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From the Chairman's Desk

It is often said that today only around 25% of the output of engineers from the engineering colleges is found employable by the Indian industry. Many of our engineering students are no longer acquiring a sufficiently sound base of knowledge and skills for solving economic, social and ethical problems apart from not acquiring required skills to manage mega projects. This is the cause of worry. What has gone wrong with our technical education is the issue which needs to be discussed. This issue needs to be considered in the background of the relevance of what is taught in our engineering colleges and what needs to be taught for making engineers employable and whether the present admin-accreditation mechanism has served the purpose for which it was created. Engineering Council of India (ECI), being a confederation of professional engineers associations / societies / institutions, has taken up an in-depth consideration of these important questions. It is generally perceived that engineers should have, apart from engineering skills, other skills such as, economics, law, business management, etc, for them to be able to take up the leadership role in the present complex world of competition. The competence and multi-skills for managing multitasks are, therefore, required in engineers. It could more effectively be done through bringing in a major change in the very approach to the present practice of engineering education and training in the country by generalization of the engineering curricula at the undergraduate level; the present admin-accreditation mechanism of the engineering education needs an in-depth consideration for making it more suitable to the present requirements of both industry and academia. It is also considered desirable to bring the professional engineers associations / societies / institutions in this mechanism suitably as these bodies have played a yeoman's role in the engineering education and training and are well equipped and well-spread bodies in the country. Accordingly, ECI is organizing a series of national conventions on Seamless Engineering Education for the better employability of engineers, starting with the 1st one in August, 2006 at Kolkata, 2nd one in May, 2007 at Baroda and the 3rd Convention in February, 2008 at Hyderabad. All these Conventions were well attended by the industry and the academia. A National Workshop, with the theme: What is wrong with the Engineering Education in India is being organized at Chennai in May, 2008. I am sure the member associations will take full advantage of these programmes.

I understand that the draft Engineers Bill is in the final stages of processing. Under the proposed Act the professional engineers associations/ institutions / societies are likely to be empowered to register engineers and grant them certification under the supervision of the Statutory Council of Engineers which will be created under the impending Engineers Act. ECI, which would then function as a Confederation of Engineering Associations and, apart from carrying out other activities for the benefit of engineering profession, would also provide assistance required to these bodies for undertaking this task of national importance.


(Uddesh Kohli)



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ECI is organizing 3rd National Workshop on "What is Wrong with the Engineering Education in India?" in May, 2008 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu. For further details please contact ECI office.

Conventions on Seamless Engineering Education for Better Employability of Engineers

While a consensus emerged at the 1st and 2nd national conventions organized by the Engineering Council of India (ECI) in August 2006 at Kolkata and in May, 2007 at Vadodara on the subject that the engineering education in India needed a change towards providing multi skills, it was widely felt that the subject needed further in-depth consideration for reaching the final agreement on it; and it will then only be possible to finalize a draft of the policy contours for the change. Accordingly, ECI organized the 3rd national convention on the subject on February 28, 2007 at Hyderabad.

There is an urgent need to discuss about the quality of engineering education in the country - Sri Chengareddy Reddyvari Minister for Law & Courts, Technical Education and Industrial Training Institutes, Andhra Pradesh

While presenting his inaugural address at the 3rd national convention on the subject of Seamless Engineering Education for the better employability of engineers on February 28, 2007 at Hyderabad, Sri Chengareddy said that he was happy that ECI has taken up a very useful discussion on seamless engineering education in India. In the scenario of establishing more and more engineering colleges in the various states of India, there is an urgent need to discuss about the quality of engineering education in the country and steps that need to be taken up on war footing for making it apt to meet the global challenges. In spite of the restless work rendered by many organizations / professional bodies to maintain the quality of engineering education in our country, we are sure that we are not up to the mark to meet these challenges. He advised that we should develop a system to enable continuous interaction of the academic institutions with the industry at the domestic as well as international levels which will enable getting the right kind of engineering education. He expressed confidence about the ECI's activities with respect to developing some system to achieve quality technical education in the country for making her a global leader in the field of technology and engineering workforce.



