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2023 UASG Elections Nomination for Vice-Chair

2023-04-04

Name: Dr. U B Pavanaja

Bio/Statement of Interest:

Dr U B Pavanaja holds Master's degree from Mysore University and PhD from Mumbai University. He was a scientist at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai, for about 15 years. He has done advanced research at Taiwan. He resigned BARC in 1997 and dedicated himself fully for the cause of Computer and Indian languages. He has to his credit many firsts, viz., first Kannada web-site, first Kannada online magazine, first Indian language (Kannada) web-site to receive Golden Web Award, first Indian language (Kannada) editor for Palm OS, first Indian language (Kannada) editor for WinCE device (HP Jornada 720), first Indian language version (Kannada) of universally popular Logo (programming language for children) software, etc. his Kannada Logo has won the Manthan Award for the year 2006. He was a member of the Technical Advisory Committee setup by Govt of Karnataka on Standardization of Kannada on Computers (2000).

He is also the member of Kannada Software Committee of Govt of Karnataka (2008- current). He started his career on computers from FORTRAN and then moved on to Pascal, C, BASIC, QuickBasic, Visual Basic, VB.Net, etc. He has attended and represented Indian languages in many Indian and International forums like Indic Font Workshop (Indic Computing Consortium, Bangalore, India), Unicode conference (Unicode Consortium, CA, USA), OpenType Font Seminar (Microsoft, Seattle, USA), etc. He is quite well known in Indic computing arena. He is also popular as a writer of articles in Kannada about IT. He has consulted to Microsoft India and Microsoft Research Labs India. His last

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assignment was with The Centre for Internet and Society in the Access to Knowledge team to work towards growing the Wikipedia community in India.

He is a member of various committees setup by Govt of Karnataka in the area of Kannada and Information Technology. He is a contributor to ICANN as a member of the NeoBrahmi Generation Panel which is working towards standardization and implementation of Indic scripts in Internationalised Domain Names. He is working as Vice Chairman for the UASG from April 2021. Being Vice Chair for UASG, he contributed to various activities, participated in meetings, approved budgets and SOWs, and more. He actively participated in the ICANN76 at The Hague, Netherlands.

Dr. U.B. Pavanaja - a profile

- Born in a village bordering Karnataka and Kerala, India.
- Education - MSc (Mysore Univ) India, PhD (Bombay Univ) India, Post-doctoral research at Taiwan.
- Scientist at BARC, Bombay for 15 years. Published many research articles.
- Active member of Kannada Sangha of BARC -an association for the propagation of science through Kannada. Edited the Kannada Science magazine of Kannada Sangha, BARC, "belagu", for 5 years. Gave a new look to the magazine by DTP. Organized many seminars in Kannada on various science topics at BARC (1989-1997).
- Brought a PC culture to the chemist communities at BARC.
- Resigned BARC in 1997 June and came down to Bangalore to work for Kannada and computers.
- Made the first Kannada program called "Kannada Kali" (Learn Kannada), a game which helps nursery kids and non- Kannadigas to learn Kannada alphabet, in 1993. The program later evolved to include graphics and multimedia. This program was well appreciated by many Kannadigas and non-Kannadigas. Many Kannada organizations all over the world used this program to introduce Kannada alphabet to children at their Kannada classes.
- Put up Kannada web site Vishva Kannada (<http://www.vishvakannada.com/>) in Dec. 1996. It has many firsts to its credit -
 - First Kannada web site.

