General Chair's Message

How does one decide the venue of the Asian Test Symposium? First, the charter of the meeting requires that the place be in Asia. Second, the venue should be professionally important for the participants. Third, the venue should possess some distinguishing characteristic.

I would like to state that Bangalore, the venue of ATS 95 satisfies all three conditions. It is situated in India, the heart of Asia, about 850 km southeast of Bombay. Bangalore is the famed “Silicon Valley” (or plateau, to be geographically exact) of India. Over the last few years of “Economic Liberalization,” Bangalore has seen major investments from Indian and foreign companies in the field of electronics. Bangalore also boasts of being home to important institutions of learning, of which the Indian Institute of Science is the foremost. Professionally, the participants of ATS 95 should readily endorse Bangalore as a good choice for the venue. It is indeed a fitting successor to Hiroshima, Beijing, and Nara.

This brings me to the distinguishing characteristic of Bangalore and I would, without hesitation, describe it with the word “culture.” For those who share my world view, technology is not an end in itself but a tool to further human happiness. And if the concept of “happiness” is elusive, the concept of “culture” is a great help in grasping it. Without getting into an infinite reductionist regression by attempting to define “culture” let me simply assert that Bangalore and its environs have an abundance of it! To buttress my claim let me state that Bangalore is known as the “Garden City” for its commitment to greenery, and its surrounding areas are home to several monuments whose exquisite carvings in stone depict the glory of the famed Hoysala architecture. Hence, in terms of culture, too, Bangalore is a fitting successor to Hiroshima, Beijing, and Nara.

Thus, on behalf of the ATS 95 Conference Committee, I welcome you to Bangalore. Please enrich yourself professionally by actively participating in the excellent technical program put together by the Program Committee led by Dr. Vishwani Agrawal. Also, please enrich yourself culturally by experiencing India’s heritage. Thank you.

Sunil Sherlekar
General Chair
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E-mail: sds@sasi.ernet.in