From Editor's Desk

Education that gives knowledge and develops skills to use that knowledge can be helpful for personal economic development. This is what motivates people to acquire knowledge and commensurate skills. Aptitude for a particular profession is another important factor which cannot be ignored when deciding about the type of profession that one should take. In India, by and large, this is not the case. Hitherto we preferred our children competing for the

civil services and then for medical profession, engineering profession, management. Presently, this trend is changing to management as the most preferred profession because of very high pay packages after one is in the job. Aptitude continues to be a casualty. It is a case of trying your luck. Ultimately, what suffers is the quality output, which can come only if one takes a profession which one likes to take and has an aptitude for it. Exceptions, however remain which proves the hypothesis. The quality of professional output further suffers because of the quality of professional institutions. It is true for every profession that we may talk about, engineering not being an exception. This is the first issue.

Looking at the trend of growth of engineering institutions over the years in the country, it shows these Institutions can be divided into three tiers—first knowledge generating, second both knowledge generating and educating for employability also to a large extent and the third neither knowledge generating nor developing skills for the better employability. The Indian Institute of Technology's (IITs) remains our flag-bearers of the first type of the institutions and NITs and a few other colleges come in the second category. In the third category, one can conveniently include a very large no of engineering colleges spread all over the country including many engineering colleges which came up during the recent past. These colleges produce a large number of graduate engineers. The reason for this perhaps is that a number of entrepreneurs, who are motivated by personal economic growth, have entered into the field of engineering education, providing ample opportunities to even mediocre students. What these engineering colleges produce are unemployable engineers. This is the second issue. We should look in depth at whether the regulatory mechanism set for the higher education, particularly the technical education, has met its set objectives or is proving to be counter productive. This will help us in understanding the basic cause of declining quality of our professional engineers output.

The third important issue is a great shortage of competent teachers, as the sudden requirement of trained teachers has increased manifold. One of the reasons of this problem is that only postgraduate engineers can become teachers. Practicing engineers from industry and individual consultants with long experience have not much role to play in teaching today in the country. The fourth issue is that there is no industry-academia working interface in position. What to teach for making engineers employable would have come if this mechanism would have been in position and working. Then, engineering education has continued confining to staid engineering disciplines. Given a faster integration of technologies coupled with integration of the services and coming up of the mega projects, the ground realities have changed significantly. We need engineers who have multi-skills for managing mega engineering projects today. We need a change in the basic engineering education at the undergraduate level for the better employability of engineers. This change will come if we make engineering education multi disciplinary at the undergraduate level. The faster we make this change, the better it would be. ECI has taken up this issue.

The other important point that I would like to highlight is that today, professional engineering bodies in India have no role to play in the administrative and regulatory matters of the higher technical education. They should be fully involved in this. One important question that I would like to raise is that for making the quality of our engineering education internationally competitive, can we think of market driven accreditation of the engineering education and the government can only participate in this to the extent of issuing the national guidelines from time-to-time keeping in view the requirements of ever-changing market trends?

(P. N. Shali)

Highlights of some of the Keynote Address delivered at the ECI's 3rd National Convention on Seamless Engineering Education for Better Employability of Engineers held at Hyderabad on February 28, 2008

**PROF. MANGESH G KORGAONKER,
DIRECTOR GENERAL, NICMAR**

The engineering education is still very much grounded in the old functional paradigms with the addition of new branches like electronics & telecommunications and IT. In order to keep pace with the global development trends, the need of engineers in the branches like service, infrastructure, manufacturing, innovation, projects and retail is being felt more and more along with the need of engineer managers. This ultimately leads to the need to bring about a sweeping reform in structuring engineering education. A modular approach to curriculum design and delivery will go a long way in optimizing the entire approach to curriculum design, each module comprising a set of course(s) which can seamlessly fit into the larger design of the ECI's programme. Many of these modules will be of generic type and will be replicated seamlessly across a range of other programmes.

**RELEVANCE OF ECONOMICS TO ENGINEERING
EDUCATION - DR. MEERA LAL, SR. CONSULTANT,
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS, HYDERABAD**

As engineering principles and their effective application in engineering activities become even more important in a fast growing economy like India which is marching ahead with an 8.5% growth rate, the Economics Curriculum for Engineers needs to include the global economic issues and its application with focus on macro-level rather than mere micro-analysis. Topics on functioning of banks, international financial institutions, special economic zones, monetary and trade policies are to be included. Visits to SEZs abroad, especially China, can form an important part of the engineering curricula.

