhance our network for our personal and professional benefits. We should have had our customary WNM2020, however the same had to be withdrawn due to the current pandemic situation. NITCAA GC is working to conduct one in 2021 the modalities of which will be conveyed at appropriate time through NITConnect itself.



NITCAA and NIT Calicut signed an MoU on Jan 20th, 2021 to start an IoT lab, Lab-8085, sponsored by the 1985 Batch of NITC

100 Laptop Project sponsored by 1993-97 ECE Batch



I take pleasure to announce that NITCAA GC 2020-22 successfully implemented the project of 100 LAPTOP initiated and funded by ECE Batch 1993-97 in November, 2020. After the success of this project, NITCAA received a request to further support NITC with additional 250 Laptops to the needy and the deserving students. NITCAA Alumni across all the batches around the world supported this venture and these laptops are under execution as of now. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the Alumni for having supported this noble venture which happens to be the single largest project in monetary terms in the history of NITCAA.

NITCAA has signed an Agreement with Batch 1980-85 to establish Centre of Excellence at NITC under the name and style of LAB 8085, with a focus on IoT (Internet of Things).

NITCAA has also signed another agreement with Batch 1989-93 to construct an Amphitheatre at the NITC premises, the details of which we will publish in due course.

NITCAA pays homage to the memory of our alumni friends who lost their lives of natural illness and due to this current pandemic. May their souls rest in peace and pray their families gather strength to bear the irreplaceable losses.

I take this opportunity to wish NITConnect and the Committee Chairman, Harikrishnan along with his team all success in this venture.



Dr. Sathidevi P.S.
Director-in-Charge
NIT Calicut

“*I think the success of any school can be measured by the contribution the alumni make to our national life*”

John. F. Kennedy

National Institute of Technology Calicut (formerly Calicut Regional Engineering College) boasts of having a vibrant alumni network with over 30,000 members spread all around the globe. Our alumni are responsible global citizens who have made significant contributions to the progress of countries in various arenas all over the world. It is a matter of immense pride that the alumni from undergraduate, postgraduate, and research programs of the institute have made their mark in their career paths, thanks to the culture of professionalism and cohesiveness instilled in them during their stay in the institute. Being an alumna of this institute, I am sure that it has helped its graduates identify their career paths and have provided the required impetus for their professional growth. In this context, I am delighted to inform that in the past two years, the national ranking of NIT Calicut in the Engineering stream (according to the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)) has improved significantly to 23 in the year 2020 (from 28 in 2019 and 50 in 2018). In the

Architecture stream, NITC has been consistently ranked 3rd nationally, in the years 2020 and 2019. All these achievements would not have been possible if not for the untiring efforts of all the stakeholders of the institute, where the alumni have a major role.

The contributions of our alumni towards the myriad developmental activities in tangible and intangible spheres is commendable: mentoring programs, workshops and talks, scholarships, creative zone and ‘Gazebo’ are a few among the long list of contributions from the alumni. In these difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic, the magnanimity shown by the alumni in channelling their resources into providing laptops for the needy students for online learning deserves appreciation. I am glad to learn that NITCAA has already initiated a few more projects such as the contribution of an IoT Lab and an amphitheatre to the institute. The initiatives taken by the NITCAA in channelling the efforts of the alumni stationed all over the globe towards a fruitful completion deserves immense appreciation.

