EU-IndiaGrid Conference: Paving the Ground for a Grid-enabled e-Science Community

European and Indian Grid experts met during the EU-IndiaGrid conference on 13-14 December 2007, which took place in Bangalore in conjunction with e-Science 2007. The event brought together 150 participants from academia and business sectors and showcased the benefits of the EU-IndiaGrid Infrastructure for scientific researchers across Europe and India, facilitating Grid adoption, knowledge-sharing and co-operation across frontiers, fostering the development of a sustainable basis for current and future users and acting as a catalyst for the deployment of existing and new applications.

The event kicked off with opening keynote speeches given by such eminent speakers as Dr Andrew Sors, from the European Commission Delegation to India, and Dr Chidambaram, Principal Advisor to the Indian Government. The session was chaired by Dr Ramakrishnan, Director of C-DAC Bangalore. Dr Sors' presentation gave an overview on the opportunities offered by the current European Commission 7th Framework Programme and the EU-India Science & Technology Co-operation, while Dr Chidambaram presented the National Indian Grid Initiatives and their participation in many worldwide collaborations like LHC, STAR, PHOENIX, Géant and ITER experiments, highlighting how the collaboration with European Grids could allow faster adoption of Grid applications in India.

The second day of the conference opened with two welcome addresses by Ognjen Prnjat, the EGEE project representative, and Dr Masoni, the EU-IndiaGrid project co-ordinator, which set the tone for a series of plenary sessions dedicated to Bio-Informatics, Grid Industrial Applications, EU-India Interoperability and EU Worldwide Grid projects.

In the session dedicated to the Europe-India Grid Interoperability, Dipak Singh, from ERNET- India, presented the EU-India Network Infrastructure through an Indian Network Perspective and Morris Riedel, representing the OMII-Europe project, provided an informative overview on the scenario of Interoperability e-Infrastructures. The picture was completed by a snapshot on the EGEE-GARUDA Interoperability, and EU-India Interoperation and Interoperability, which were presented respectively by R. Sridharan, from C-DAC India, and Sergio Fantinel, from the Italian INFN.

The programme continued with the presentation of three Related European Worldwide Projects: EELA, targeting the Latin American Region, which is now approaching its phase two, presented by Bernard Marechal from Univ. Federal do Rio de Janeiro; SEEGrid2, whose co-ordinator Ognjen Prnjat from GRNet, Greece, introduced South-East European e-Infrastructure Vision and Activities and EU-ChinaGrid introduced by Diego Scardaci from INFN of Catania.

The conference continued in the afternoon with the Bioinformatics session. The talks gave an in-depth panorama of the tools used for simulations in the field of biology. Dannis Bray from the University of Cambridge, UK presented the use of computer-based surrogate bacteria to investigate chemotactic behaviour. A new tool for simulating cell biology - Smoldyn - was presented by Steven Andrews from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, USA. The session ended up with an overview on Tools for Multiscale simulations in Biology given by Upinder S. Bhalla from the Indian National Centre for Biological Sciences.

The last session was dedicated to Grid Industrial Applications where Dr. Sambath Na Parthasarathy, from IBM India Systems & Technolgy Lab, Nihar Ranjan Panda, from Juniper Networks, S. Sandeep, from Zeus Numerix, and Avadesh Mittal, from Altair Engineering, presented the latest industrial developments in Grid computing achieved in their respective companies.

The EU-IndiaGrid project played an active role during the e-Science 2007 conference with a keynote speech, given by the EU-IndiaGrid Deputy Project Manager P.S. Dhekne from BARC, on EU-IndiaGrid project's main achievements; a parallel session on the highlights of the EU-IndiaGrid applications which saw Upinder Bhalla (NCBS), Stefano Cozzini (ICTP), Suraj Patnaik and Kalpita Shinodkar (CDAC) as speakers; four posters presented at the poster session and a booth in the exhibition area with a demo of the Grid-Seed training tool. The poster 'Approaching protein folding on the EU-IndiaGrid infrastructure' was awarded as the e-Science 2007 Best Poster.

For further information on the event visit the EU-IndiaGrid website.

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