

A WORLD IN MOTION (AWIM) NATIONAL OLYMPICS 2008 – A REPORT

SAEINDIA, conducted "A World in Motion" (AWIM) Olympics 2008 on 18th November 2008 at Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Adyar, Chennai. The school wore a festive look and the function began with invocation song by the host school student seeking the blessings from the Almighty. After lighting the lamp by all the dignitaries, Mrs.Subala Ananthanarayanan, the Principal of the school welcomed the gathering and Mr.S.Shanmugam, Convenor, National AWIM Olympics, introduced the concept of AWIM OLYMPICS 2008 to the gathering. The Guest of Honour, Mr. Josef Memmel, Chief Operating Officer from TATA Johnson Controls, Pune, in his key note address stressed the need for such programmes. It was followed by felicitations from Mr.R.Srinivas (Ashok Leyland), Mr.Ankur Sharma (Mahindra & Mahindra) and Dr.K.C.Vora (ARAI).



After the inauguration, Mr. Ankur Sharma took charge of the stage and started the competition. The teams that took part represented as many as 15 schools from Chennai, Pune, and Nashik. The students mostly from class VI and a few from class V had qualified for this final round from selection rounds held earlier in different cities. The schools have been part of the AWIM program that seeks to bring teachers, students and industry volunteers together in an exploration of physical science, simultaneously addressing essential mathematic and scientific concepts and skills.

The *SAE International*, the professional organisation for mobility engineers, provides the curriculum of *AWIM*. *SAEINDIA* has been implementing this programme to the schools with the help of sponsoring companies like Ashok Leyland, Honeywell, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti, and Bank of Baroda.



The following schools were participated in the National Olympics 2008.

1. DAV public school, Pune
2. Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Chennai,
3. M.Ct.M Chidhambaram Chettiar Higher Secondary School, Chennai
4. Crescent School, Chennai
5. Ashoka Universal School, Nashik
6. Symbiosis, Nashik
7. M.S.Kothari Academy, Nashik
8. Dharam Hinduja Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Chennai
9. St. Francis Xavier`s Matriculation School, Chennai
10. P.S. Senior Secondary School, Chennai
11. St. Michael's Academy, Chennai
12. India National School, Pune
13. Gurukul, Pune
14. Vedavalli Vidyalyaya Senior Secondary School, Walajah
15. New India School, Pune

Mr. Ankur Sharma briefed the rules and regulations of the Olympics to the contestants. Materials for the construction of the jet toy were provided to the teams comprising 3 students each playing the roles of "Project Engineer", "Facilities Engineer" and "Test Engineer" just to boost their morale and to facilitate them into the task assigned to them. They used balloons to power their card board vehicles that ran on plastic wheels. It was a fun filled yet hectic activity and the teams were deeply engrossed into their assigned tasks. They designed and built small vehicles that took them on a very enjoyable and informative day-long journey. The program witnessed some of the most innovative vehicles that came in interesting colours and shapes. Before their actual presentation, the teams tested their vehicles on a small track of 10 m length and 3 m breadth made especially for this purpose. Volunteers from Ashok Leyland, Mahindra & Mahindra, Royal Enfield, etc. rendered wonderful service to the team members and organisers of the Olympics 2008.



After the lunch break, the competitions began. The various parameters tested included distance, time, speed, accuracy, and pay-load carrying capacity. After the tea break, the session continued with testing the aesthetics and presentation skills. The teams left no stones unturned to excel in their performances. The Olympics proved to be a wonderful and perfect opportunity to the competitors to bring out and to prove salient features like team spirit / work, creativity, novelty, communication skills, aesthetic sense and similar such superlatives. It was a blend of science and technology and management skills and proved to be the best way of teaching and learning not only science involved but mathematics, engineering and technology as well.

The jet toy, though seemed to be very simple to construct at the first sight, really posed problems to the "budding engineer-designates". The pinnacle of the story is that all those amateur but future engineers tacitly faced the challenges with courage and fortitude proving that their knowledge and designing skills are in no way inferior to any of the professionals having considerable experience in their field. It was a scintillating experience witnessing the team members discussing among themselves so seriously with a view to winning the trophy.

It was an yogic experience too not only to the participants but to the volunteers, teachers, parents and to all those who had assembled there to witness the kids' world in motion as every one's body, mind and soul were in perfect unison transcending the barriers of space and time.

Besides sense of humour and presence of mind from the young engineers elegantly found their way during the presentation session with Prof. K. Chandrasekaran, M. K.N. Krishnamurthy and Mrs. Jaya Shankar who acted as judges. When asked about the unconventional streamlined shape, they came up with quick responses. "Aerodynamics, you see. We want the vehicle to pierce through the air and move fast," explained Roshan Jaisimha Dattatri, even as his team mates C.Yuvapriyan and Bhavya Kannan were giving the final touches to their models. It would not certainly be an exaggeration to say that the judges were a little taken aback by the knowledge and wit and humour of the young team members.

Ashoka Universal School from Nashik emerged as the national champion in the event. Aditya Londhe, Varun Kasat and Pallak Nimani presented a fast, efficient and eco-friendly vehicle. Symbiosis School, Nashik bagged the second prize while M.S. KothariAcademy, Nashik came third.





The valedictory function began with the formal invocation song from the host school and the Principal, Mrs. Subala Ananthanarayanan delivered the welcome speech. Mr. Thomas W. Ryan III, President, *SAE International*, who gave away the prizes, commended the teachers and parents for supporting the initiative. Mr. David L. Schutt, Executive Vice President and COO of *SAE International*, said the event was the highlight of his trip to India and lauded the students' efforts. Mr. M.S.Kumar, President, *SAEINDIA* and Mr. B.M. Udhaya Shankar, Executive Director - Manufacturing, Ashok Leyland Ltd. Chennai offered felicitations. This programme was sponsored by M/s Ashok Leyland Ltd and M/s Honeywell.



The details of the winners are as under :

S.No	Name of the Event	Name of the school	position
1	Distance	St.Michael`s Academy	First
		St. Francis Xavier`s	Second
2	Pay load	Symbiosis	First
		St. Francis Xavier`s	Second
3	Speed	Symbiosis	First
		Ashoka Universal	Second
4	Accuracy	P.S. Senior Sec. School	First
		Sri Sankara Sr. Sec. School	Second
5	Time	M.S.Kothari School	First
		Crescent School	Second
6	Aesthetics	DAV Public School	First
		Ashoka	Second
7	Presentation	Ashoka Universal School	First
		DAV Public School	Second
8	Special Prizes	M. S. Kothari Academy	
		Gurukul	
		New India School	
		M. Ct. M. School	

It was a big day for the young students. SAE India would only feel glad to render its services and invites schools to make use of this golden opportunity and is committed to set the world in motion.

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inspiring the new Generation
to indulge in science and technology

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