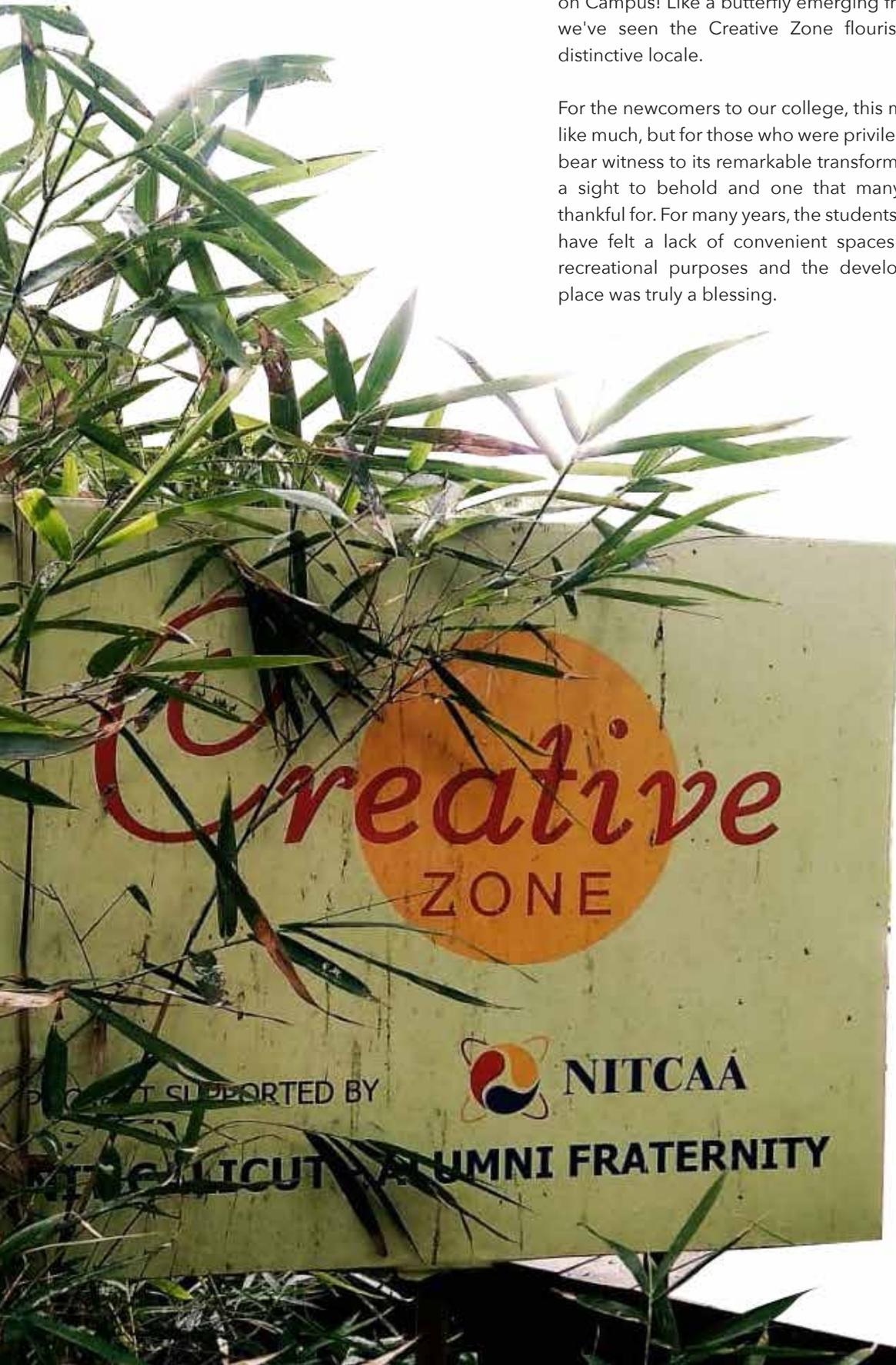
The endeavour by the NITCAA to come out with the Newsletter of NITCAA - NITConnect is remarkable and will have my unwavering support. I also sincerely hope that many more editions of newsletter would be published towards connecting the alumni with each other and with the institute.

THE CREATIVE ZONE

Nicolas Idelson Nhalungo
4th Year Biotechnology

Who would have imagined that the unnoticed piece of land situated just behind the basketball would quickly metamorphose into one of the most prominent places on Campus! Like a butterfly emerging from its cocoon, we've seen the Creative Zone flourish into a truly distinctive locale.

