



The Indian Engineer

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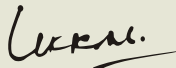
Director

From Chairman's Desk

It will be recalled that ECI had submitted the draft Engineers' Bill to the Ministry of HRD in September 2004. The Ministry had set up a Committee with representation from ECI and The Institution of Engineers (India), IE(I). Although the report was submitted in June 2005, the IE(I) later opposed the recommendations, and the Ministry looked for a consensus draft. Recently, after several meetings held under the chairmanship of Mr R V Shahi, former Secretary (Power), a consensus draft has been developed and submitted to the Ministry in May 2007. Both IE(I) and ECI participated and supported this draft, which was approved by ECI's Board of Governors on May 27, 2007. This Draft is now under consideration of the Ministry. It provides for the registration of all graduate engineers before they can practise. ECI is now pursuing it so that the Bill comes on the statute as the Engineers Act. With this, engineers will get a legislative cover as is available to the other professionals and the engineering profession would be legally recognized. Though the Draft Engineers Bill provides for the registration of all engineers, a provision in the Engineers Act for granting Professional Engineers (PE) certification to Indian engineers, which is in accordance with the standards developed by the Engineering Mobility Forum (EMF), is very desirable. ECI, for the sake of consensus, has agreed to the present Draft but it will continue to pursue this important aspect.



ECI has announced the 5th National Conference on November 5, 2007, at New Delhi, on the theme **Role of Engineers & Technologists in the Fast Growing Indian Economy**. The Focus will be on 11th Plan. (details given later). Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Hon'ble Deputy. Chairman, Planning Commission will inaugurate the Conference. I would request all member associations to support and promote the conference in order to ensure a large participation


(Uddesh Kohli)



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INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA CONVERGENCE TO MATCH SKILLS WITH BUSINESS NEEDS VITAL

Addressing a round table organized by FICCI on Industry-Academia Convergence: Bridging the Skill Gap, Dr. N. M. Kondap, Vice Chancellor, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management & Higher Studies, underlined the need for a programme that combines technology and management, forging exchange partnerships between industry and academia, research and consultancy with industry's support and upgradation of the curriculum of institutes and opined that industry-academia convergence to bring together higher education institutions and employers for developing and matching skills with business is the need of the hour.

Prof. P. B. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi Technical University, Bhopal, suggested a six-fold strategy to beef up industry-academia partnership. The strategy includes motivating students to undertake industrial training, summer/winter internships in reputed industries to work with research/product development teams; motivating undergraduates and postgraduate students to undertake industry-relevant minor and major projects; emergence of research culture at the undergraduate level through proper motivation to the bright and talented students and inspired faculty-members and a dialogue with industry; support from Indian and overseas industries for innovative and creative research ventures; ensuring that R&D in an academic institution is aligned to the needs of the industry where the latter is involved right from conceptualization of the R&D projects; and mission orientation and

From Editor's Desk

The fast developing competitive economic environment while creating new opportunities is also generating challenges for the Indian engineers to be met to ward off threats that these challenges can pose if not tackled squarely. The big opportunity that is going to come up for the Indian engineers is due to the opening up of the trade in engineering services which will include all the three tiers represented by the degree or equivalent at the first level, diploma holders at the second level and ITI trained 8th - 10th or 12th standard passed skilled engineer technicians at the third level. This developing situation can be met by sharpening of the qualifications and skills not only of the qualified Indian engineers but also of the diploma holders and the engineer technicians. Further, it is also desirable that they move up eventually upto the level of the first tier of the professional engineering services, i.e., the degree level engineers; we must build a mechanism for their upward movement.

The continuing professional development (CPD) is one of the essential components of professionalisation of engineer particularly in the new WTO economic environment. It would have to be as per the systems and procedures of the Engineers Mobility Forum (EMF) a world grouping of countries recognizing professional standards of engineers of its member countries. India is yet to become a permanent member of EMF. Meanwhile, Engineering Council of India (ECI) has already developed systems and procedures for the CPD which are equivalent to that of the EMF. It has also initiated action to bring in the second and the third tier of engineering resources of the country into the net for the purpose of giving them a way to upgrade their academic qualifications and continuing professional development as per the international standards. The member associations of ECI are also being involved in this work.



(P. N. Shali)

alignment to industry needs in R&D and technology development programmes in an academic institution.

