

South Asian Physics Foundation Annual Report 2009

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Professor Faheem Hussain 1942-2009

This year was marked with great sadness as Professor Faheem Hussain, distinguished theoretical particle physicist and senior member of SAPF's Student Conference Program evaluation committee, passed away from cancer on September 29.

Professor Hussain was a prominent researcher who held positions at a number of institutions including Quaid-i-Azam University, the University of Chicago, and the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy. At the time of his death he was a faculty member at the Lahore University of Management Sciences. Professor Hussain's distinguished career included two key roles at the Abdus Salam ICTP: coordinating the Diploma Programme for pre-doctoral students and heading the Office of External Activities. In both capacities he greatly contributed to furthering research and education in developing countries. Professor Hussain most generously shared his extensive experience and expertise with SAPF to help establish the student conference program and serve on its committee. His enthusiasm and efforts for promoting physics, advancing science and providing new opportunities for deserving students have touched so many people. He will be sorely missed.

Student Conference Program

This year we are very excited to have successfully launched SAPF's Student Conference Program, an innovative new program that provides funds for South Asian physics students to attend international scientific conferences in South Asia. The program is open to all South Asian undergraduate or graduate students in any field of physics who are currently attending university in a South Asian country. Students who have authored or co-authored a paper or poster describing their work can apply for funding to present it at a scientific conference

in a South Asian country other than that of the student's university or citizenship. Full details and an application are available on the SAPF website.

Applications for the program are reviewed by SAPF's evaluation committee of distinguished physicists. In addition to Professor Hussain, Professors Jiunn-Wei Chen, a nuclear theorist at National Taiwan University, and Anil Prabhakar, who researches nonlinear systems at the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai, served on the committee in 2009.

During this year, we received three eligible applications and approved one. Congratulations to Mr. Abu Zafur Ziauddin Ahmed, PhD candidate in physics at the University of Dhaka, who received funding to present his paper "Calculation of the Resistivity of Amorphous Metals: A New Approach" at the Silver Jubilee Conference on Communications Technologies and VLSI Design in Vellore, India, October 6-10, 2009. At the conference, Mr. Ahmed attended a tutorial workshop for students on the topic of VLSI design, attended plenary and keynote lectures, delivered his talk in the session titled "Materials for Advanced Semiconductor Devices", received feedback and suggestions for future work, and arranged new collaborations with other researchers. We wish him much success in his career.

Mr. Ahmed's attendance at the conference was partially sponsored by two generous donors who covered all of his expenses in India, so that SAPF general funds were only needed for his air travel from/to Dhaka. We greatly appreciate this extra support and hope to be able to fund many more students in the future.

Most of all, we are comforted that Professor Hussain was able to participate in the approval of our first student's application. Next year, we will rename the program in his honor.

HostGator Technology Grant

At the end of 2009 SAPF was awarded the Technology Grant from HostGator, a web hosting company that believes in giving back to the community by providing free and discounted web hosting services for selected non-profits. This generous grant covers the entire cost of our online presence and will allow us to greatly improve our website, without the limitations imposed by our previous free service. We are very grateful for this opportunity to take advantage of professional web services while retaining the maximum possible funds for our programs. Many thanks to HostGator for their support!

Moving Forward

In 2010 SAPF will relaunch the newly renamed Professor Faheem Hussain Student Conference Program. We hope this program will continue to grow and

to promote the same spirit of technical excellence and international cooperation that Professor Hussain demonstrated in his life.

We welcome your comments and suggestions! Whether it's about international projects or collaborations, new directions in research or education, or any other ideas or input, please let us know your thoughts on how better to advance cooperative physics efforts in South Asia.

Financials

Summary of financial activity in 2009:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Starting balance | USD 8200 |
| Contributions | USD 285 + INR 10133 |
| Expenditures | USD 827.30 + INR 10133 |
| Ending balance | USD 7657.70 |

(The amount in INR represents Mr. Ahmed's conference sponsorship.)

The South Asian Physics Foundation is a US-based, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization supporting international collaboration in physics in South Asia. Please see our first annual report of 2008 for a detailed overview of our mission and objectives.

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