**EMINENT INDIAN ENGINEER :
DR. M. N. DASTUR**

Dr. Minu Nariman Dastur, Chairman and Managing Director of M. N. Dastur and Company (P) Limited, Consulting Engineers, was born on March 18, 1916.



Dr. Dastur completed his graduation in electrical and mechanical engineering from the Banaras Hindu University in 1938, and started his career with the Tata Iron & Steel Company at Jamshedpur where he worked for seven years. He was then awarded the J. N. Tata Endowment for Higher Education of Indians Abroad Scholarship, and obtained his Doctorate in Metallurgy (Sc.D) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the USA in 1948, specialising in principles of steelmaking, under the tutelage of the legendary metallurgist, Dr. John Chipman. On completion of his Doctorate, Dr. Dastur worked in the USA for the next seven years with renowned steel plant consulting firms like H. A. Brassert & Company (the pioneer of consulting engineering) and Ramseyer and Miller in various responsible positions on the design and construction of steel plants in various parts of the world including USA, Latin America, Europe etc. His intention of gaining 'works' experience in the U.S before returning to India remained unfulfilled, but he discovered his true location. He completed a 'four-stage modernisation' of Tata Steel to the great satisfaction of his staff and client and this was also an emotional high point in his career.

TECHNOLOGIST

It was in 1954 that Dr. Dastur visited India as a consulting steel plant expert from the USA to the Bhadravati Iron & Steel Works Ltd at the behest of the government of the United States. During this visit to India, he came in close contact with the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who requested him to return to India in view of his steel plant expertise and the massive steel development programme that the country was soon to embark upon. Dr. Dastur, therefore, returned to India the following year and started M. N. Dastur & Company (P) Limited, Consulting Engineers, popularly known as Dasturco, which was the first "retainer consultant" on steel to the Government of India and Planning Commission. It started operations on May 31, 1955.

Dr. Dastur was one of the earliest metallurgists to have worked on the development of iron-ore pelletising and gas based direct reduction in shaft furnaces. These processes have since been proven and now find wide commercial acceptance the world over. After his return to India, he continued working in these areas with indigenous raw materials and Dasturco was subsequently appointed as consultant for the first coal-based direct reduction plant in India.

Dr. Dastur was an old hand in steel, yet was tuned to changing times: virtually every steel company in the country that navigated through the regime of price control to global competition did so with M. N. Dastur & Company, the post -in dependence giant among engineering consultants.

Right from the beginning, it was Dasturco's philosophy to utilise local skills and expertise, and to raise them to the international standards. The fact that Dasturco has been successful in putting Indian skills on the world consultancy and engineering services map was also acknowledged by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) which projected it as a model for design and consultancy firms in the developing countries. It is also because of Dasturco's pioneering efforts as Consultants that India was able to produce high quality alloy steels in the 1960s that were hitherto imported at a much higher cost. The company has introduced new technologies in India since the last four decades. These include: ferro alloys smelting; continuous casting; direct reduction; ladle metallurgy; thin slab casting strip rolling etc. Incidentally, the company also introduced computerised monitoring systems for project implementation for the first time in India and is also a leading exporter of technical services.

It is under Dr. Dastur's stewardship that Dasturco has become nationally synonymous with self-reliance in steel plant engineering and steel development. The company was the first Indian "retainer consultant" on steel to the government of India and has worked closely with the Planning Commission in the early sixties on the long-term perspective plan for steel development. Incidentally, Dasturco also has to its credit the building of India's first coast-based steel plant at Visakhapatnam as principal consultants along with a host of other projects in India and abroad.

Under his guidance, Dasturco had prepared detailed steel development plans for several countries of Asia, Latin America, the Arab world and Africa. It still continues to provide consulting engineering services on a number of steel and allied projects in these countries.

Dr. Dastur had served on a number of Indian steel missions and committees set up by the government of India, including the first steel missions to the USSR (1955) and China (1959). He was a member of the National Committee on Science and Technology from 1977-1980 and the Science Advisory Committee on Science and Technology to the Government of India from 1981-1983.

