

C-MMACS is 17

C-MMACS is now 17, and as Dr V S Prakash, Director, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, who presided over the C-MMACS Foundation Day function of 15 July 2005, remarked: "these are turbulent years in the life of a human, and perhaps also in the life of an institution!".

But C-MMACS's Scientist-in-Charge, Dr G Prathap, seemed confident that C-MMACS could weather any turbulence that it might encounter. In fact, he looked forward to C-MMACS's 18 th year "after which we would have the right to vote!".

This sort of cheerful banter is commonplace at C-MMACS Foundation Day functions, and exceedingly enjoyable. And while one doesn't know what C-MMACS's vote might be, my vote for one of India 's best mathematical modelling centres would certainly be for C-MMACS.

There were a few departures from convention at the 2005 C-MMACS Foundation Day function: it started at 2 pm , earlier than usual, and, surprisingly, the C-MMACS annual report wasn't released at the function this year.

But we still had the customary soulful invocation from Dr Gopal Patra (" *ankhiyan Hari darshan ki pyaasi ..*"), Dr Prathap's charming introductions, the CMMACS Foundation Day lecture (the tenth in the series) and Dr K S Yajnik's gracious presence. It was also a pleasure to greet Dr T S Prahlad, who walked across from C-CADD.

This year's C-MMACS Foundation Day function, on Early Warning Systems for Tsunami and Storm Surges , was delivered by Dr K Radhakrishnan, Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS),



Dr K Radhakrishnan, Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad



Dr V S Prakash, Director, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre



Dr G Prathap, Scientist-in-Charge, C-MMACS's

Hyderabad . Dr Radhakrishnan talked of the proposed Indian early warning system that is to be commissioned in September 2007.

This is indeed an ambitious initiative and one was re-assured by Dr Radhakrishnan's confidence that the Indian system would indeed work ("there could be a lot of modelling work for C-MMACS, and a lot of Ph.D.'s before this project ends", he predicted). The lecture was also educative; in particular the comparisons between the tsunami events in the Pacific and Indian oceans were illuminating; while the previous century saw 900 tsunami events in the Pacific, there were only 6 in the Indian Ocean ... in the Indian Ocean itself, a big 'ellipse' around Indonesia and a smaller 'circle' a few hundred kilometers west of Gujarat or Rajasthan appear to be the most vulnerable. Dr Radhakrishnan also explained why tsunamis are so difficult to predict ("we must really worry only about earthquakes that lead to vertical displacement").

The function ended with the vote of thanks by Dr Anand Kumar and an agreeable cup of coffee downstairs.

Srinivas Bhogle

[CMMACS Foundation Day Lecture Series](#)

A report on the ISAMPE annual general meeting held at NAL on 15 July 2005 will appear in a future issue of the *Information Pasteboard* .