For the newcomers to our college, this might not seem like much, but for those who were privileged enough to bear witness to its remarkable transformation, it is truly a sight to behold and one that many students are thankful for. For many years, the students of our campus have felt a lack of convenient spaces equipped for recreational purposes and the development of this place was truly a blessing.

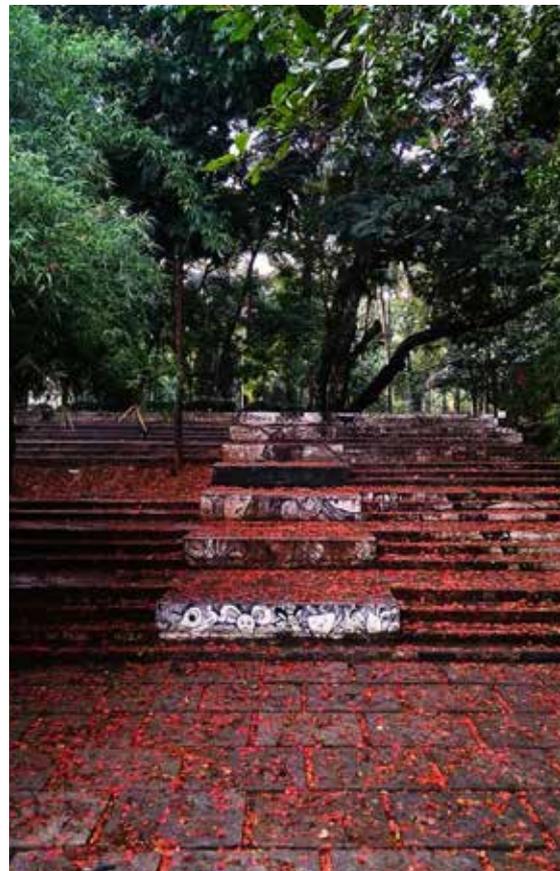


When the NITC alumni decided to "give back" to the institute, Mr. Abdul Hameed (a EEE graduate-turned-architect) and Nityanand Kamath proposed the construction of a place for the students and alumni alike to meet, ideate or simply relax. Dr. Anjana Bhagyanathan, a freelance architect-turned-faculty of our college was called in as the landscape architect for the endeavour - who I sat down with and who kindly shared her vision and future plans for the space. "Take it as an empty canvas," she said, "a space created primarily to encourage and ferment the students' creativity as well as a communal place for students to meet and spend quality time together".

Dr. Anjana went on in a more detailed account to describe the Creative Zone as a character that should take on a new persona with every event conducted there. "The space becomes much more meaningful when you make good use of it", Dr. Anjana added further. With the strongest support from Professor Ashok S, the project was completed in three and a half months, to be inaugurated during the World NITCA meet 2018.

Bearing this in mind, one can definitively say we're heading in the right direction with the Creative Zone changing its tone according to the events being conducted - from open-mic events like Hakuna Matata hosted by the AV Club and 'Carpe Diem' conducted by the ICA, to SAC meetings to discuss ongoing issues. Who would have thought that the Creative Zone could be used as such a unique platform for so many different outlets? By serving as a platform for self-expression, the Creative Zone in recent times has also acted as an active venue to raise varied opinions on pressing issues happening within and outside the campus. In daring times when people seek to be heard and stand up for what they believe in, it is empowering to know that such a space exists for the student body to come together and speak out.

Each aspect of the space has a reason and purpose behind it. From the thin partitioned walls to the open space including the large steps, every spot is meant to be utilized in new and imaginative ways. Even though the construction was quite rapid (the final design was approved by the end of April and the grand opening was



early August), Dr. Anjana also revealed that the construction is not complete yet. Many may have noticed plug points and a few washbasins located in the area. These fittings were not just put up for the show but portend something even grander. The final design had also featured a coffee shop, something the student body would greatly enjoy and add more life to the already vibrant Creative Zone. Additionally, she even suggested that it could be a project that young architecture students could work on, similar to what had been done in the Main Canteen walls.