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- First Kannada online magazine.
- First Indian Language web site to use dynamic fonts.
- Actively involved with Kannada Ganaka Parishat (KGP). KGP is a voluntary body formed by Computer professionals, literary persons and Kannada enthusiasts for the standardization and usage of Kannada on computers. KGP was the official certifying agency of Karnataka Govt for Kannada software. KGP has developed a free Kannada Script Software as per the standards evolved by KGP and notified by Govt of Karnataka.
- Main brain behind the "Nudi", a free Kannada software (for Windows 9x) developed by KGP, as per Karnataka Govt standards (2000).
- Developed a Kannada version of the universally used LOGO program, used to teach basic computing principles to kids.
- Attended 17th Unicode Conference at San Jose, CA, USA, Sep. 2000. Discussed about Kannada Unicode with the Consortium members.
- Consultant to Microsoft on Kannada in Windows XP, Office XP, OpenType font; Indian Language software development, proper implementation of Indian languages, etc (2001- 2007).
- Developed an OpenType font for Kannada.
- Participated in the OpenType font Seminar, Microsoft, Seattle, USA, Aug.26-30, 2002.
- Participated in Global Development and Deployment Conference, Microsoft, Redmond, USA, Feb.18-20, 2004.
- Developed multilingual Smart Tags (for Office XP) and multilingual applications using VB.NET. This bagged third prize in the All-India Smart Tag contest organized by Microsoft India (2004).
- Editorial committee member of "Baala Vijnana", a science publication in Kannada targeting high school children, brought out by Karnataka Rajya Vijnana Parishat, during 2000-2003.
- Member of technical advisory panel, Govt of Karnataka, on standardization and implementation of Kannada on computers, 2000.
- Member of the editorial committee of special souvenir brought out on the occasion of World Kannada Conference held at Texas, USA, in Sep. 2000.
- Creation of educational multimedia CDs for Azim Premji Foundation, a NGO.

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- Developed a Kannada Memo editor for Palm. Probably it is the first Indian Language application on a handheld device (PDA) (2001).
- Developed a Kannada Notepad for HP Jornada -a handheld PC, for the first time. This could be the first Indian Language application on a WinCE device (2001).
- Developed a multilingual (English, Hindi and Kannada) notepad for Win CE 5.0 OS using Visual Studio .NET in Unicode (2002).
- Developed a syllable processing and chandassu (prosody) checking software for Kannada using Visual Studio .NET in Unicode.
- Given many lectures, seminars and demonstrations on the topics related to Computers and Indian Languages, at many places like IIIT-Hyderabad, IISc-Bangalore, IIIT-Bangalore, MC Univ - Bhopal, MAIT – Delhi, CALTS – Hyderabad, CIIL – Mysore, BARC – Mumbai, IIT- Bombay, IIT-Delhi, etc.
- Conducted Bhasha Workshops (workshop on Indian language computing) at Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkatta and Kathmandu on behalf of Microsoft India.
- Chief Consultant to the portal www.bhashaindia.com, a community web-site on Indian language computing.
- Adviser to Microsoft Research (India) on Natural Language Processing of Indian languages.
- **Microsoft Most Valuable Professional, 2002-2007.**
- **Manthan Award 2006 for Kannada Logo (www.vishvakannada.com/kannadalogo).**
- Well known writer of articles about IT in Kannada and English, about Indic computing, etc., in newspapers, magazines and web-sites.
- Chairman, Board of Studies, Diploma Course on Computers in Kannada, Kannada University, Hampi.
- Previously worked as General Manager Academics with Manipal Education, Bangalore.
- Previously worked as Head, Learning & Development, Excelsoft Technologies, Mysore.
- Chairman, Board of Studies, IT programs, Directorate of Distance Education, Sikkim Manipal University.
- Columnist in Kannada Prabha, Kannada daily, every Monday, titled *ganakindi*, about latest happenings in the field of IT, tips & tricks, etc., archived at <http://ganakindi.blogspot.in/>

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- Columnist in Prajavani, Kannada daily, every Thursday, titles *gadgetloka*, about gadgets.
- Founder member and leader for the Mysore Geeks user group
- Member of the Kannada Software Committee, Govt of Karnataka, 2000-2003 and 2008-2013.
- Member of Advisory Panel for Kannada Corpus Creation, Kannada University, Hampi.
- Member of Advisory Panel, Kannada Virtual University, Bangalore University.
- Adjunct Professor, Sahyadri College of Engineering and Management, Mangalore.
- Program Manager, Access to Knowledge, The Centre for Internet & Society (2013-2016).
- Active contributor and admin at Kannada and Tulu Wikipedias.
- Founder Trustee & Secretary, Karavali Wikimedians User Group.
- Member of various committees setup by Govt of Karnataka in the area of Kannada and Information Technology.
- Contributor to ICANN as a member of the NeoBrahmi Generation Panel which is working towards standardization and implementation of Indic scripts in Internationalised Domain Names.
- Vice Chairman, UASG, ICANN from April 2021.

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