



Editorial Contacts:

Lakshmi Kanchan, HP Labs
India
+91 11 690 6143
lakshmi_kanchan@hp.com

HP Labs India to sponsor technical symposium in Bangalore

Bangalore, February 25, 2002 -- Hewlett-Packard Company will sponsor a major technology symposium on "Innovations for Emerging Markets" Tuesday in Tata Auditorium at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Bangalore. More than 500 people are expected to attend.

Dr. Srinivasan Ramani, director of HP Labs India, which is also located in Bangalore, will host the event. Featured speakers include Debra Dunn, HP vice president, strategy and corporate operations, and Dr. Kris Halvorsen, representing HP Labs, the company's central research facility.

Other presenters include Prof. V. Rajaraman, honorary professor, Indian Institute of Science, who will deliver the keynote address on making computing widely available to all people; Dr. Colin Maclay, deputy director, Harvard Center for International Development, on economic sustainability for information and communications technologies (ICT) solutions; Dr. Ashok Jhunjhunwala, IIT Madras, on the communications revolution in India; Dr. Rajeev Sangal, IIT Hyderabad, on Indian languages IT, and Dr. Ranji Makkuni, director, Crossing Media Labs, on technology, art and user-centered design.

"This is the first of a series of technical symposia HP Labs India is sponsoring to bring together the multiple perspectives needed to create successful technologies for emerging economies," Dr. Ramani said.

HP Labs India is dedicated to generating usable, economically sustainable technology solutions for the country through understanding the relevant social, cultural, economic and technological drivers. The research conducted will also help HP's World-inclusion efforts – a business initiative with a

social mission to bridge the digital divide and broaden access to social and economic opportunities in traditionally underserved markets.

A variety of demonstrations scheduled for the symposium will show examples of enabling technologies, such as a low-cost e-mail appliance, public kiosks for access to IT applications and speech interfaces designed to work in local languages.

HP Labs India has created an advisory board of ICT experts to help guide its work. In addition to Ms. Dunn and Prof. Rajaraman, it consists of Dr. Mohan Kaul, Director General, Commonwealth Business Council; Ms. Sudha Narayanamurthy, Infosys Foundation; Dr. Kirit S. Parikh, Emeritus Professor and former director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research; Ms. Hema Viswanathan, Senior Vice President and Country Manager, Probe Qualitative Research, and Arun Thiagarajan, President, HP India Pvt. Ltd. The board meets for the first time on Wednesday.

On Thursday, HP Labs India will inaugurate its joint research lab with IIT Madras. The joint lab will host collaborative projects between HP researchers and faculty and students at IIT Madras.

Last week, HP announced a three-year alliance with the government of Andhra Pradesh to form an e-inclusion community in the Kuppan constituency of Chitoor district. The Kuppan project is designed to create a variety of IT-enabled solutions aimed at economic development.

About Hewlett Packard India Software Operation

Hewlett Packard India Software Operations (HPISO), is a wholly owned subsidiary of HP and was established in 1989. HP-ISO provides leading edge software solutions for HP and its global customers. It employs approximately 1500 software professionals at its development facilities in Chennai and Bangalore. HP-ISO is a part of the E-Solutions Division (ESD) within the HP Solutions Organization of Hewlett Packard Company. ESD is responsible for custom and pre-integrated e-solutions and e-services in various industry domains, end-to-end management and security solutions, and Always-On mission critical application services by HP. It provides R&D, software engineering and integration services to external

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customers as well as internal HP product divisions. ESD is a global organization with regions in US, Europe, Japan, Australia and in India as ISO.

About HP

Hewlett-Packard Company -- a leading global provider of computing and imaging solutions and services – is focused on making technology and its benefits accessible to all. HP had total revenue of \$45.2 billion in its 2001 fiscal year. Information about HP and its products can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.hp.com>.

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