Together, the team approached our Director who immediately allocated the available land beside the basketball court for the construction of the space. The design of the Creative Zone was done in a way that avoided disturbing the land as much as possible, implementing a minor scale version of the Miyawaki method. The Miyawaki method is of reconstitution of "indigenous forests by indigenous trees" and produces a rich, dense and efficient protective pioneer forest in 20 to 30 years - a plan she keenly would like to employ in a larger and more

open area within the campus. With the deck being made from the timber of demolished houses and leaving room for more trees and vines ("Imagine the pergola decorated with passion fruit vines"), the design team brings forward an eco-friendly initiative to create unique spaces within the campus while still preserving the nature around it. She added that she would hopefully like to see around 30 fruit trees planted from wild and native species.

In conclusion, one could unquestionably say that the Creative Zone is more than just a recreational centre, rather, it has rapidly become a central melting pot of the entire campus and occupies an ever-growing place in our hearts. "The space is a skeleton and the students should give it the flesh". With such ingenuity, this current project leaves us wondering if we could see more such initiatives around campus whether built from the ground up or revamped with a refreshing twist. Dr. Anjana hopes to see the Zone grow with time and being used more creatively and she is open to all sorts of ideas.



Confessions of a Celloholic

Uma Damodaran
3rd Year EEE

Note to the readers: This article will be relatable to only those who spend insane amounts of time on their phones, if you're not one of them, skip to the end. You are already cured! Following is the story of how I went through the 5 stages of nomophobia/grief.

"Bet you can't beat my 18hr a day screen time, you lil duck!". What started as a simple and ridiculous challenge posed to be more competitive than we realized. (In case you didn't know, we can check our daily phone screen time using android's digital wellbeing feature. Go check it out now!). Of course, we couldn't beat an 18 hr a day challenge (hello! I sleep 10 hrs a day), but the average amongst our friends stood at a whopping 10-12 hrs daily. I was sceptical at first, who the hell looks at their phone so much? until I looked at mine to realize it was 13 hrs and 18 mins a day. Thus, started the first stage of my grief. Denial.

I tried to blame it on online classes, except the most viewed app on my phone was Netflix and I use my laptop for WebEx sessions. I could blame it on corona and my lack of human interaction, except every time we go out, almost everyone is on their phones, taking pictures and updating social media. Let's all admit it, we can't live without our phones, and if you are someone who can, I salute you.



Moving on to the other stages, anger mixed with bargaining. Anger at myself mostly, I would not be taken down by a piece of technology. I tried a couple of things to reduce my phone usage (things I found on my phone when I googled it). They said to try to enjoy the beauty of nature. I went outside, sat on my veranda expecting to hear the slow chimes of the wind and the rustle of leaves. Turns out that only works in movies and books, all I could hear were the barking of my dog and a stray dog, while they tried to carry a conversation through a closed door. Trust me, not as melodious as it sounds. I realized what would make this scene perfect. M.U.S.I.C. I went inside, got my phone, opened my Spotify and started a nature playlist (It has a playlist for everything, amazing!) Not bad no?

Next, they said to try to read books. Online books out of the equation, physical books or their lack thereof in my house posed a problem. Borrowed a kindle from my neighbour and started reading. Kindle screen time is 70 %t less harmful than phones and TVs. Minor success?

Tried to do a couple of DIY challenges, realized quickly that I needed Pinterest. Realized I couldn't paint unless you count spilling watercolours on your bedsheet as art. Realized instead of calling people, video calling was much better. Finally decided to exercise, only to google Chloe Ting or Pamela Reif on YouTube.

Started using my Netflix and Google on my laptop instead of the phone. Surprisingly (not really), my screen time went down a couple of hours, which totally counts as an improvement. Nobody could tell me otherwise, except for my overstrained eyes and recurring headaches. Everything was fine. Fine.

Next came depression. Cut down on my social media, 'No new notifications' became my norm. Something that should have filled me with satisfaction became a source of loneliness. I started checking my phone every hour to see if there were any new messages (according to a recent study people open their phones 150 times a day), started stalking Instagram celebrities that I don't even like. The inability to sleep without watching a couple of episodes of whatever I'm binge-watching at the moment

and then lying with the phone a few feet away from me became the new custom.