His expertise had received international recognition and he had been appointed as consultant to UNIDO, Vienna. Known for his

erudition in the field of metallurgy, Dr. Dastur has authored and published several papers on technology and industry both in India and abroad. He was also a long-standing member of several national and international engineering organisations and academic institutions.

EDUCATIONIST

Dr Dastu was intimately associated with Dr. Dara P. Antia, a pioneer in spreading metallurgical education in India, **immediately after Independence when it was evident that metallurgy as a profession seemed to take a backseat as compared to other branches of engineering. It was here that Dr. Dastur extended total support to Dr. Antia in building up the Indian Institute of Metals (IIM).**

Dr. Dastur took upon himself the Herculean task to train and equip young persons who did not have the opportunity of advanced metallurgical training to meet the requirements of a rapidly changing environment in post-independent India. It is heartening to note that today the IIM has come to be accepted as an institution of international repute. The IIM apart, Dr. Dastur had been intimately associated with a number of premier Indian educational institutions and continued to support them regularly. In fact, it was due to his understanding of the needs of a vast country like India that the Bengal Engineering College has an advanced materials research centre - the first of its kind in eastern India - named after him.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

Dr. Dastur had continued to be intimately associated with a number of charitable organisations where he had been a regular patron for many years. In addition to these, he was deeply concerned about the environment and undertook to support the Jamshedpur zoo. Additionally, he had also sponsored a number of educational grants for needy students.

A keen sportsman in his Youth, Dr. Dastur played cricket in the Ranji Trophy from Bihar and was also greatly fond of playing hockey and tennis. He, however, retained his fondness for bridge and continued to enjoy it regularly on weekends.

The pioneer and doyen of Indian steel consultancy, the Octogenarian Dr. Dastur left for his heavenly abode on Monday (05.01.2004) at the age of 87 in Kolkata. In the passing away of Dr. Dastur, a glorious era in the history of India's iron and steel ended. The country had lost an eminent engineer and metallurgist, intellectual thinker, visionary, philanthropist and devout patriot. The consultancy sector has lost its founder father. Salutes to his great gentleman and noble human being for his immense contribution to the steel industry in particular and society at large.

Dr. M. N. Dastur laid the foundation stone of the modern day steel industry and his demise will not stop the industry from following his footsteps in the days ahead.

AWARDS & HONOURS

It was in recognition of his vast contributions towards the development of the Indian iron & steel industry and the advancement of engineering technology that Dr. Dastur was awarded:

- The J. N. Tata Endowment for Higher Education of Indians Abroad Scholarship.
- The Banaras Hindu University conferred the D. Sc Honoris Causa in 1980.
- The prestigious JRD Tata Gold Medal by the Indian Institute of Metals (IIM) in 1982
- The IIM Platinum Medal in 1987 for his outstanding contribution to the metallurgical profession.

- The Honorary membership of the American Iron & Steel Institute.
- Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Society for Metals (ASM).
- The Scroll of Honour by The Institution of Engineers (India).
- The Plaque of Honour by the National Metallurgical Laboratory.
- The American Recognition of Efficiency Award given by the Business Initiative Directive, Texas.
- The Certificate of Honour by the European Market Research Centre, Brussels.
- The Lifetime Achievement Award of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI).
- Past President and a Patron Member of the Indian Institute of Metals

NEWS FROM THE MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

1) Indian Institution of Bridge Engineers, Delhi State Centre

At a meeting of the executive committee held on November 21 2007, a decision was taken to organise a national level seminar in the year 2008. The details of this seminar are being formulated and will be announced in due course.

