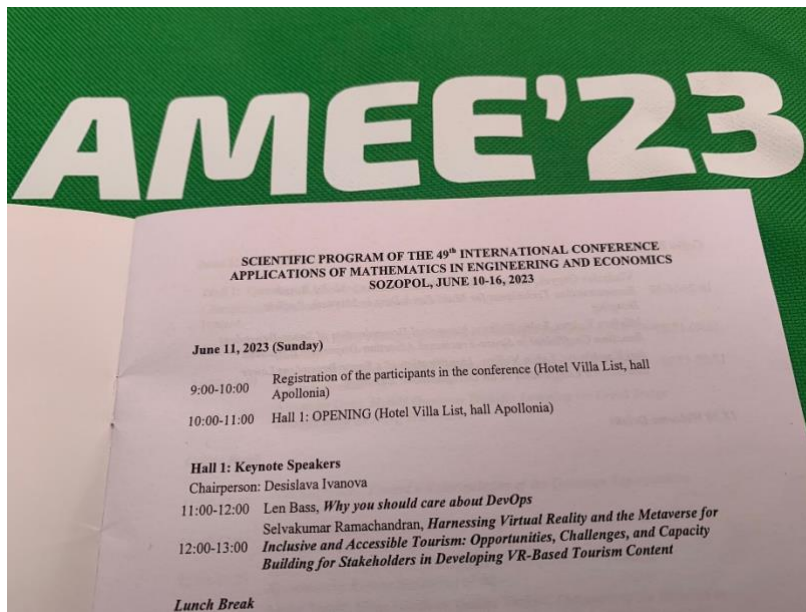


Report: Key activities and achievements of Dr Selvakumar Ramachandran during his recent trip to Sozopol, Bulgaria for the 49th International Conference "Applications of Mathematics in Engineering and Economics" organized by the Technical University of Sofia. 10-16 June 2023



Dr. Ramachandran was given the honour of delivering a keynote speech at the conference, where he presented on *"Harnessing Virtual Reality and the Metaverse for Inclusive and Accessible Tourism: Opportunities, Challenges, and Capacity Building for Stakeholders in Developing VR-Based Tourism Content"*. His presentation was well received by a diverse audience of academics, researchers, and industry professionals who

showed keen interest in the potential of these technologies for enhancing inclusivity and accessibility in tourism.

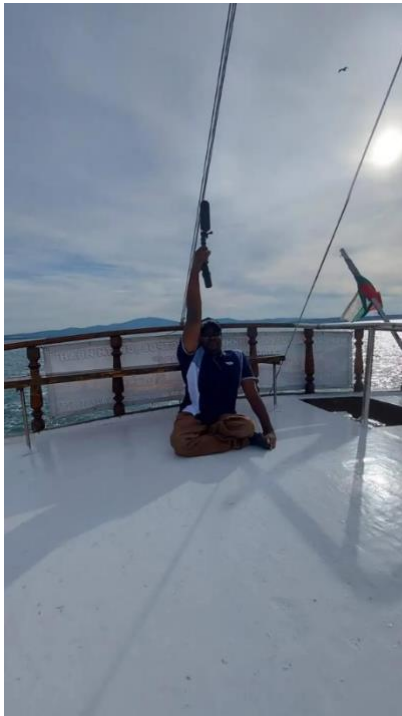


During the conference, Dr. Ramachandran demonstrated the capabilities of the [Eyemmersive](#) and [TeenyWeenyVR](#) projects, using PICO XR headsets including the Pico Neo 2, Pico Neo 3, and Pico 4. The demonstrations provided the attendees with an immersive firsthand experience of the projects, clearly showcasing the advancements made in creating inclusive VR content for tourism. Dr Ramachandran had also demonstrated how EC funded [Divetour](#) project's VR-based deliverables.

Significantly, Dr. Ramachandran created high-quality 8K VR-videos from a

wheelchair user's perspective. These immersive videos cover Sozopol's old town and a fascinating boat trip on the Black Sea, enriching the content available for the #Eyemmersive project.

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Dr. Ramachandran also had the great privilege of sharing the stage with software architecture expert, [Professor Len Bass](#). This opportunity helped facilitate rich dialogues on the intersection of software architecture and VR technologies.



Moreover, a discussion for prospective collaboration was initiated with Professor Anna-Maria Totomanova, a renowned professor at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". She is one of the founders of the Department of Cyril and Methodius and served as its head from 2011-2019. The potential new partnerships present an exciting avenue for future collaborations in the domain of VR-based inclusive tourism.

This trip has been highly productive for Dr. Ramachandran, contributing significantly to his ongoing projects and expanding his collaborative network. His work continues to advance the goals of the [Kerckhoffs Ltd](#) & [European Network for Accessible Tourism \(ENAT\)](#), promoting more inclusive and accessible tourism experiences through innovative technology.