And finally, acceptance. Yes, mobile phones are a necessity in these times. The only way to stay connected, the best way to get updated with all the recent news, the only mode of communication for some. And yet, knowing all this still doesn't make me wish any less that it didn't have the power to control me so. It suffices to say that a major portion of my day is spent fixating on my phone.

Recently my mom had to give a presentation to her boss stating why work from home was the new golden standard for office productivity and why they needed to continue it even though other offices have started to bring back employees. The only thing that I saw was more hours communicating through the phone than in person. (yes, this is a dangerous time, but still, the thought of more online hours spent brooding over our devices is scary and inevitable at the same time.)

The average amount of time people our age spend on the phone is 7hrs and 22 mins. What can I say? Reduce the brightness on your screen, set alarms for when you've exceeded your time limit on your phone, try to not use it at night, I could give a myriad of precautions that none of us, including me, will ever take. Take a break, check your screen time and decide for yourselves. (acknowledging the problem is the first step, ha-ha) Stay safe, stay happy.



COVID-19 RELATED INNOVATIONS AT NIT CALICUT

NIT Calicut played a lead role in developing innovative solutions to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, through its in-house research and innovation. A low cost 'Artificial Respirator' with exhaled air disinfectant was developed and the same was transferred for commercialisation through Kerala State Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. The Institute has also developed an aerosol box, based on specific requirements proposed by Govt. Medical College Kozhikode and distributed many units to Government hospitals. The Institute has also developed 3D Printed Reusable PLA Face Shields and N95 Masks for use during the time of the pandemic. The Institute developed a nasal air filter, and fabricated UV disinfection chambers and automatic Baggage Sanitization Machine, for disinfecting files and baggage respectively. M/s. Iris Alternative solutions, an incubatee of TBI (Technology Business Incubator), NIT Calicut developed a foot operated hand & face wash system named and marketed as "Iris Lowt".



COCHIN CHAPTER

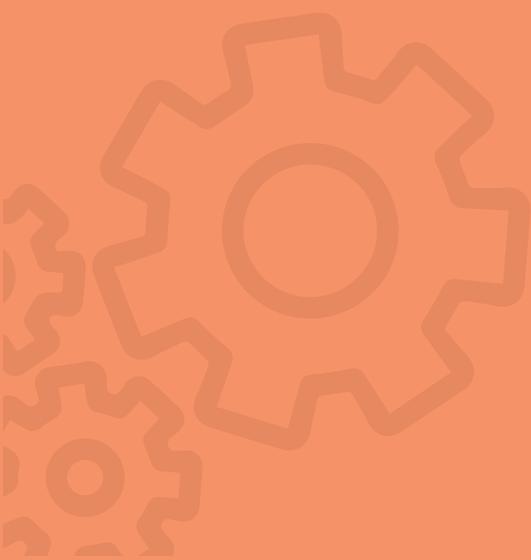
The Chapter hosted Webinars on "Artificial Intelligence - A Bane or Boon for Sustainable Development", "Energy Saving at Home". The Chapter celebrated 'NITCAA Day' on 26th Jan'21 at the RECCA Club. This event also encompassed the General Body Meeting of the Chapter, the handing over ceremony of NITCAA Tower & distribution of scholarships to needy students.



MUMBAI CHAPTER

During these Covid times, the Chapter has focussed on delivery of relevant online content via Webinars conducted by domain experts. Recent webinars have included "Role of Engineers in the Ensuing Energy Transition" and "Solar Photovoltaics - An Endless Energy Provider for Sustainable Development".

The Chapter celebrated our annual New Year and Christmas festivities on 19th Dec'20 via online medium and look forward to conducting our traditional Charity activities in the coming months.



SINGAPORE CHAPTER

Singapore has had REC/NITC alumni grouping for more than 25 years. In 2019, with the encouragement from the NITCAA apex body, this grouping was made into a formal group by registering the NITCAA in Singapore. With more than 120 alumni in the group, the chapter is looking forward to the easing of Covid restrictions to organize more activities and engage with all alumni and their family.



