

Dipankar's Profile :

Dipankar is currently the Chief Scientist at TREELabs Foundation. He has been the unwritten 'Benevolent Dictator' at TREELabs. A scientist and a physicist at heart (some friends affectionately add the word 'mad'), he is also an inventor and an entrepreneur. Most importantly, he is a 'Dreamer'. His big dream is to eradicate the age-old curse of poverty from the world, and thereby enable this world to become a better place for life.

He loves teaching and has been an educator. He taught at IIT-Bombay for nearly two decades, enthusing a whole generation of youngsters to learn and be confident in building engineering solutions. He also loves to interact with school children and has a grand plan to transform kids from the bottom of the economic pyramid, possibly from far out and remote places, to become high-quality entrepreneurs.

Dipankar did his B.Tech in electrical engineering from IIT-Bombay (graduated in 1988) and subsequently did his PhD from Rice University, USA, in Physics. He had the privilege of working closely with Nobel prize winners. Some of the experimental and theoretical scientific problems he solved himself are at the cutting edge. He found solutions to a 100 year old unsolved problem, but of great contemporary importance, that of solving Maxwell's equations exactly, analytically. In his scientific pursuits he had publications in prestigious scientific journals such as Science, Physical Review Letters, Physical Review, etc. He has been among the pioneers in the field of scanning probe microscopy and fullerenes. He worked in many other areas including ultra-fast lasers, micro-electronics, vacuum systems and foundry technology.

One of his ongoing pet project is to understand science (physics, chemistry, etc.) from first principles, in sufficiently simple ways that a smart high-school kid may unambiguously understand. We all seem to learn science, by accepting authority. His approach shuns this method and attempts a more democratic and logical approach by not invoking any authority, but primarily our sense of logic (and often common sense). He is in the process of writing a book on this subject. His learned friends infer that this is perhaps his best invention so far, and can have far-reaching effect on young minds, world-wide.

Regarding his entrepreneurial pursuits, he dived into business even during his childhood and high-school days. This included selling tea at school, to creating a business to manufacture and sell domestic inverters (to mitigate power-cuts, which was quite rampant during his childhood days). He set up companies in the past, and also helped others within India and abroad, to become successful entrepreneurs.

In his spare time (outside of the sciences and engineering), he indulges in a variety of other hobbies and sports. This includes paragliding, trekking, cycling, martial-arts, photography, writing poems, listening to music, watching movies and documentary films, dabbling in painting, learning languages (yes, including Mandarin), cooking and growing food (permaculture) and of course most importantly, 'Dreaming'! Dreaming to create a better world for all of us.

He can be reached via email at dipankar@treelabs.org or dipankar@iitbombay.org. Sorry, he does not carry cell-phones, and is not on social media like facebook or whatsapp. Thus he can give his *undisturbed attention* to only you in any face-to-face meeting !

(Written on April, 2017)