The 2016 IEEE International conference on Power Electronics, Drives and Energy Systems (IEEE PEDES2016) was held at Trivandrum, Kerala, India, from Dec. 14 to 17, 2016. The PEDES series of international conference was started in the year 1996 and has since acquired the reputation of a high quality technical conference that provide a major forum for the exchange of information among practicing professionals from all over the globe in the areas of Power Electronics, Machines, Drives and Energy Systems. PEDES2016 was sponsored by four IEEE societies viz., IEEE IAS, IES, PELS and PES societies. The conference was seventh in the series and it received 816 digests from more than 30 countries. After a rigorous review process, 412 digests were selected for final camera ready submissions (corresponding to an acceptance rate of 50.4%). Around 400 reviewers participated in the review process with minimum two peer reviews per paper. The conference was a huge success with more than 450 participants from 21 countries. The international steering committee of the conference contributed much to the publicity of the conference. The conference homepage (www.pedes2016.org) was a major means in for informing the participants about the conference program.

The tutorial sessions were arranged at hotel Uday Samudra, Kovalam, Trivandrum on 14 December 2016. The tutorials were delivered by world renowned experts- Prof. Holtz, Wuppertal University, Germany on "Predictive Control of AC Machines", Prof. Anurag K Srivastava, Washington State University, USA, on "Defining and Enabling Microgrid Resiliency", Prof. Lalit Goel, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, on "Generating System Reliability Assessment and Cost/Benefit Evaluation", and Prof. Alireza Khalig, University of Maryland, USA, on "Design of Onboard Chargers for Electric Vehicles". The conference was inaugurated by Prof. K. Gopakumar, IISc Bangalore, India. This was followed by welcome reception and poolside gala dinner. The festive atmosphere of this evening was accompanied by a gazal concert.

The technical sessions and industrial exhibition were arranged at Ma Basalios College of Engineering and Technology Trivandrum (MBC) from Dec. 15 to Dec. 17. The technical program featured eight captivating plenary talks by distinguished experts as follows:

- "Distributed Grid Control – The Next Frontier for Power Electronics", by Dr. Deepak Divan, Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA, USA
- "Hybrid Renewable Energy Standalone Systems", by Dr. Ambrish Chandra, Université duQuébec, Montréal, Canada.
- "Power Electronics Intelligence at the Network Edge (PINE)", Dr. Prasad Enjeti, Texas A&M University, USA
- "Google Little Box Challenge One-Million US Dollar Inverter Design Competition", by Dr. Jih-Sheng (Jason) Lai, Virginia Tech, USA
- "My 35-year Long Journey Through Power Electronics", by Dr. Praveen Jain, Queens University, Canada
- "Power Electronics as an Enabling Technology for Future Autonomous Electric Mobility and Transportation", by Dr. Sheldon S. Williamson, University of Ontario-Institute of Technology (UOIT), Canada
- "High Power High Speed Motor Drives for Industry Applications", by Dr. Koki Matsuse, Meiji University, Japan
- "Sensorless Drive of IPMSM absolute position sensing", by Dr. Seung-Ki Sul, Seoul National University, South Korea.

The conference oral presentation arranged in six technical tracks in 48 sessions and had two poster sessions. The common feedback of the participants was that the presented papers were generally of a high caliber. A banquet dinner was arranged on the third day of the conference along with cultural events like folk dances, western music, and Kathakali.

A panel discussion on "Future Challenges in Power Electronic Education" was also arranged on the final day of the conference. It was moderated by Dr. Tomy Sebastian, Halla Mechatronics, USA, the patron of the conference. The panel members included Dr. Joseph Ojo, Tennessee Technological University, USA, Dr. Edvina Uzunovic, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA, Dr. Jason Lai, Virginia Tech, USA, Dr. S. K. Sul, Seoul National University, South Korea and Dr. Bhakti Joshi, IIT Mandi, India. The panel stressed the importance of power electronic education in universities for a more energy efficient tomorrow and provided key recommendations for enriching power electronics education. The conference had a young professional program (YPP) also which was arranged by IEEE Industry Applications society and well attended by more than 80 participants. Dr. David B. Durocher, President, IEEE IAS, Dr. Peter Magyar, CMD chair, IAS and Mr. Srikant V, IAS EB Member, lead the student forum.

The 2016 edition was another milestone in the very successful series of PEDES conferences which was evolved over the past 20 years into one of the most important IEEE conferences in the area of Power Electronics, drives and energy Systems. Many thanks to all the conference organizing committee members, track and session chairs, reviewers and participants of the conference and the host institution (MBC). The next PEDES conference in the series will be held at IIT Madras in 2018 and we look forward to meeting you in Chennai, India in connection with PEDES2018.

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