Mr. Vivek Bharati, Advisor, FICCI pointed out that there was a critical shortage of skills even amongst India's educated workforce. As per him, although India's education system contributes about 3,50,000 engineers and 2.5 million university graduates annually to India's workforce, yet, at any given time, about 5 million graduates remain unemployed. Quoting a survey report by McKinsey global Institute, he said multinationals find only 25% of Indian engineers employable, and NASSCOM report foresees shortage of 5 lakh knowledge workers by 2010. The I.R. Rao Committee has projected that India needs well over 10,000 PhDs and twice as many M. Tech. degree holders for meeting its huge R&D needs. In contrast, the country produces barely 400 engineering PhDs a year.

The round table was also addressed by eminent personalities like Prof. Deepak Pental, Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi; Mr. Rajen Padukone, Chief Executive (University Programmes), Manipal Universal Learning Pvt. Ltd.; Dr. Pradip K. Bhatnagar, head & Vice President (Drug Discovery Research), Ranbaxy Laboratories; Mr. H. P. Raghunandan, Programme Manager, IBM Centre for Advanced studies; Dr. Aloknath De, Group Manager, ST Microelectronics; Mr. Tarun Kumar, General Manager, Xaar India; Dr. Chandra Kintala, Director, Motorola India Research Labs (MIRL), Bangalore; Mr. Pawan Agarwal, Fullbright New Century scholar, ICRIER; Mr. Lokesh Mehra, Regional Manager Corporate Responsibility (South Asia), CISCO; Dr. V. Gopal, Dean (Academic), IMT, Nagpur; Mrs. Rachna Kamra, Director (Capability Building), Fortis Healthcare Ltd.; and Mr. Madan Padaki, Co Founder & Director, Merittac, Bangalore.

5th National Conference on the Role of Engineers and Technologists In the Fast Growing Indian Economy

The 11th Five Year Plan is contemplating to achieve the industrial and manufacturing sector growth to 10% and 12% per annum respectively by overcoming the most critical barriers of absence of world-class infrastructure (power in particular), shortage of skilled workforce (engineers), etc. The opening up of the service sector, including engineering services, will also lead to the increased demand for engineers having professional experience of international standards set by the international agreements like Engineers Mobility Forum (EMF), etc. From R&D side also, demand for postgraduate engineers and PhDs is going to be much higher as substantiated by the U. R. Rao Committee. The infrastructure development, a major thrust area in view of the over 10% growth per year witnessed by the **Construction Sector** over the last five years, will also require more engineers of many disciplines. Engineering Council of India (ECI) has developed the Systems and Procedures, equivalent to that of the EMF, for the

continuing development, ethics and morality of professional engineers. ECI is also contemplating to produce engineers by stressing upon the need of producing engineers through **seamless engineering education** and is actively engaged in awakening the nation for this purpose through Conventions and Conferences. The objective of the 5th National Conference is to take a closer look on the role of engineers and technologists in the fast growing Indian economy by focusing on the above-outlined issues.

Shri P. N. Shali,

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2nd National Convention on Seamless Engineering

It was held on May 31, 2007 at IPCL Auditorium, Deptt. of Chemical Engg. Deptt., The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara-390002 (Gujarat) with the main objective of continuing with the discussion started at Kolkata at the 1st convention held on August 16, 2006 on reforming the engineering education and training at the undergraduate level for meeting the needs of industry. It was well-attended by the industry and the academia. An important point was made that some subjects like industrial law and managerial economics, international trade, statistics, foreign languages and the like could be added to the syllabus at the basic level.

Delhi's First 'Green Building' : A Major Breakthrough

Delhi Transco Ltd's (DTL) new corporate office, to be built at Sarai Kale Khan, will be the first 'green building' of Delhi. This energy-efficient building has been designed by The School of Planning and Architecture. Chilled water will run through pipes embedded in the floor slabs for cooling by traditional methods. DTL also plans to plant over 50,000 trees on the premises. The ACs and lighting will be controlled by motion sensors with a view to minimizing energy wastage. Rain water harvesting will be resorted to utilizing water conservation principles. All the waste water from toilet flushes, etc., will be recycled and used for horticultural purposes.

40th ENGINEERS' DAY 2007

The day of September 15th is the birthday of Sir **Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya** (other spellings include Visvesvaraya, Visweswaraiah, Vishweshwariah and Vishweshwarayya; popularly known as Sir M. V.), an eminent Indian engineer and statesman. He served as the chief engineer during the construction of Krishna Raja Sagara dam on Kaveri River near Mysore. He also built many dams in the present day Maharashtra (previously Bombay presidency). The dams built by him are functional even today

and a testimony of his brilliance, skill, honesty and dedication. He is a recipient of the Indian Republic's highest honour, the Bharat Ratna (The gem of India), in the recognition of his monumental services towards national development through engineering. He was also knighted by the British for his myriad contributions to the public good. Every year, 15th September is celebrated as the **Engineers' Day** in India in his memory.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Chander Verma has taken over as Chairman of the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) for the term 2007-09. He has served CIDC as Vice Chairman for the term 2005-07.

