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Press release for
International Robot Olympiad (IROC)

Successfully the first ever Bangladesh Robot Olympiad (BdRO)-2018 took place on 26th October, 2018

With a great enthusiasm and with a considerable amount of participants, the first ever “Bangladesh robot Olympiad” is been held back on October 26th, 2018 in the premise of the historic Curzon Hall of University of Dhaka. The country's this first robot Olympiad was organized jointly by Bangladesh Open Source Network (BDOSN) and Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering Department of University of Dhaka.

The daylong event took place in order to give chance to the potential young generations of Bangladesh and aficionado in robotics and other likely topics, mostly aged from 7 to 18 years old, who can show their prospective excellence with other similar participants from different corners of the country and thus the best ones can be chosen to send as representative of the country to the international competition. The international competition is going to take place in coming December, which is 15th-19th December, 2018, in the city of Manila at Philippines.

The program of “Bangladesh Robot Olympiad-2018” was held from 8am to 5pm in the day. Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Professor Md. Akhtaruzzaman, PhD. inaugurated the program by his excellent speech to motivate the coming participants as well as expressing his hope for the future development of nations by these young minds. Managing Director of Data Soft, a leading IoT technology based company, Mahbub Zaman, General Secretary of Bangladesh Open Source Network (BDOSN) Mr. Munir Hasan and Mrs. Lafifa Jamal, PhD, Chairperson of Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering Department of Dhaka University were present. Each of the honorable and distinguished guests motivated the participants who has become the part of the historic moment of first ever robot Olympiad and passed their best hopes for the future endeavor of the participants.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Professor Md. Akhtaruzzaman, PhD said, "Today, I have become a witness to a historic moment. This is a very lucky thing for me." In the speech, he said that we will have to go ahead with the use of technology. You have to work with a new application. Children will have the opportunity to express their thoughts in the minds of the mind, then the country will go ahead with the hands of the youth. In the speech, he also said that we have to create an intelligent robot. As a robot can make people's work easier. The Vice-Chancellor also mentioned that “the name of Bangladesh will be better spread by making your robots. But you will never be a robot. Being a human being has to be a man and serve the country. Bangladesh is considered to be a strong country in the world. You have to work to take the country forward, one day you will manage the world.”

Data soft Managing Director Mahbub Zaman said to the students that you are a lucky generation. The fourth industrial revolution is going on in the whole world, and you are attending the robot Olympiad at that time. You are the fourth generation freedom fighter of Bangladesh. Bangladesh will go ahead and win the war of industrial revolution by your hand. He also said the space robot will never be able to occupy the space of the people. The people who bought robots are made. Today's students hope to take our country to another level, Mahbub Zaman hopes.

A total of 125 participants participated in different leagues in different categories of the Olympiad. The Bangladesh Robot Olympiad was divided into three major leagues along with one additional segment in the competition. Participants could participate in any of the competition league according to their choices where scope for participating in all the leagues or any combination of participation were allowed. According to the international guideline of “International Robot Olympiad” (IROC) and their provided rulebook, “Robot Gathering”, “Creative Category” and “Robot in Movie” – these 03 major leagues were taken place in the event. Designated judges, referees and other volunteers were present to execute the competitions smoothly according to the rules and discipline. There were 02 categories in these 03 major leagues, Junior (participants have birth year from 2006~2011) and Challenge /Senior (participants have birth year from 2000~2005).

There were total 14 team participated in “Robot in Movie” category and total 22 team in “Creative Category” league.

There were also an extra segment named “Robotic Intelligence” which was actually a quiz competition, where almost 60 participants took part in junior and senior category and they had to solve different problems related to robotics and mathematical logic along with algorithm development- without the help of any calculation device.

For “Creative Category” and “Robot in Movie” league, participants took part as a team where they had to build a robot focusing on any problem related to the international theme “Save the Seas”. Honorable judges was overwhelmed seeing the greatest minds showing some extra-ordinary robots with some mind blowing solutions of the stated problems. Also for “Robot in Movie” category, junior and young minds were so much attractive to see making sets, prompts, character models and several other chores to shoot their movie in a limited time frame. They were also busy writing their film’s production plan in served papers by the organizers. “Light, Camera, Action!”- were in resonance of the environment of the event place. They also had to shoot, edit and submit movie based on the idea “Save the Seas”. All the competitions were judged by several experts, faculties of different universities of Bangladesh- in order to ensure fair and acceptable judgement.

The total event was managed by different volunteers and mentors from the Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering Department of University of Dhaka and Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology.

The volunteer and mentor group was led and the Formal Program of the event was hosted by the national coordinator of BdRO, Mr. Redwan Ferdous Farhan.

In the afternoon, The Janata Bank Limited chairman Mrs. Luna Shamsuddoha distributed prizes among the winners. She also observed different projects/submissions in the competition area. A total of 41 people were rewarded in different categories in 3 segments- Gold, Silver and Bronze. This arrangement was sponsored by Giga tech Limited and Janata Bank Limited. The event had also different partners including “Sirena Technologies Limited”- as robot partner, “Amber IT Limited”- as internet and connectivity partner, “Dhaka FM 90.4”- as radio broadcast partner, “EMK MakerLab”- as technical support partner, “Nagorik TV”- as television media partner and “Biggan Chinta”- as technical magazine partner.

For any further query:

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Our event details can be found in following links:

Facebook- Page: <https://www.facebook.com/RobotOlympiadBd/>

Facebook- Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/330525524386424/>

Website: <http://bdosn.org/bdro>

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