

WIE @ 2016 TechSym

IEEE Women in Engineering Kharagpur Section, India organized WIE track “**WIE @ 2016 TechSym**” in 2016 IEEE Students' Technology Symposium on Friday, 30 September 2016. The event consisted of an insightful *Keynote Talk*, a challenging 3-minute “Talk-it-Up” *competition* for female authors and an interactive *Panel Discussion* which garnered healthy participation from TechSym attendees.

Keynote Talk: The speaker for this segment **Dr. Uday Shankar**, Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law, IIT Kharagpur gave a beautiful and insightful keynote talk on “*Women Empowerment*”. He interacted with attendees too and answered their queries. In his talk Dr. Uday touched upon the importance of gender-neutral perspective towards solving Women Issues. He highlighted rights, laws and policies made for Women Empowerment.

Talk-it-Up: The 3 minute “Talk-it-Up” challenge was introduced for the first time in the history of IEEE WIE AG KGP activities, Kharagpur. The challenge was to give a scintillating 3 minutes talk either on the work presented in the Symposium or on the research domain in which the participants work. The objective was to impress the intellectual lay audience. The contest was meant only for female TechSym participants. Eight participants faced the challenge. Best of the three won. The winners walked away with cash prizes and certificates along with WIE goodies. The event was judged by Dr. Alok Kanti Deb, Electrical Engineering, IIT Kharagpur and Dr. Karabi Biswas, Electrical Engineering, IIT Kharagpur.

Panel Discussion: By the time *She* is 10 years old, *She* starts to bleed in pain every month. In the next 10 years, *She* is married off. For the next 10 years *She* would be devoted to breastfeeding and looking after her babies. In the next 10 years, *She* enters Menopause. *She* is old. *She* is brittle. Besides *She* has to deal with everyday struggles, discrimination, deprivation, humiliation etc.

Even after all these *She* manages to reach the top. Though the strength of Sheroes making it to the top is not up to the mark but little by little changes seem to be blooming.

A Panel discussion on the topic “**Women: A Journey to Becoming a Frontrunner**” was held. The Panelist consisted a mix of top notch senior academicians Dr. Sushmita Mitra, Machine Intelligence Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata and Dr. Sudeshna Sarkar, HoD, Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Kharagpur, young and dynamic Dr. Chetna Singhal, Electrical and Electronics Communication Engineering, IIT Kharagpur and Working Moms on leave Mrs. Shriya Khare and Mrs. Sharmila Lakkaraju. Several points were raised during the session. Participants shared their views and commented on certain issues which made the discussion session intriguing.

As a token of appreciation, the Speakers, Judges and Panelists were decorated with WIE @ 2016 TechSym mementos.

All in all **WIE @ 2016 TechSym** was wonderful and successful.