Lt Gen AK Nanda and Shri RN Dandekar, CE, CPWD have taken over, respectively, as the DGBR and the Chairman, Scientific Committee, IIBE (Indian Institution of Bridge Engineers), DSC (Delhi State Centre).

Dr. Uddesh Kohli, Chairman, Engineering Council of India, has been appointed as Chairman Emeritus of the Construction Industry Development Council.

Our Congratulations

PROPOSAL FOR UPGRADATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS (ITIS)

A provision of Rs.750 crore has been made in the budget of 2007-08 for upgrading around 1,396 ITIs as the centers of excellence in specific trades and skills under the public-private partnership. The financial assistance will be available by way of seed money and interest free loan up to Rs.2.5 crore to the each ITI. India has only 12,000 training and vocational institutes, compared to half a million in China.

(ref.: [Http://www.aipma.net/seminar/sem1.htm](http://www.aipma.net/seminar/sem1.htm))

ASIAN FOUNDRY SECTOR IS BOOMING

Asia's knowledge of foundry practices dates back to pre historic times. The rustproof iron pillar at Delhi is a standing testimony of this knowledge. Through the ages, the foundry practices have evolved to greater heights through various developments in the industry. Today India is among the 10 largest producers of ferrous and non-ferrous castings and has over 6,500 foundries in the small, medium and large scale sectors, with exports amounting to over Rs.6000 crores to all parts of the world including developed countries like US, UK, Canada, Germany etc.

If we look at the current scenario, we find that the Asian foundry sector is

experiencing a boom for quite some time now. The auto sector is performing very well, thanks to good monsoons for the last few years, which has brought along with it high growth rates and a thriving economy. The agricultural sector is also healthy, generating good demand for tractors. India is fast emerging as a hub for auto ancillary supplies to the world. All these factors augur well for the growing foundry sector. But, at the same time, there is ample scope for improvement with exports from India which is still hovering at 1% of the world total. Opportunities are abundant for forming strategic and financial alliances with

overseas counterparts, who are on the brink of closure due to high rate of production. India, which enjoys the cost advantage, is considered by majority of the consumers of castings to be the ideal location for outsourcing their metal castings products used in the Automobile, Machinery and Engineering industries. Accordingly, many international automobile companies have announced their plans to put up manufacturing plants in India. All this could provide the industry in India with the boost it requires for consolidating and even multiplying on its present growth.

1) Indian Institution of Bridge Engineers (IIBE), Delhi State Centre,

- (a) Members of IIBE, DSC visited the Flyover under construction under BOT scheme near RTR Junction on NH 8 by National Highways Authority of India on April 19, 2007. Contractors: M/s. JAYPEE & M/s DS Construction Ltd.
- (b) IIBE, DSC organized a Lecture on "Fast Track Construction Dhansiri B ridge in Nagaland by Shri DD Sharma, Chairman, D2S Infrastructures Pvt Ltd at the Conference Hall of HQ DGBR on May 17, 2007.
- (c) It has been decided in the meeting of the executive committee of IIBE, Delhi State Centre held on May 17, 2007 that a National Seminar will be organized some time during the year 2008 for which suggestions for a suitable theme for the seminar has been invited from the members.

2) Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC)

CIDC is jointly hosting with Inter Ads Montgomery (India) Pvt. Ltd. A Conference on Housing, Urban Development and the exhibition "Interbuild India" which is an established platform providing qualitative avenue to show case "New Materials & Technology" from Construction and Building Industry to facilitate Business Opportunities scheduled to be held from October 17-19, 2007 at Pragati Maidan Exhibition Centre, New Delhi. It is one of the most important conference and exhibition dedicated to advancing and integrating vital new trends in Construction Industry. The Conference will focus on

the current trends in the Construction Industry, innovation through modern technology. Conference will be a platform for interface between the Construction technology sector and the Construction Industry. Conference participants will be meeting Global companies, equipment manufacturers & material manufacturers who are expected to e showcased in a major way. The conference is expected to be attended by the senior-most levels of Indian Construction Industry and Government departments along with around 100 international delegates from across the globe. It will provide an excellent opportunity to interact with them. Mr. Deepak Mazumdar and Mr. Rajat Bansal may please be contacted at the phone nos. +91-9811644761 and +91-9910169406 respectively for further information.