2) Association of Consulting Civil Engineers (India) (ACCE)

The 3rd Structural Engineers World Congress (SEWC-2007) was organized by SEWC(I) and hosted by the Association of Consulting Civil Engineers (India) during November 2 -7, 2007 at Bangalore. The Congress was inaugurated by Mr. Ajay Maken, Union Minister for Urban Development. The proceedings of the Congress were released by Mr. Kirit Parikh, Member, Planning Commission. SEWC was first held in 1988 at San Francisco, USA and the 2nd SEWC was held in the year 2002 in Yokohama, Japan. SEWC-2007 at Bangalore was truly global as it was attended by more than 1400 delegates, a significant portion of whom came from more than 41 countries of the world. The Hyderabad center of ACCE organized successfully a national workshop on fire safety in buildings on March 15, 2008. An international conference on advances in concrete and construction (ICACC-2008) with the theme: recent advances in construction materials and construction practices and a national seminar on recent advances & future trends in design & construction of bridges are slated for on April 25-27, 2008. ACCE (I), in collaboration with Tafcon Group and the Indian Concrete Institute, is organising IWC 2008 Innovative World of Concrete - at Greater Noida on December 11-14, 2008. Bangalore centre is organizing a national seminar on recent developments in design and construction technologies & Exhibition REDECON 2008, during August 7-9, 2008. The AGM, annual awards function and a national workshop are planned to be held by the Dharwad centre of the institute during the later part of the year, 2008.

The Annual Convention -2008 of ACCE (I) will be held at Dharwad during the 4th week of August, 2008.

3) Indian Buildings Congress (IBC)

IBC has invited entries for IBC awards for Excellence in Built Environment for 2007. The awards will be presented during IBC's Annual Convention, 2008.

4) Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI), India

2nd Regional Conference on "Road Safety Design,



Mr. C. Patrick Sankey, Director General and CEO, IRF presenting IRF 2007 Global Road Achievement Award trophy to Dr. P. K. Sikdar, Director ICT Pvt. Ltd, at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, USA

Construction and Operations of Roads” was organized by the IRF in association with the Builders Association of India on October 5-6, 2007 at New Delhi. Conference was supported by the CEAI.

Intercontinental Consultants and Technocrats Pvt Ltd (ICT Private Limited) - a member of CEAI and headed by Mr Kiran Kumar Kapila as its Chairman and Managing Director - received "The Global Road Achievement Award" instituted by International Road Federation (IRF) for outstanding performance in the field of Road safety Public Awareness programme.

5) Consultancy Development Centre

The CDC organised the Tenth Consultancy Congress as a regular annual feature with the objective of bringing consultancy into the focus of national development and international business operations with the theme "Outsourcing : Role of Consultants" during 15-16 January, 2008 at Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. This year, the Congress was organised in association with the Faculty of Management Studies (FMS) as Academic Partner and Harvard Business Review as Knowledge Partner. The Congress was supported by Consulting Engineers Association of India and The Institute of Management Consultants of India. The Congress provided an opportunity for consultants, policy makers, business professionals and academicians to share their experience and ideas, develop strategies to promote consultancy services and discuss business opportunities in the fast changing national and international scenario in the light of challenges it poses to consultants in the new global scenario.

6) Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC)

The vulnerability of our nation and its populace is demonstrated by the fact that almost 1.5 million houses in our country are lost due to natural disasters in various forms and sizes. The loss of life and property is immense and retards the national progress significantly. This demonstrates the fact that a huge number of our existing building stock, both residential as well as non-residential across the country, is highly vulnerable to natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, storms, cyclones, windstorms, etc. The resulting damage to buildings and loss of human lives has time and again proven the inadequacy of buildings to withstand the impact of the adverse forces during such calamities. The Council has taken up a number of programmes on these issues.

The Annual Conference on Construction Organized by CIDC was held on 30th & 31st January, 2008 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The principal theme of the conference was "Managing Earthquake Risk".

The role of the construction industry in preparing the nation to face natural disasters is immense. Contemporary construction technologies, design, material, equipment, craftsmanship, repair and maintenance for new and old structures alike should be geared to make the structures/buildings less vulnerable to natural disasters.

7) Indian Institution of Industrial Engineering (IIIE)

Trivandrum Chapter of the IIIE organized the 49th National Convention on Technology, Globalization & Competitiveness : The Key Drivers for Growth on 12th-14th October, 2007 at Mascot Hotel, Trivandrum. Eminent speakers participated in the convention.

8) The Indian Institute of Metals (IIM)

The Delhi Chapter of IIM organized a talk on Recent Developments in Sheet Metal Forming Processes for Automotive Applications by Dr. D. Ravi Kumar, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering IIT, Delhi on October 26, 2007 at YMCA, New Delhi.

