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Indian reserchers from IIT receive the first SAFRAN-French Embassy Award 2007

Delhi, October 23, 2007



French Ambassador, Mr. Jérôme Bonnafont confers the award to Dr. G. Phanikumar as Mr. Bernard Heulin looks on.

Aeronautics major, the SAFRAN Group presented the first SAFRAN and French Embassy Award to three young Indian researchers from Mumbai IIT, Kanpur IIT and Chennai IIT at a special ceremony held in the French Embassy, on 24th October.

This prize recognizes the three best doctoral theses in Indian universities in the field of the the SAFRAN Group's business areas: aerospace and/or technology of communication.



French Ambassador, Mr. Jérôme Bonnafont with the jury and the three recipients of the award.

The three prizes were handed over to the laureates by Mr. Jérôme Bonnafont, Ambassador of France and by Mr. Alain Coutrot, SAFRAN Deputy Director for Research and Technology, during a ceremony hosted at the French Embassy, in the

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Diplomatic News

Visit of Mrs Rama Yade to Sudan (21-23.10.07)

Karachi bomb attack (October 18, 2007)

Working luncheon of Mr Bernard Kouchner with President Jalal Talabani of the Republic of Iraq (17.10.07)

Donors' conference on the Palestinian Territories (17.10.07)

Visit of Mr Bernard Kouchner and his Spanish and Italian counterparts to Lebanon (October 19-20, 2007)



presence of prominent members of the Indian and French scientific Establishment and Industry.

In February 2007, SAFRAN and the French Embassy in Delhi had launched a contest to reward the best doctoral theses in aerospace and/or technology of communication in partnership with prominent scientific institutions in the country.

Last month, a jury of six eminent scientists including: Dr C.G. Krishnadas Nair (former head of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited – HAL, Current SIATI President), Dr Haridwar Singh (former director and emeritus scientist of DRDO) and Dr Shiva Prasad (head of the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA), selected the three best candidates among the young researchers' theses.



Mr. Alain Coutrot, SAFRAN Deputy Director for Research and Technology.

François Courtot, SAFRAN Senior Vice President, International Affairs, explained the objective of these awards: "SAFRAN, the French Embassy in India and the main Indian Research Institutes, aim to highlight and promote the value of research and engineering in the aerospace and technology of communication sectors and the inter-dependence between research and the industry". Prof. Bernard Heulin, Scientific Counselor for Science and Technology at the French Embassy and also one of the members of the jury added: "The level of the theses was high and it was very difficult for the jury to make the selection".

The winners of these awards are:

Dr. S Kumar, from the IISc Bangalore: First SAFRAN prize (5,000 euros and a one-week travel to France, along with his research guide, to visit some of the SAFRAN research and industrial sites).

Dr. A.M. Pradeep from the IIT Kanpur : Second SAFRAN prize (3,000 euros and a one-week travel to France, along with his research guide, to visit some of the SAFRAN research and industrial sites).

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Dr. G Phanikumar, from the IIT Chennai : Special French Embassy prize (a



4-month fellowship for a post-doc in a research centre in France).

About SAFRAN

SAFRAN has a 50-year long presence in India, and has over 1,000 employees in the country, today. Its engines, avionics and equipment are fitted on nearly all the aircraft operated in India, both by the various Indian airlines and by the Indian Armed Forces.

SAFRAN and the Indian industry have engaged themselves into the co-development and co-production of some high technology products, such as the Shakti engine and auto-pilot with HAL

for the Dhruv helicopter. With its fully owned R&D subsidiary, and the Joint Venture between HAL and Snecma, both in Bangalore, SAFRAN takes an active part in the development of the Aeronautical Indian industry. SAFRAN is an international high-technology group with four core businesses: Aerospace Propulsion, Aircraft Equipment, Defense Security, and Communications. It has 62,000 employees in over 30 countries, and annual revenues exceeding 11 billion euros. The SAFRAN Group comprises a number of companies with prestigious brand names, and holds, alone or in partnership, global or European leadership positions in all of its markets.

The French Embassy in India endeavours to increase the cooperation in the field of research between Indian and French laboratories and offers fellowships every year, for young doctorates and post-doctorates scientists (please visit www.frenchsciencetoday.org).

For more information, please contact: Press Section , Embassy of France, Tel: (011) 2419 6131 / 35 or Ms. Jocelyne TERRIEN, Press officer, SAFRAN, Tel (033) (0) 40 60 80 28 Email: jocelyne.terrien@safran.fr