NITCAA Singapore conducted two online sessions in the last quarter, both of which were well participated by alumni members. The panel discussion on entrepreneurship had NITC alumni entrepreneurs sharing their experiences and the support available for aspiring entrepreneurs. This session had a great outcome with alumni members offering to be mentors to those who are aspiring to do start-up.

The other session on personal branding using LinkedIn had the participants exchanging the thoughts on social media networking. LinkedIn social selling index was a new concept for the participants, which measures the effectiveness in establishing your professional brand, finding the right people, engaging with insights, and building relationships.



UAE CHAPTER

NITCAA UAE Chapter has been very active with members celebrating "Onapooram" - Onam on Zoom with several online games, dances & quiz.

Meanwhile our cricket team, led by Kumar, has been doing extremely well in the local tournaments.

And our members have been very active in social activities like Blood Donation drives as well.



CHENNAI CHAPTER



KANNUR CHAPTER



RECCAA to NITCAA

....THE JOURNEY



Nityanand Kamath
Chairman World
NITCAA Council 2016-18
Secretary NITCAA 2018- 20

We all are proud of the way NITCAA is shaping up into a vibrant Alumni body with immense potential to contribute to our Alma Mater, to support both the student and Alumni fraternity and to uplift Brand NIT Calicut. NITCAA in its current form has evolved over a period of time. Not many will know about the transformation from RECAA to NITCAA.

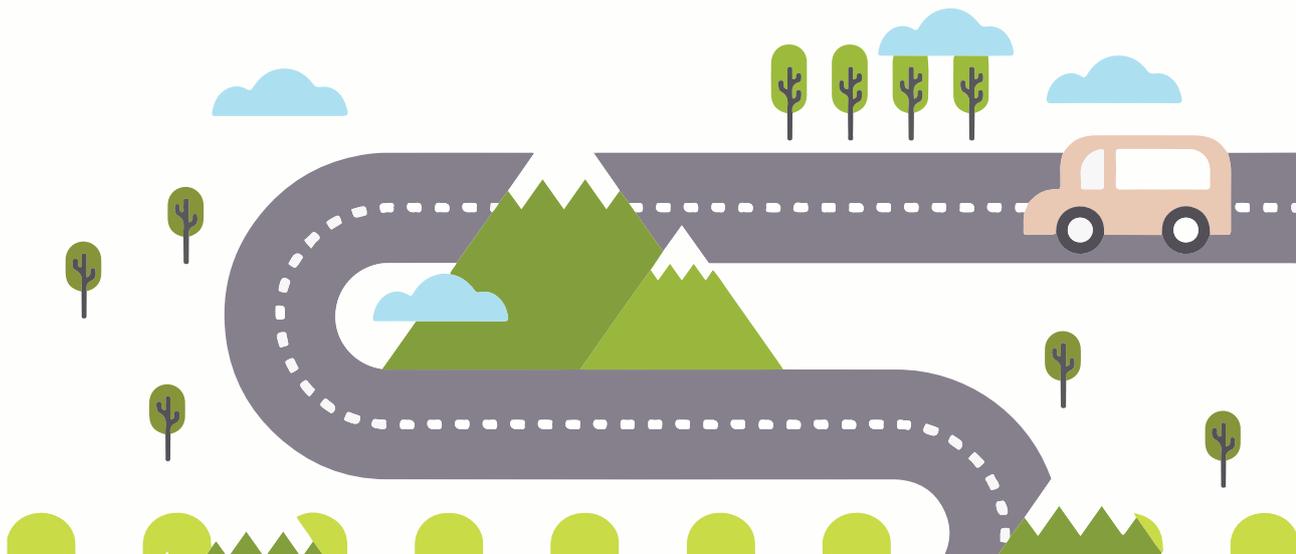
Pre-year 2016, the scenario was that we had the Alumni forum RECCAA confined to the Institute, and World NITCAA Council which was the supposed to be the apex body of the Chapters, just a concept formed by the regional Chapters to organise the World NITCAA Meet once every two years. The issue was that RECCAA had the legal standing but with practically no connect with the regional Chapters and the World NITCAA Council, which didn't have any organisational and legal structure but had the support of the Chapters.