The 46th National Metallurgist Day, 62nd Annual Technical Meetings and International Exhibition and concurrent Conference - Minerals, Metals, Metallurgy and Materials, 2008 (46th NMD, 62nd ATM, MMMM-2008) will be held during November 13-16, 2008 at the India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, UP. The national awards will also be given during the event.

9) Indian Association of Structural Engineers (IAStructE)

A seminar on "Green Buildings - Role of Professionals" was organized on March 29, 2008 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. A workshop on Large Span Structures was successfully organized on November 24, 2007 at the India International Centre, New Delhi.

An international conference on Forensic Engineering was organized by India Chapter of American Concrete Institute on December 6-9, 2007 at Mumbai. The conference was supported by IAStructE.

International Conference on Sustainable Concrete Construction, organized by the India Chapter of American Concrete Institute and supported by IAStructE, was held on February 8-10, 2008 at Mumbai.

10) Indian National Group of the International Association for Bridge & Structural Engineering ING of IABSE

The Indian National Group had successfully organized a three-day seminar on "Long Span Bridge and Roof Structures" at New Delhi from 4th to 6th January 2008. The seminar was supported by the Department of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways and various public and private sector organizations. The aim of the seminar was to focus attention on various aspects of the latest achievements and developments in research, design, construction, monitoring, maintenance and performance of long span structures.

11) International Council of Consultants (ICC)

The ICC, in association with the CIDC, the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and the Construction Industry Arbitration Council of India (CIAC), organized a

two-day interactive programme in Dubai on managing construction contracts at Radisson SAS Hotel, Dubai to empower delegates with an understanding of different aspects of construction contracts.

ICC conducted Executive Development Programmes (EDP) for officers' training on behalf of Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) on Computer - Aided Cost Estimating and Quality Surveying Techniques (with one day Computer Practicals) on Oct. 18-19, 2007 at New Delhi, on Project Management for Rapid Results on Nov. 1-3, 2007 at New Delhi, on Efficient Project Execution on Nov. 6 & 13, 2007 at New Delhi, on Construction and Quality Management of Roads & Bridges on Nov. 22-23, 2007 at New Delhi, on Dispute Resolution in Construction Contracts with special Focus on Arbitration on Nov. 29-30, 2007 at Port Blair, on Green and Intelligent Building Construction Technologies on Dec. 6-7, 2007 at New Delhi and on Emerging Trends in Construction Management on Dec. 13-14, 2007 at Hyderabad. It also organized and conducted Technical Sessions on behalf of CIDC at Inter-Build India Conference & Exhibition for Development of Housing, Urban Sector through New Materials & Technology on Oct. 17-18, 2007 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, International Conference on Construction Managing Earthquake Risk on January 30-31, 2008 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi and associated in conduct of Technical Session on behalf of CIDC for international seminar on construction Seminar on Rural Roads Institutional Building on January 31, 2008 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

12) The Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers (IETE)

IETE has signed a path-breaking memorandum of understanding (MOU) with IGNOU for effective and efficient utilization of IGNOU's & IETE's existing networks, to identify other cost-effective communication technologies best suited for distance education to provide student-centric services.

A National Seminar was conducted on "Information, Communication & Intelligent Systems" at Kochi and IETE plans to deliberate further on this issue in its different national programmes.

A round table conference was held on December 20, 2007 under the aegis of IETE Apex Forum at New Delhi on IPTV-Future Trends. The objective of the conference was to identify the new technologies, challenges & opportunities and also workout a strategy that would help in smooth roll-out of IPTV in the country. IPTV (IP Television) is a system where a digital television service is delivered by using Internet Protocol over a network infrastructure, which may include delivery by a broadband connection. A general definition of IPTV is television content that, instead of being delivered through traditional broadcast and cable formats, is received by the viewer through the technologies used for computer networks.

