**Message from the Steering Committee Chair**

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“The darkest hour is just before the dawn.” It is the hope that carries us through difficult times as we wait for the dawn. This conference had a special meaning for some of us, that is, to fulfill a lifetime dream of visiting Assam, Guwahati, and the Brahmaputra river valley. We hope to be back to Guwahati in not too distant a future.

First time in virtual mode, this is VLSID 2021, the *34th International Conference on VLSI Design* and *20th International Conference on Embedded Systems.* Sudeb Dasgupta (IIT Roorkee) and Gaurav Trivedi (IIT Guwahati) were treading on unfamiliar ground when they assembled and led a large team of volunteer organizers from industry and academia. It is interesting to see how the two IITs, physically more than a thousand miles apart, joined hands to make this a success.

Our sponsor is VLSI Society of India (VSI). Technical co-sponsors are IEEE (CAS, CEDA, CPS, CS, TCVLSI and TTTC) and ACM (SIGDA and SIGMICRO). Collaboration partners are the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Government of India), IIT-Guwahati, IIT-Roorkee, IESA (India Electronics & Semiconductor Association), and Techsagar (India’s Cybertech Repository). The list of Industry supporters includes Cadence, Intel, Micron, Xilinx, Siemens, Analog Devices, Circuit Sutra, ST Microelectronics, NXP, MOSCHIP, ALTAIR, Synopsys, Global Foundries, Qualcomm, MEDIATEK, SMARTSOC, INSEMI Technology, and HCL. We are grateful to all volunteers, sponsors, co-sponsors, collaborators and supporters.

This year’s theme is “*From the Transistor to Cyber-Physical Systems, For Solving Societal Challenges*.” The Conference offers tutorials on February 20 and 21, and invited talks and paper presentations on February 22, 23 and 24. The five-day program features 15 Visionary Keynotes, User/Designer Track, seven Tutorials, Papers, Posters, Student Research Forum, Two Panel Discussions, and a Virtual Product Showcase. Reaffirming our sister conference relationship with the Design Automation Conference (DAC), Session 5B on February 24 presents 4 papers from the recent DAC as highlights of that conference.

Also coming up this year is VDAT 2021, the *25th International Symposium on VLSI Design and Test*, being planned at Surat, India, during July 29-31, 2021. Moving ahead VLSID 2022, the *35th International Conference on VLSI Design* and *21st International Conference on Embedded Systems* will take place at Hyderabad, India, in January 2022. Next, VLSID 2023, the *36th International Conference on VLSI Design* and *22nd International Conference on Embedded Systems,* is slated for Kolkata, India, in January 2023.

With warm regards,

Vishwani D. Agrawal

Chair, VLSI Design Conference Steering Committee

February 27, 2021