



Dear Toastmasters,

Twenty nine Toastmasters representing the length and breadth of District 82 came together on 18th July 2009 at Hyderabad for an unforgettable experience of learning, excitement and bonding! The two days workshop was expertly and professionally crafted by Speakers' Pool Chairman Paul Holmes. The faculty, consisting chiefly of Paul, Speakers' Bureau Chairman Maheshi Premasinghe and LGET Nagaraj Rao, were instrumental in changing the perspective and attitude of the delegates towards what makes a good speech great through a shared process of discovery. Working through a variety of techniques to aid quick understanding and absorption, the faculty made certain that interest levels never flagged whether it be a post-lunch session or a session at the end of the day. Sessions included those on the message, language, humor, storytelling, memorability, choreography, mentoring and judging. A final session on brainstorming of how this learning could be implemented across the District provided meaning to the two days. Despite so much packed into it, the event ran like clockwork thanks to Paul's meticulous planning.

While it was the workshop that kept us busy during the day, it was Hyderabad's night life that beckoned us in the evening! The amazing laser show at the Lumbini Park is one experience which will remain etched in my mind. Pubbing at the Outswinger or Ten Downing Street, biryani at the Paradise Hotel and the midnight buffet at the Marriott were just some hot spots for the visitors!

This fun and learning would not have been possible without some dedicated hard work by Paul, Maheshi and Nagaraj. Thanks a lot for all the effort you took to make this a spectacular event - the best yet in District 82!

Division F Governor Venkata with his team - past Area Governors Deepak Mittal and Arun Sridhar and present Area Governors Archana Kumar and Mubeen - were hosts extraordinaire! They facilitated the logistics, accommodation, transportation and sightseeing with unmatched zeal and coordination. With such a team at work, Reverberations 2009 in Hyderabad this November is an event to really look forward to! Division F, I salute you!

My final note of gratitude is reserved for Past Area Governor Jayanthi Kasarla who provided us the venue for the workshop at her office, Synopsys India. She ensured that we had all that we had asked for and more - superb facilities, the handouts prepared in advance and the mouthwatering lunch on both days made the entire experience a pleasure!

Its now for all of us to take the next step across this bridge of learning that we developed in Hyderabad. We need to become the bridges in our Divisions, Areas and Clubs to help disseminate our knowledge to our members. Together we can achieve our dream of building the standards of speaking in District 82!

Thanks and regards,

Deepak

*Building Bridges
Confidence Leadership Service*

Deepak Menon, 2009-2010 District Governor
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Toastmasters International
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