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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KARNATAKA





Aravind Melligeri

Aravind Melligeri is co-founder and Board Member of QUEST Global. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Karnataka Regional Engineering College. He subsequently obtained a master's degree from Pennsylvania State University. Aravind has been conferred with the National Institute of Technology Karnataka Alumni Excellence award.

Dr. Ajay Prabhu

Dr. Ajay Prabhu is the COO of QdEST Global. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering from the Karnataka Regional Engineering College. He went on to complete his MS & Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts in the USA. Ajay's research work on very high frequency amplifiers was recognized with an award from the IEEE Microwave Society Fellowship and he holds two US Patents.

ON A GLOBAL

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An Interview with
Aravind Melligeri
and
Ajay Prabhu



Could you please take a walk down the KREC memory lane for us?

Ajay Prabhu: I almost did not make it to KREC. I was interested in being an E&C engineer (inspired by my uncle who was an E&C engineer). The few E&C seats were gone in seconds. I walked out of the admissions room and luckily for me, a 'senior' sitting outside the admissions room asked me, "Which branch did you get?" and added, "Take whatever branch, and after the first year you get a chance to switch the branch." I took Metallurgy and switched to E&C after the first year. I have fond memories of Dr. Subhasini Bhat, who was an excellent lecturer. I was one of the few (possibly the only) ones to attend the Electromagnetics course. Dr. Govindhan Reddy went one of his way to offer the Microwave Engineering elective that I lobbied hard for. I had to gather a minimum of 10 students for the University to offer the elective. I succeeded. I went on to pursue my PhD in this elective field.

Aravind Melligeri: The four years at KREC were some of the best times of my life, beginning with having jaba ragging, which we considered a crucial part of building relationships with seniors and understanding the challenges that lay ahead in our journey. In today's business parlance, they were our advisers to succeed in the college (the first three months were essentially our fees that we would pay today for an adviser if we were entering a new business). If I remember correctly, I finished four years of engineering without spending a dime to buy books, as we built relationships with our seniors who would hand over books and notes, lock, stock and barrel to us.

In terms of faculty, Prof. Appukannan was the friendliest, most devoted and knowledgeable teacher I knew since. He saw his students as friends and would go above and beyond to help them succeed in the goals they set out for.

AP: Aravind and I grew up together in Hubli in North Karnataka. We went to the same KRS-16 (Kannada Boys School) from 1st to 7th grade. Aravind is my best friend from childhood. At KREC, this friendship got a lot stronger. In the 2nd year of engineering, there was a revolution in campus where non-focus took over the student union. Aravind was my campaign manager. Throughout the four years, Aravind was my finance manager. He would remember how much money I owed and to whom! He is excellent with numbers. When we went to the US for MS in 1990, India

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