It was during WNM 2016 at Goa at the interactive session, which followed after I took charge as the Chairman of World NITCAA Council, that this scenario was taken up for serious deliberation and the seed was sown for a unified strong Alumni Body. I should specially mention here

the input from then NITC Director Dr Sivaji Chakravorthy advocating the role that a strong Alumni Body can play in contributing to the Alma Mater, and the wider Student & Alumni fraternity. Thus, the unanimous decision was taken to do away with dual forums and unify the World NITCAA Council and RECCAA. The road map and the responsibilities were set and the deadline was to have the unified strong Alumni body by WNM 2018 @Calicut. The task was set out for the WNM 2018 organising team from the Calicut Chapter to formulate the new entity. This called for a change in the constitution of RECCAA with a greater role for regional Chapters and a forum driven by the Chapters.

The choices in front of us were to bring the required amendments in the bylaws of RECCAA and change the name to NITCAA since the Institute had moved on from REC to NIT or to formulate a new entity NITCAA and merge erstwhile RECCAA with the new entity. The latter option was opted for.

As promised, NITCAA in its present form was in place by WNM 2018, thanks to the hard work put in by the Calicut Chapter and the WNM 2018 organising committee in particular.





It was in the midst of planning for WNM 2018 and the restructuring of RECAA to NITCAA that Director Dr Sivaji Chakravorthi wanted us to take up a project at the Institute commemorating WNM 2018. He was very keen that a strong Alumni presence be felt at the Campus, for any visitor to see, by way of Alumni-sponsored infrastructure projects. Thus with the assurance of support from the Alumni fraternity, the committee took up the task and successfully completed the construction of the Creative Zone at a vantage point on Janpath close to the Main Building. Today the 1st NITCAA project "The Creative Zone" stands testimony to the commitment and affection of the Alumni fraternity to it's Alma Mater. This multi-purpose aesthetically designed space has become a much sought-after place for cultural meets as well as regular hangouts. I sincerely thank our Alumni Abdul Hameed and Architect Anjana from the Architecture Department for their design input.

The event WNM 2018 @Calicut was a great success with over 800 registrations with participation from all over the country and across the globe. The event was held at Calicut City as well as at the campus and had an eclectic mix of serious deliberation, entertainment and fun.





The Inauguration of the Creative Zone at Campus during WNM 2018



It was in the midst of planning for WNM 2018 and the restructuring of RECAA to NITCAA that Director Dr Sivaji Chakravorthi wanted us to take up a project at the Institute commemorating WNM 2018. He was very keen that a strong Alumni presence be felt at the Campus, for any visitor to see, by way of Alumni-sponsored infrastructure projects. Thus with the assurance of support from the Alumni fraternity, the committee took up the task and successfully completed the construction of the Creative Zone at a vantage point on Janpath close to the Main Building. Today the 1st NITCAA project "The Creative Zone" stands testimony to the commitment and affection of the Alumni fraternity to its Alma Mater. This multi-purpose aesthetically designed space has become a much sought-after place for cultural meets as well as regular hangouts. I sincerely thank our Alumni Abdul Hameed and Architect Anjana from the Architecture Department for their design input.

There was a clear understanding of how NITCAA, the Chapters and the Alumni fraternity would collaborate to plan and execute infrastructure projects for the welfare of the students and faculty. The 2nd NITCAA project, the gazebo 'Maithri' sponsored by the Batch 69 Alumni, was executed by March 2020. Located next to the canteen, 'Maithri' was designed to merge with the natural surroundings and serve as an area for the students, faculty & visitors to relax and socialize.