3) Indian Association of Structural Engineers (IAStructE)

With a view to stimulating interest in and enhance awareness of the profession of Structural Engineering, IAStructE has embarked upon a scheme of conducting Essay Competitions for Civil Engineering students all over India. The theme for the last year's competition was "The Exciting World of Engineering". The theme for the 2nd Essay Competition, organized recently, was "Structural Engineers and the Society". The response remains simply fantastic. This year, after assessment of the essays received, Gouseya of Civil Engineering Department, National Institute of Technology, Srinagar (J&K), Pritwiraj Moulik of Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani and Ashwani Rajput of National Institute of Technology, Surathkal, Karnataka received the first prize (Rs. 5,000/-), second prize (Rs. 3,000/-) and

third prize (Rs. 2,000/-) respectively. With a view to encouraging the engineering students, IAStructE has also given away three consolation prizes of Rs. 1,000/- each. An International Conference on Forensic Engineering is being organized by the India Chapter of American Concrete Institute with duly supported by the IAStructE on December 6-9, 2007. An International Conference on Sustainable Concrete Construction is being organized by the India Chapter of American Concrete Institute with duly supported by the IAStructE on February 8-10, 2008.

4) Indian Institute of Metals (IIM)

A paper entitled "Buoyant Domestic Segments" by Shri Jagdish C. Marwah, Secretary General, IIM, has been published in THE HINDU Survey of Indian Industry 2007 highlighting stock of India's mineral resources and reserves making an estimation of related deficiencies and paucity by way of introspecting into our shortcomings in the post-independence era in six decades. The author feels that existing industrial plants, their expansion schemes and new Greenfield capacities in the pipeline shall have to effectively address the environmental audit and life cycle assessment (LCA) aspects with firm commitments.

This year's, i.e., 45th National Metallurgists' Day and Annual Technical Meeting (NMD-ATM), 2007 are being organized jointly by the Mumbai, Vadodara, Pune and Hazira Chapters of the IIM from November 13 to November 16, 2007 at Nehru Centre, Mumbai. The event commemorates the birth day of the first Prime Minister of India, Late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru every year. Further information regarding NMD-ATM 2007 can be had from:

Dr. G.K. Dey, Convener, NMD-ATM 2007

NMD-ATM Secretariat,

Room No. A-6-21, 6th Floor, Central Complex, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai 400085.

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5) Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI) membership comprising the following categories is open to consulting engineering companies and individual consultants.

- Members
- Affiliate Members
- EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Construction) Firms

CEAI membership includes private & public sector consultancy firms as well as individuals practicing independently or associated with consultancy organizations. The services provided by CEAI members broadly encompass the entire spectrum of industry and infrastructure.

CEAI has brought out "Recommended Professional Fee Structure for Consultancy Services", recommending the basis on which the fee payable to a consultant should be fixed for various types of consultancy services.

Mr Subhash Mehrotra, Past President, CEAI and Chief Executive & Principal Consultant of Mehro Consultants, has been elected to the Executive Committee of Federation Internationale des Ingenieurs-Conseils (FIDIC) for the period 2005-2009. Mr Mehrotra is the first Indian elected as member of the FIDIC Executive Committee. Dr Prem C Jain, Spectral

Services Consultants Pvt Ltd, was honoured as "Distinguished Fellow" by ASHARE, which has so far been awarded to a handful of practicing engineers in America. Mr K K Kapila, Chairman & Managing Director, Intercontinental Consultants and Technocrats Pvt Ltd (ICT), has the honour of being elected as the first Indian on the Board of Governors of the International Road Federation (IRF).

6) Indian National Group of the International Association for Bridge & Structural Engineering (IABSE)

The Indian National Group of the IABSE organized its Annual Day-2007 along with Technical Presentations on "Linking the Mountains into the Vale with a New Rail J&K Project an Overview" by Mr Rakesh Chopra and "International Membrane Structures Design and Application" by Mr Peter Lim on Saturday, the 21st April 2007 at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.

7) Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers (IIChE)

Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers (IIChE), Calcutta Regional Center (CRC), announces the gala event of CHEMCON 2007 (The Diamond Jubilee Annual Conference of IIChE) from December 27 to December 30, 2007 in Kolkata. It cordially invites all professionals in the industry and academia, entrepreneurs and students of chemical engineering to the event from India and abroad.

