**Keynote Talk**

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**A History of the VLSI Design Conference**

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***Abstract***

In December 1985, a group of about eighty-five assembled on the campus of the Indian Institute of Technology in Chennai for the First International Workshop on VLSI Design. The sole purpose of that meeting was to sense the level of VLSI activities in India. We were looking for a focus for engineering education and research. We felt that VLSI technology will be an area of progress in the coming years. The workshop was concluded with great enthusiasm but with no plan for the future. Therefore, it was no surprise that no workshop was held in the following year or the year after. The Second and Third Workshops were held, with some difficulties, in 1988 and 1990, respectively. Fortunately, those initial workshops created enough synergy to get the ball rolling. They spun off their own sponsoring society, the VLSI Society of India. Today, the International Conference on VLSI Design has come a long way to become a conference with world-wide recognition. This talk traces the history of the conference, its beginning, the struggling years, successes, failures and some groundbreaking contributions that made it what it is today.

***Speaker Biography***

**Vishwani D. Agrawal** is the James J. Danaher Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Auburn University, Alabama, USA. He has over forty years of industry and university experience, working at Bell Labs, Murray Hill, NJ; Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ; TRW, Redondo Beach, CA; IIT, Delhi, India; EG&G, Albuquerque, NM; and ATI, Champaign, IL. His areas of work include VLSI testing, low-power design, and microwave antennas. He obtained his BE degree from the University of Roorkee (renamed Indian Institute of Technology), Roorkee, India, in 1964; ME degree from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, in 1966; and PhD degree in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, in 1971. He has published over 300 papers, has coauthored five books and holds thirteen United States patents. His textbook, *Essentials of Electronic Testing for Digital, Memory and Mixed-Signal VLSI Circuits*, co-authored with M. L. Bushnell, was published in 2000. He is the founder and Editor-in-Chief (1990-) of the *Journal of Electronic Testing: Theory and Applications*, past Editor-in-Chief (1985-87) of the *IEEE Design & Test of Computers* magazine and a past Editorial Board Member (2003-08) of the *IEEE Transactions on VLSI Systems.* He is the Founder and Consulting Editor of the *Frontiers in Electronic Testing* Book Series of Springer. He is a co-founder of the *International Conference on VLSI Design*, and the *VLSI Design and Test Symposium*, held annually in India. He was the invited **Plenary Speaker** at the *1998 International Test Conference*, Washington D.C., and the **Keynote Speaker** at the *Ninth Asian Test Symposium*, held in Taiwan in December 2000. During 1989 and 1990, he served on the Board of Governors of the IEEE Computer Society, and in 1994, chaired the Fellow Selection Committee of that Society. He has received ***eight* Best Paper Awards** and ***two*** **Honorable Mention Paper Awards**. In 2006, he received the **Lifetime Achievement Award** of the VLSI Society of India, *in recognition of his contributions to the area of VLSI Test and for founding and steering the International Conference on VLSI Design in India.* In 1998, he received the **Harry H. Goode Memorial Award** of the IEEE Computer Society, *for innovative contributions to the field of electronic testing,* and in 1993, received the **Distinguished Alumnus Award** of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, *in recognition of his outstanding contributions in design and test of VLSI systems*. Dr. Agrawal is a **Fellow of the IETE-India** (elected in 1983), a **Fellow of the IEEE** (elected in 1986) and a **Fellow of the ACM** (elected in 2003). He has served on the advisory boards of the ECE Departments at University of Illinois, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and the City College of the City University of New York. See his website [*http://www.eng.auburn.edu/~vagrawal*](http://www.eng.auburn.edu/~vagrawal)