

SUBRA'S SYMPOSIUM SUBMISSION

Mr Subramaniam P D R Nathan (also known as Subra by the colleagues), the head of the Engineering Department of Sunway College, presented a research paper at a symposium held in the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia between 25 - 27 August 1987.

The symposium on electromagnetic compatibility, was jointly organised by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Investigation of lightning stepped leaders due to tropical thunderstorms were carried out in Malaysia by Subra over a three year period from 1983 to 1986. Subra braved the lightning, thunder and rain (sometimes with an empty stomach) to



**Subramaniam of the Engineering Department,
Sunway College.**

carry out extensive theoretical work and electric field monitoring, to test the experimental validity of two of the well known charge distribution models, namely the uniform and linear charge distribution. His results showed that the most likely charge distribution would be a hybrid between the uniform charge density and the linear charge density model.

When asked why he conducted such a study, he answered that with sufficient knowledge on the charge distribution, one can devise a more realistic model of the lightning discharge for the purpose of protecting buildings, equipment and people.

To know more about lightning which is a common phenomenon in our country, Subra will be giving a talk on this topic in 1988 at Sunway College.

Subra would like to acknowledge ESSO and the University of Malaya for their assistance during his years of research and also Sunway College for giving him the opportunity to present his research paper at the above mentioned symposium.

LOONG SHU-LING