8) Indian Concrete Institute, New Delhi Centre

Indian Concrete Institute, New Delhi Centre (IIC-NDC), in collaboration with Tafcon Group, New Delhi, are organising ICI-INNOVATIVE WORLD OF CONCRETE (IWC) 2008, 4th International Exhibition &

Conference + Silver Jubilee Celebrations, slated for 11-14 December, 2008 at India Expo Centre, Expo XXI, Greater Noida Express Highway, New Delhi. The Indian construction industry constitutes 40% to 50% of the country's capital expenditure on projects in various sectors such as highways, roads, railways, energy, airports, irrigation, etc. The exhibition is poised to showcase the state-of-the-art equipment, modern technologies, materials and allied services. This is going to be a unique occasion for the Construction Industry and the entire Infrastructure Sector as well. The theme of the Conference is Concrete for the new age structures.

9) National Seminar and Exhibition on non-Destructive Evaluation (NDE 2007)

Indian Society for Non-Destructive Testing (Vadodara Chapter), is organizing the seminar jointly with Ahmedabad Chapter on November 28-30 at Vadodara. Further details, available on www.nde2007.com, can be had from info@nde2007.com & dipak@pipefit.net.

10 Indian Coal Market Conference

After the success of the first joint conference- a forum of the who's who and decision makers of the industry, experts & analysts - held in 2006, Mjunction services Ltd (old name: metaljunction services limited) and the McCloskey Group organized the "2nd Indian Coal Market Conference" during 11-12 September, 2007 at Hyatt Regency, New Delhi. The conference was attended by close to 400 delegates from over 20 countries.

India Joins Washington Accord as a Provisional Member

Following India's induction into the prestigious Washington Accord - an international agreement between registering bodies of member countries accrediting academic engineering programmes - as a provisional member, the first step has been taken for the international recognition of the Indian engineering degrees. This year India's National Board of Accreditation (NBA) of the All India Council for Technical Education was elected a provisional member, along with Russia and Sri Lanka. The founding signatories of the Accord in 1989 were: Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology, USA; Canadian Council of Professional Engineers; Engineering Council, EC, UK; Institution of Engineers of Ireland; Institution of Engineers, Australia; and Institution of Professional Engineers, New Zealand. Currently, the Washington Accord member countries are: The US, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa, Hong Kong, Japan, with Germany, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and now India, Russia and Sri Lanka being provisional members.

The Accord recognises substantial equivalence of programmes accredited by these organisations and recommends that the graduates of accredited programmes in any of the signatory countries be recognised by

the other countries as having met the academic requirements for entry into the practice of engineering.

The NBA is the only authorised body in India entrusted with the task of undertaking accreditation of technical education programmes and all programmes on technical education, including those offered by university departments are accredited by the NBA.

The NBA, as criteria for such accreditation, evaluates the quality of these programmes offered by educational institutions from diploma to the post-graduate levels in technical education including engineering.

India's entry to the Washington Accord would necessarily facilitate mobility of engineering graduates and professionals at international levels and the graduates from NBA-accredited programmes would be automatically accepted for education and employment purposes in member countries.

A provisional member is given two years to bring its academic programmes, curricula and syllabus, examination and evaluation system to the international level and revise its accreditation system to make it fully outcome based, with credit system for flexibility and continuous evaluation

for improved learning being the basis of such programmes.

In this regard, the NBA will also participate in the accreditation activities of member countries of the Accord; and at the end of the two-year period, India will be accorded full signatory status.

Thus, membership of the Washington Accord is considered recognition of the quality of engineering education offered by a member country and hence it is an avenue to bring it into the world-class category of other member nations.

What will happen after India's membership to the Washington Accord is that automatically all of our degrees - and not only those from the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) -- because IIT has become such an internationally renowned brand -- but others like the 20 National Institutes of Technology and around 1520 other engineering institutions, their degrees will also be recognised.

Thus, the Indian engineering degree from all of these institutions -- and not just from the IITs -- will be held at par with the US degrees as well as the engineering degrees of the other member countries of the Washington Accord.

Think it over

I hear, I forget

I see, I remember

I do, I understand

Dealing with the multitasked way of working, as demanded continuously by the modern life, is a challenge. The big problem involved in this is the precious time lost as recovery time. A case in point is talking on mobile while driving. The recovery time could cost dearly as a serious accident. One must not get lured to the illusion of transitory emotion of pride in one's multitasking capability.

N. T. Nair

Chief Editor, Executive Knowledge Lines



ECI Events during 2007

2nd National Convention on Seamless Engineering on May 31, 2007 at Baroda



A View of Dias



*Inaugural Address by Prof. S.M. Joshi,
Pro Vice-Chancellor, M. S. University of Baroda*



*Welcome Address by
Dr. Uddesh Kohli, Chairman, ECI*



A View of Audience