**Community Engagement Workshop: IEEE Karachi SIGHT event**

*IEEE spends significant resources developing community dynamics, but what exactly are those initiatives?* Keeping this question on the table and considering the formative role of engineers and local community in recent successful SIGHT pilot project in Mithi, IEEE Karachi Section took the next step to augment the scope of civic participation by raising awareness about the possible strategies to develop initiatives that engages university, high school students and community social workers in improving a society where every member functions as a social changing agent. This Community Engagement Workshop was held on January 25, 2014 at Avari Towers by IEEE Karachi Section.

The motive of workshop was to involve the elements working in the local humanitarian, disaster management, health and education areas where IEEE Karachi plans to expand its activities. The IEEE initiatives of SIGHT, EPICS in IEEE and TISP were the core programs that engaged non-profits, educational activists, social workers and entrepreneurs and bloggers. Feedback from these more experienced social change-makers elicited the response the hosts hoped for: outlining the possible problems in extending these initiatives and how their involvement can help overcome those barriers, with volunteers from IEEE Karachi Section.

The event was divided in two sessions, and in the first part IEEE Karachi Section SIGHT volunteers presented on IEEE SIGHT, TISP and EPICS. Parkash Lohana, IEEE Karachi Section Chair 2014, introduced the audience to IEEE and their activities in Karachi, and also acquainted them with Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS in IEEE) and the plans of Karachi Section developing possible alliances of IEEE Student Branches with high schools. Following him up, Hassaan Idrees, Section SAC Chair, took the audience through the interesting Teacher In-Service Program (TISP), stimulating thoughts on greater interest in STEM subjects. Newly appointed Section Student Representative, Muhammad Hanan Daudpota, presented the success stories of IEEE SIGHT Chapters around the world in general and that of Karachi in particular.

Invited participants hailing from various organizations, including Dr. Nazir Vaid, a social entrepreneur and founder of E-Health Kits Pakistan, Ms. Farhana Iqbal, Director of Education Foundation, Ms. Tayyiba Khanam, Academic Coordinator of schools of Karachi City District Government, Mr. Abdul Rauf from Pakistan Science Club and Mr. Vajesh Partab from Sat-Guru Naval Foundation were some of the more recognizable names, apart from IEEE Karachi Section senior and student members.

The second phase of workshop was more interactive, where every participant was given a chance to question, share, discuss or give any suggestion to the forum. The discussion continued long and everybody presented their strategies on making these ventures successful. Interestingly, every participant gave their consent to be a working partner in future initiatives of IEEE Karachi Section.

The event had the privilege of having Mr. Om Perkash Batra, IEEE R10 SAC Coordinator as the Chief Guest. An added feature of this event was the live radio broadcasting from the hotel by the local radio partner FM 105 Pakistan Network, which aired the highlights of workshop to its audience throughout the country. Closing remarks from Shahab Siddiqui, Vice Chair of the Section in 2014, and a group picture of some of the attendees ended the workshop on a cheerful note.