IETE, Kolkata centre, organized the 13th Sir J.C. Bose Memorial Lecture on November 27, 2007. All Karnataka Students Technical Paper contest was held on October 28, 2007. IETE Foundation Day was celebrated on November 02, 2007. Two-day workshop was held on "Project Management" from 30th Nov-1st Dec 2007. A short-term course was successfully completed on "VLSI Analog Layout Design" in January, 2008. International Radar Symposium-2007 (IRSL)

SATYENDRA K DUBEY MEMORIAL AWARD

2007-2008

The Board of Governors of Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) taking a note of the tragic death of Shri Satyendra K Dubey, an alumnus of IITK who died fighting against corruption, had instituted the Satyendra K Dubey Memorial (SKDM) Award for honoring outstanding alumni of the IIT system, i.e., all existing Indian Institutes of Technology, who have shown professional integrity and have been upholding human values. The Satyendra K Dubey Memorial Award Evaluation Committee, has recommended Mr Anubrotta Kumar Roy (BT/MT/CHE/67/69/IITB) for this year's award for his outstanding work in rural development and spreading environmental awareness.

was held at NIMHANS Convention Centre, Bangalore, from 7th-13th December, 2007. A Seminar on "Transient Voltage & Lightning Protection of Building & Equipments" was held on Oct. 26, 2007; and that on "Six Sigma for Electronics & IT Industry" at Bechtel Corporation, USA was held on Oct. 09, 2007 by the Chennai chapter. The Mumbai Centre organised on Oct. 12-13, 2007 an International Conference on "Nanotechnology & Healthcare Applications (Nate HCA-07)" jointly with IIT, Bombay at the Centre of Excellence in Telecom Technologies and Management, Powai, Mumbai. A talk on "Demand Forecasting of Telecommunications Services in Nepal" was organized on Nov. 30, 2007 at Annapurna Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal. ELECOM'07 (Electrical, Electronics, IT & Telecommunication Fair) was conducted by the Pune centre from 21st-25th Nov., 2007. The Kolkata centre arranged a seminar on "Future Trends in Wireless Communications" on Nov. 27, 2007. The Vijaywada centre conducted a national level workshop on "Adaptive Signal Processing and Applications" in association with Laki Reddy Bali Reddy College of Engineering, Mylavaram on 27th-28th Oct., 2007. The Noida centre arranged a technical lecture on "Latest Trends in Home Entertainment" on Sep. 02, 2007, a seminar on "Network Security" on Oct. 14, 2007 and a seminar on "Computer Applications and related problems" on Feb. 10, 2008, apart from two different computer courses each of four-week' duration.

LAUGH FOR A WHILE

Put your hand on a hot stove for a minute, and it seems like an hour. Sit with a pretty girl for an hour, and it seems like a minute. That's relativity.

CENTRES OF RELEVANCE & EXCELLENCE

Technology Information, Forecasting & Assessment Council (TIFAC, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India) has launched Mission Reach (relevance and excellence in achieving new heights in educational institutions) with an aim of upgrading select science and engineering colleges in the country and carving 'Centres of Relevance & Excellence' of international level therein. It is expected that these COREs would, when finally shaped, become centres of attraction for students, teachers, researchers, entrepreneurs and industries alike. This step will enable meeting the technical manpower demand in the new millennium. Also, the Indian Industries will have increased scope of finding solutions to the problems of their interest with the help of specialists/experts available at these COREs.

17 TIFAC-COREs have so far been established in diverse disciplines across the country. The process of establishing many more such TIFAC COREs in areas of intense relevance to the industries is underway

Do you know?

- Most of us, swimming against the tides of trouble the world knows nothing about, need only a bit of praise or encouragement and we will make the goal. - Jerome P. Fleishman
- 52 km long sea-link (causeway), cutting through the Arabian Gulf Waters, will be built in a highly aggressive environmental ambience at the cost of US\$ 3.5 billion.

NEWS CORNER

National Workshop on Fire Safety in Buildings (NWFSB-2008) was jointly organised by the Indian Concrete Institute, AP Hyderabad Centre, Association of Consulting Civil Engineers (I), Hyderabad Centre, Earthquake Engineering Research Centre and the International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad on March 15, 2008 at Hyderabad. The workshop assumed added significance in view of the fact that we have witnessed several moderate earthquakes in the last two decades causing around two lakh casualty and innumerable property loss.

