

# IEEE Young Professional gets a once-in-a-lifetime experience > IEEE Awards Sponsors Travel to the 2023 IEEE VIC Summit and Honors Ceremony

BY Leslie Russell

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## PROFILE



l-r: Vint Cerf, co-father of the Internet & Medal of Honor Recipient takes a selfie with Rohith J. Mathew at the 2023 IEEE VIC Summit and Honors Ceremony

Rohith Joseph Mathew serves as a product analyst at Refyne, a financial technology startup based in Bengaluru (Bangalore), India.

Refyne is India's leading earned-wage platform designed to empower employees to withdraw their salaries at any point during the month. Refyne also provides financial advisory services aimed at bolstering financial education. Mathew graduated in 2021 with his Bachelor of Technology from Rajagiri School of Engineering & Technology in Kerala India.

## IEEE VOLUNTEERING

For the past six years, Mathew has been an active IEEE volunteer. He joined IEEE as a student member and now serves as an IEEE Young Professional. In recognition of his contribution to the IEEE Kerala Section & IEEE India Council in 2021, he received the title of 'Outstanding Student Volunteer India Council.' In 2020, while serving as student branch chair for the IEEE Kerala Section, the branch received the distinction of 'IEEE R10 Exemplary Student Branch Award' for the consistent efforts displayed by these section members throughout the year.

Mathew served as the design lead for the Awards Sponsorship highlight booklet (2019). The booklet highlighted annual awards activities with a particular focus on sponsors and funders. This year, he happily volunteered to assist with activities during the 2023 IEEE Vision, Innovation, and Challenges Summit (IEEE VIC Summit) and Honors Ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

## IEEE AWARDS SPONSORED TRAVEL

Mathew was granted a travel stipend that included airfare, hotel, and registration fees covered to attend the IEEE's premier event – 2023 IEEE Vision, Innovation, and Challenges Summit (IEEE VIC Summit) and Honors Ceremony – held on 4-5 May at the Hilton in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

Mathew remarks, “One of the highlights of the event was the opportunity to connect with numerous senior scientists, resolute volunteers, and eminent personalities in the field of STEM. Engaging in conversations with these individuals, sharing insights, and learning from their vast knowledge and experiences was an incredible privilege.”

Among those that Mathew connected with were Vint Cerf, co-father of the Internet, and Hiroyuki Matsunami, pioneer of silicon carbide material and power devices.

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“Being able to interact with Vint Cerf was an absolute honor and a memory that I will cherish for a lifetime. His contributions to the development of the Internet are monumental and having the chance to speak with him directly was truly inspiring. Such experiences are what every IEEE member aspires to be a part of upon joining the community.”

## REFLECTING ON HIS EXPERIENCE

“Attending the IEEE VIC's ceremony has not only expanded my professional network but also instilled in me a greater sense of purpose and enthusiasm for my role as an IEEE volunteer. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity and look forward to continuing my journey within the IEEE community.”

Now that Mathew has returned to India, he is eager to share the wealth of experiences and knowledge that he gained at the event. He hopes to inspire more young engineers to become active members of the IEEE community and contribute to its mission of advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. Mathew is looking forward to continuing to volunteer for IEEE...and hopes to be an IEEE Award Recipient someday!



L-R: IEEE LIFE FELLOW AND EDISON MEDAL RECIPIENT, HIROYUKI MATSUNAMI POSES WITH ROHITH MATHEW

He enthusiastically says, “I'll definitely be holding onto the memories for a long time to come!”

More about IEEE Awards and IEEE VIC Summit: <https://corporate-awards.ieee.org/>