

PROFESSOR FROM SWEDEN VISITS AMRITA

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham , Ettimadai, organized a lecture by Dr.Sasikumar Punnekkat, an expert in real-time systems from Department of Computer Science and Electronics, Malardalen University, Sweden that was held on 17 April, 2007 in the e-learning centre at Amrita University, Ettimadai, Coimbatore. Dr Sasikumar was a Senior Scientist at the Software Quality Assurance Division of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, India and joined Malardalen University in 2004. He spoke on “**Dependability Challenges in Building Software Intensive Systems**”. The lecture was broadcast over the Indo-US satellite network with a potential audience from 42 different universities all over India.

It was indeed an inspiring, informative and knowledge-enhancing talk that imbibed in it humour and real world examples. Beginning with a short introduction on the climate and environment of Sweden he went on to tell the gathering about the various UG and PG courses offered by his University. He gave an insightful lecture on software intensive systems. He also explained what real time systems (RTS) were. After presenting a clear view of the challenges faced by present day software professionals like increasing complexity, adaptation needs, he went on to explain the evolution of dependability and differentiated the various terms such as fault, error and failure. In addition, he took the gathering through the evolution of computers to emphasize that the areas of error occurrence increased as technology developed. He explained the limitations of manual software testing. He also focused on the importance of research in all the areas.

When asked about his opinion on the students of Amrita, he replied that Amrita students were known in many places and that he was thought that the University was on the right track in instilling a positive attitude towards research. He then proceeded to have an interaction with the students.

Professor Bijay Shankar Mishra gave the welcome address.

(by Ms. S. Vijayalakshmi)