SOME ANT FACTS

The combined weight of the earth's ants outweighs that of humans. They have the highest population of any animal on earth. They can carry 10 to 20 times their body weight. They can run so fast that if we could move as quickly as them, in relation to their weights, we would be as fast as race horses.

AWARDS

Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and a Member of the Board of Governors of the Engineering Council of India, has been conferred the Presidential Gold Medal Award by the Prime Minister of India at the 95th Indian Science Congress 2008 held on 3rd January at Visakhapatnam. Prof. Pillai has been at the helm of affairs of many higher education institutions during his career spanning over 35 years. His experiences and contributions to the field of science and educational administration are rich and varied. In honor of his acclaimed work, Prof. Rajasekharan Pillai has gained wide recognition. As Vice-Chairman of the UGC, he has been actively interacting with the colleges and universities for promoting independent initiatives of these institutions and influencing change.



Our congratulations

Mr. R. K. Jaigopal, member of ACCE (I) and Managing Director of the Struct Geotech Research Laboratories Private Limited, received Indian Roads Congress (IRC) Medal from Mr. K. H. Muniappa, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India.

Our congratulations

Mr. C. Thiagarajan, member of ACCE (I) and former Additional C. E., ISRO, was awarded Sir M. Visweswaraya Memorial Award by the Builders Association of India for his outstanding contribution in the field of civil engineering in the state of Karnataka.

Our congratulations

PROJECT EXPORTS PROMOTION COUNCIL OF INDIA

(Sponsored by Government of India, Ministry of Commerce & Industry)

The Council conferred export awards for the year 2006-07 at a ceremony held at New Delhi on December 11, 2007 on its member companies in recognition to their better performing apart from encouraging all Indian engineering builders/contractors and consultants to procure overseas projects in any module: civil construction, turnkey (EPC/LSTK) or process and engineering consultancy services. In the category of Overseas Construction & Engineering Projects: Larsen & Toubro Ltd got the highest awards for maximum value of projects contracted, maximum turnover generated, maximum foreign business attempted and maximum foreign exchange earned and repatriated to India. The second position for the maximum value of projects contracted and maximum turnover generated went to Punj Lloyd Ltd. The highest award for maximum foreign works secured in the new areas went to Gammon India Ltd. Punj Lloyd Ltd. bagged the highest award and the IRCON International Ltd. bagged the second award for the maximum foreign exchange earned and repatriated to India. In the Overseas Consultancy & Engineering Services category Larsen & Toubro Ltd bagged the highest award for maximum foreign exchange earned and repatriated to India.

Our congratulations

APPOINTMENTS

Mr K K Kapila, Chairman & Managing Director, Intercontinental Consultants & Technocrats Pvt Ltd has taken over as the President of the Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI) for the term 2007-09.

Our Congratulations

Mr D Datta, Chairman & Managing Director, WAPCOS (I) Ltd has taken over as Vice President of the Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI) for the term 2007-09.

Our congratulations

Brig C D Puri, Chief Executive Officer, Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick India Pvt. Ltd. has taken over as Vice President of the Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI) for the term 2007-09.

Our congratulations

Ms Sangeeta Wij, Director, SD Engineering Consultants has taken over as Honorary Secretary of the Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI) for the term 2007-09.

Our congratulations

Mr Rajendra Kumar Gupta, Ru-Tech Services Inc., has taken over as the Honorary Treasurer of the Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI) for the term 2007-09.

Our congratulations

Mr. R. Sundaram, Past President of ACCE (I) and CMD, Sundaram Architects Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore was elected as the President of "Structural Engineers World Congress Inc. Worldwide", Head Quarters at San Francisco, USA.

Our congratulations



ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF INDIA

3rd National Convention
on "Seamless Engineering Education for Better Employability of Engineers" held on February 28, 2008 at Hyderabad



Chief Guest Shri Chengareddy Reddyvari, Minister for Law & Courts, Technical Education and Industrial Training Institutes, Andhra Pradesh delivering the inaugural address



Guest of Honour, Shri Rana Som, CMD, NMDC Ltd. delivering his address



Dr Uddesh Kohli, Chairman, Engineering Council of India (ECI) delivering welcome address



A view of the audience



A view of the audience



A view of the audience