



## **IITAC Lecture Series – Fall 2019**

**Organised by IIT Alumni Canada and City of Markham**

Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup>. 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**Theme: "Smart Cities Technologies and their Implementation"**

### ***Event Report***

This was a houseful event with registrations closed much before the event. The theme of the event was "Smart Cities and their Implementation".

The event was sponsored by the City of Markham and was held in the Transportation hall of the Markham Museum, located in a beautiful, green and picturesque surrounding.

After a little bit of wait for the Mayor to arrive, the event started without further wait as soon as it became clear that the Mayor got delayed in another event. Pankaj Agrawal (Director IITAC) called the meeting to order.

The event was moderated by Damodar Arapakota (IITAC), who introduced the speakers. Damodar also introduced a new way to handle Q&A and invited audience to submit questions by SMS message.

We had four fantastic speakers who are experts in their areas.

The first speaker was Nasir Kenea, CIO and Director of IT in the City of Markham. He talked at length about the vision and plans for the smart city implementation in the City of Markham and described several ongoing projects. Some of these projects include District Water Metering, Energy Metering, AVLS, Road Weather Information Systems, Smart Garbage Bins etc. Nasir described the Digital Markham Strategy and the road map, and their plan to create "City as a Platform" and also about the various IOT initiatives and challenges faced.

The second speaker was Kaliyur Sridharan, Senior Director of Growth Programs at Schneider Electric. He talked about the technology of Microgrids, their subsystems including energy storage, monitoring, and control and provided an excellent example of a microgrid implementation in the City of Markham, which provided 16 level 2 EV charging stations.

Bill Hutchison, CEO of Hutchison Management Consulting and Distinguished Research Fellow, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto spoke about the importance of health and wellness in a smart city. He introduced the seventeen themes of the ISO 37120 Standard for smart cities and discussed how the buildings can be designed to promote health and wellness.

The last Speaker was Vibha Tyagi, Manager, Applied Research Partnerships for the Office of Research Services, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Durham College & Board Member IIT Alumni Canada. She gave a general introduction to smart cities and mentioned that lack of specialist resources is a barrier to the implementation of smart cities. She spoke about various academic research programs available in various colleges and universities to help prepare future specialists in smart city technologies.

Ashraf Ali (President- IITAC) gave a brief introduction about the IITAC Lecture series and recognised all those who had initiated this series of events with special mention for our late colleague Dr. Srinivisan Venkatesh. Ashraf specifically recognised special attendees:

Mrs. Kasturi Venkatesh.

Mr. Sim Murthy – IISc Bangalore Electrical Engineer. He has attended many IITAC lectures and both the 2014 & 2016 Conferences. Though retired from professional life he still strives to continue learning. An example for us all.

Ms. Devika Penekelapati Barrister & Solicitor and a Board Member of Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce. We sincerely appreciate her offer to help out Gaurav Das the young son of an IITian. Gaurav is a student in New Brunswick and is going through rehab after the loss of his legs and several fingers as a result of a tragic incident of frostbite.

Mr. Sanjeev Malik of the UPICA cultural organisation

Christina Kakaflikas from the City of Markham Economic Development office represented the Mayor and briefly spoke and thanked IITAC for the excellent seminar. Christina graciously handed out mementoes to the speakers and the moderator.

Audience submitted a lot of questions to various speakers by SMS. Speakers answered some of the questions due to limited time available.

Vishwas Dhekney (VP Admin – IITAC) proposed the vote of thanks, which was followed by refreshments and networking.