The term 2018-20 saw many other projects being conceived and the groundwork being done for their execution. Projects like the 'Amphitheatre' as well as the 'Creative Zone 2' will certainly elevate the campus to another level. Another project that was conceived and taken up very passionately is the IOT lab and Centre of Excellence being sponsored by 1985 batch. This project will be of great benefit not only to the Alma Mater but also to the wider industry and community. Apart from this most of the Chapters have taken up very meaningful projects for the benefit of the Alumni members, students and society at large. The ongoing mentoring programmes by the USA chapter, sponsorship programmes for NIT Calicut students by the Kochi Chapter, various training programmes by the Bangalore and Mumbai Chapters, to name a few.

As the Chairman World NITCAA Council 2016-18 and Secretary NITCAA in the 1st Governing Council 2018-20, I was fortunate to get the opportunity to work closely with so many great personalities. The interaction and experience have given me a great sense of fulfilment. I am very confident about the prospects of NITCAA. All the hard work put in by everyone has evolved into a very effective platform. Let us make it a befitting and ongoing endeavour to give back to our Alma Mater that has given us so much and made us what we are today.



ELECTED & NOMINATED MEMBERS

Sl	Post	Name	Chapter
1	President	K.S.Sudhakaran	Bangalore
2	Vice President	Dr Naseer M A	Institute
3	Secretary	Joseph Philip	Cochin
4	Jt Secretary	Vinod Kaumampoil	Mumbai
5	Treasurer	Dr Deepak Lawrence	Institute
6	Member	Venugopal.B	Chennai
7	Member	Vikash Thakur	Delhi & NCR
8	Member	Sushanth C.M	Calicut
9	Member	Anil Kumar V	UAE
10	Member	Vineet Payyampalli	USA
11	Member	Ranjith Vijayaraghavan	Singapore
12	Past President	John Joseph	Mumbai
13	Member	Vijayaraj	Chennai
14	Member	Air Cdr Job	Bangalore

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS (CHAPTER OFFICE BEARERS)

Sl	Post	Name	Chapter
1	President	Wgn. Cdr. N.Nandakumar	Trivandrum
2	Secretary	M.Sudheendran	Trivandrum
3	President	Vinod Ninan	Kottayam
4	Secretary	Joseph K J	Kottayam
5	President	Thankachan Thomas	Cochin
6	Secretary	Sameer Azees	Cochin
7	President	P.Sadeesh	Calicut
8	Secretary	Dijesh	Calicut
9	Nominated	Somasundharan P	Calicut
10	President	Suresh Babu	Kannur
11	Secretary	Sajeevan	Kannur
12	President	Amarjit Singh	Bangalore

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS (CHAPTER OFFICE BEARERS)

Sl	Post	Name	Chapter
13	Secretary	Sreejith Nair	Bangalore
14	President	Sunil Kurian	Chennai
15	Secretary	M K Ramkumar	Chennai
16	President	Suresh KV	Pune
17	Secretary	Avinash Bhokare	Pune
18	President	Balbir Prasad	Mumbai
19	Secretary	Harikrishnan B	Mumbai
20	Nominated	Ranganathan Ramani	Mumbai
21	President	Prakash Shetty	Delhi & NCR
22	Secretary	Avinish Kumar	Delhi & NCR
23	President	Debabrata Ghosh	Eastern Region
24	Secretary	Ashish Kumar Sikder	Eastern Region
25	President	Thomas Joseph	USA
26	Secretary	Mathew Philip	USA
27	President	John K George	Muscat
28	Secretary	Harikumar Macheri	Muscat
29	President	Asif Bahauddin	UAE
30	Secretary	Sujith Menon	UAE
31	President	Revi K K	Qatar
32	Secretary	Asokan K	Qatar
33	President	Jayakumar Kallankara	Kuwait
34	Secretary	Neville George	Kuwait
35	President	John Varghese	Singapore
36	Secretary	Nagesh Madhwal	Singapore
37	President	Surendran Othayoth	Canada
38	Secretary	Linto Mathew	Canada



तामसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय

The tie that binds