

CASS Conference Highlights

Preet Yadav and Xiaozhe Wang

Women in Circuits and Systems (WiCAS) Forum at Asia Pacific Conference on Circuits and Systems (APCCAS 2023) Held at Hyderabad (India) on 21 November 2023

Abstract

This report describes Women in Circuits and Systems (WiCAS) Forum organized during Asia Pacific Conference on Circuits and Systems (APCCAS 2023) Co-located with The Asia-Pacific Conference on Postgraduate Research In Microelectronics And Electronics (PRIMEAsia 2023), held from 19–22 November 2023 at T-Hub, Hyderabad (India). This unique WiCAS forum was among the first one which was held at a grand scale on 21 November 2023 for the first time in India. Six events highlighted below were organized, thus dedicating one full day to WiCAS initiatives.

Index Terms—WiCAS, CASS Conference.

A grand Women in Circuits and Systems (WiCAS) Forum was organized during Asia Pacific Conference on Circuits and Systems (APCCAS 2023) Co-located with The Asia-Pacific Conference on Postgraduate Research In Microelectronics And Electronics (PRIMEAsia 2023), held from 19–22 November 2023 at THub, Hyderabad (India).

As with the conference, this unique WiCAS forum was among the first ones that was held at a grand scale on 21 November 2023 for the first time in India.

Six events highlighted below were organized focusing on Women in Circuits & Systems (WiCAS) as a part of the conference. Thus, dedicating one full day to WiCAS initiatives.

I. WiCAS Networking Lunch Session

The WiCAS forum started with a WiCAS Networking session along with lunch. This was an involved meet and greet session to know and network with diverse global participants.

II. WiCAS Forum Talk Session

After this networking lunch, a session titled “Women in Circuits and Systems (WiCAS) Forum” was held. In

Preet Yadav is with NXP Semiconductors, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201301, India.

Xiaozhe Wang is with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, McGill University, Montreal, QC H3A 0G4, Canada.

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this session, motivating and inspiring talks were delivered by

- Sumedha Limaye | Vice President of Engineering, Intel
- Usha Gogineni | Director, ams OSRAM Semiconductors
- Vijayalatha | Chair IEEE Hyderabad Section
- Yarlagadda Padma Sai | Professor and Dean of Student Progression, VNRVJIET & IEEE Vice chair, SPS

The session chaired by Harini Kandadai | ams OSRAM Semiconductors was filled with many interactions and curious questions.

The session commenced with Usha Gogineni, sharing her inspiring journey to attain her current R&D position. Following her, Sumedha Limaye, recounted her academic experiences at IIT Roorkee and highlighted significant milestones in her professional journey. Subsequently, academician and IEEE member Vijayalatha shared her own experiences and journey into IEEE. Finally, Padma Sai addressed the audience, recounting her path from studying in a rural area to becoming the Dean of a prestigious college and IEEE Vice chair, SPS. She shared insights from her journey and expressed gratitude to those who supported her success.

The collective experiences of these four remarkable women at APCCAS 23 served to encourage the audience, inspiring them to adopt a positive mindset in pursuing their life goals.

III. WiCAS Networking Tea/Coffee Session

Post WiCAS talks where the audience got to know about inspiring journey of WiCAS keynote talk speakers. A tea/coffee networking session was organized. Where participants got a free forum to interact with the WiCAS leaders to clarify their questions and get to know them better.

IV. WiCAS Panel Discussion

An intensive WiCAS panel discussion on the topic “Diversity and Inclusion in circuits and systems for emerging technologies” was held. Following eminent panel

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Figure 1. Conference session speakers.



Figure 2. Panel discussion.



Figure 3. Conference attendees.



Figure 4. Attendees networking.

participants shared their views in this panel discussion. To bring in diversity in the panel the panel moderator was chosen to be a male participant.

- Usha Gogineni | Director, ams OSRAM Semiconductors
- Vijayalatha | Chair IEEE Hyderabad Section
- Sumedha Limaye | Vice President of Engineering, Intel
- Yarlagadda Padma Sai | Professor and Dean of Student Progression, VNRVJIET & IEEE Vice chair, SPS
- Preet Yadav | R&D SoC Technical Program Manager, NXP Semiconductors (Moderator)

This panel discussion aimed to explore how diversity and inclusion intersect with the ever-changing field of circuits and systems for emerging technologies. The goal was to bring together different perspectives to understand the challenges and opportunities for making this area more inclusive and fair.

The panel discussion started with the moderator Preet Yadav, who set the stage and shared the importance of WiCAS in CASS. He explained the focus initiative that the society is doing on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). He started the deliberation by asking about the challenges and opportunities in circuits and systems to the industry panelists Usha Gogineni and Sumedha Limaye. The panel members explained clearly the numerous benefits of diversity and inclusion in the field of circuits and systems. These benefits include increased creativity and innovation, improved problem-solving, and a more robust pipeline of talent.

Later, academicians Vijayalatha and Padma Sai talked about the challenges faced by diverse researchers and engineers in the workplace. The panel members also answered many questions from the audience on this topic.

The panel discussion ended with a call to action for everyone in the circuits and systems field to collaborate in creating a more diverse and inclusive environment. By taking practical steps to address challenges and embrace opportunities, we can ensure that the future of circuits and systems includes contributions from people of all backgrounds.

V. WiCAS Networking Dinner and Cultural Evening

With such an involved agenda focusing on WiCAS throughout the day. The WiCAS event concluded with a WiCAS dinner and cultural evening. Where invited speakers and participants celebrated Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in the Circuits & Systems community with dance, music and food. Thus, again bringing an emphasis by the organizer to all the participating members of WiCAS community and they mentioned that WiCAS is open to any IEEE member, CASS membership is recommended. Mentioning about WiCAS supports career development for IEEE CASS members, particularly women, young researchers and professionals, minorities, and all those at their early career stages.

VI. WiCAS Best Paper Award

During the awards ceremony a special Best Paper Award for WiCASS category was announced, thus stressing the focus on CASS society on Women in CASS (WiCAS) initiative. The award was given to the paper titled “Power-Efficient Approximate Multipliers Leveraging Hybrid CMOS-Memristor Paradigm” wherein the lead author is a women student “Monika Pokharia” along with Ravi Sadanand Hegde and a Women mentor “Joycee M. Meekie” from Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar.

Some photographs of the WiCAS sessions can be seen in Figures 1–4.