



The Indian Engineer

Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity - Aristotle

NEWSLETTER OF THE ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF INDIA

Volume : 5 - Issue : 1

June, 2011

Board of Governors

Chairman

Dr. Uddesh Kohli

Vice-Chairman

Mahendra Raj

Indian Association of Structural Engineers

Treasurer

Chander Verma

International Council of Consultants

Members

Dr. S. S. Mantha

All India Council for Technical Education

S. Ratnavel

Association of Consulting Civil Engineers
(India)

Dr. S. Gangopadhyay

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

Dr. P. R. Swarup

Construction Industry Development Council

Dr. Samarjit Chatterjee

Consulting Engineers Association of India

Prof. P. Trimurthy

Computer Society of India

Rajeev Kher

Deptt. of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce
& Industry

Prof. D. V. Singh

Indian National Academy of Engineers

B. N. Puri

Planning Commission

Lt. Gen. (Retd.) A. K. Puri, PVSM, AVSM

Indian Institution of Bridge Engineers

Commander B. M. Bhandarkar

Indian Institution of Industrial Engineering

J. S. Saluja

Indian Institution of Plant Engineers

Prof. Kasi Rajgopal

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics
Engineers, Inc

Prof. Niranjana Swarup

Indian Society for Trenchless Technology

R. S. Prasad

Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty
Alleviation

Lalit Gupta

The Aeronautical Society of India

S. L. Swami

The Institution of Civil Engineers (India)

R. K. Gupta

The Institution of Electronics and
Telecommunication Engineers

Dr Sanak Mishra

The Indian Institute of Metals

Ashok K. Sehgal

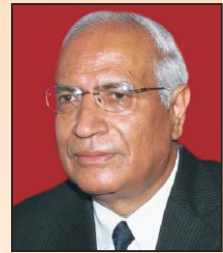
The Institute of Marine Engineers (India)

P. N. Shali

Director

From the Chairman's Desk

The Board of Governors, ECI at its 28th meeting held on June 27, 2011 at New Delhi took a serious note of the engineering profession receiving a severe beating in the aftermath of the CWG 2010 held last year in October at New Delhi. In the Shunglu Committee's 3rd report on infrastructure available on the Government website, engineers involved in building various game-related structures in the capital and elsewhere in the NCR have been branded incompetent, and inefficient. The Board felt that these impressions required to be corrected as these have caused wide-spread dismay and de-motivation in the engineering fraternity.



The Shunglu Committee has taken no note of the significant achievements of the engineers in completing world-class state-of-the-art infrastructure for the CWG 2010 in an incredibly short time schedule made available to them. It seems to not have gone fully into the reasons for the inexplicable delay in the decision process in the years preceding the frenzied attempts to complete the CWG related projects on time.

Apparently, the Shunglu Committee has also not considered guidelines that govern the construction projects. Letters on this rather serious matter have already been written to the Cabinet Secretary and Home Secretary by two of our members: Consulting Engineers Association of India and Indian Association of Structural Engineer (IAStructE). It is understood that the Confederation of the Central Engineering Services has also written to the Government on this matter.

The Board felt that the observations made in the Shunglu Committee report may demoralize the engineers and, therefore, it is a very serious matter and will not augur well for our development.

The Board was also of the view that the Draft Engineers Bill, which was submitted to the government long ago for the regulation of engineering profession, like doctors, lawyers, architects, etc, needs to be taken to the Parliament and enacted into Engineers Act without further delay.

The Board felt that these issues require attention at the highest level. Accordingly, ECI intends to hold a press conference and take up these issues with the Prime Minister so that a way forward can be found for the redemption of the self-esteem and confidence of engineers.


(Uddesh Kohli)

6th National Convention

Engineering Council of India is organising the 6th National Convention on: Reform of Engineering Education-Industry Specific Engineering Education on August 29, 2011 at Kolkata. For details send mail to eci@ecindia.org, pnsnali@gmail.com, director@ecindia.org.

Indian Geotechnical Conference IGC-2011 (Geochallenges)

Main Theme of the Conference is "Soft Clay Engineering" with 15 Sub-themes is being organized during. The Conference is a mega event being organized December 15-17, 2011 at Kochi (Kerala) by Indian Geotechnical Society, Kochi Chapter and Cochin University of Science & Technology (CUSAT). For more details contact E-mail : igc2011kochi@gmail.com or Visit : www.igc2011kochi.org

17th "Asia Construct"

Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) is organizing an international conference and expo during 13th-15th December, 2011 at New Delhi. The Theme of the Conference is "Asian Economic Overview 2011 and Outlook 2012". For details, visit www.cidc.in or email : cide@cidc.in

ACCE (I) Awards Convention, 2011

Nominations are invited from the consulting engineers, designers, planners, contracting construction agencies, computer software developers and authors who have made an outstanding contribution in their respective areas of work during the last three years. Nominations are to be submitted in a prescribed proforma, which can be downloaded from the website : www.accehq.net.

Think it over

Practising engineers should be involved in the education process

Practising engineers should be invited to address the students through "Show and Tell" sessions which will complement faculty teaching, not substitute it. This should start right from the beginning of the first semester. Students should visit factories, design offices, sites, installations right from the first semester, guided by the same working engineers who have been speaking to them. Institutes should involve practicing engineers into drafting and detailing of the curricula. Any comment, please mail it to eci@ecindia.org.



EDP-3, Effectiveness of Technology Management for Engineers during April 26 - 28, 2011

From Editor's Desk

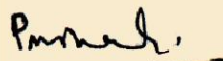


Online national opinion poll initiative of the Ministry of HRD for single engineering entrance examination is apt and timely

The Ministry of HRD, reportedly, has taken a first-of-its-kind initiative by launching an online national opinion poll for replacing IIT-JEE, AIEEE, Eameet, Comed-K and scores of other engineering entrance examinations with a single National Test Scheme(NTS). Essentially, the national opinion poll is to elicit response from students, parents, teachers, and other stakeholders regarding replacing national and state level engineering exams with the NTS. It is expected that the response will be quite encouraging. Further, T. Ramasami Committee, Constituted by the Ministry of HRD, to prepare a document for public consultation on the proposed NTS for admission to engineering courses has suggested replacing the present rather multiple engineering entrance examinations with the NTS. It would save students from appearing in many examinations, leading to unnecessary stress and also heart burning among them because one test being considered superior than the other. It will also save parents from additional financial burden that they carry at present due to the multiple engineering entrance examinations.

While the Ministry of HRD has taken many bold and forward looking initiatives on the reform of education including higher technical education during the last couple of years, not much success has come by in the implementation of these initiatives primarily due to several states not having agreed to these initiatives. A consensus of the states, particularly of the big states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and others is required for these initiatives of the Ministry of HRD. It would strengthen our reform process if the states do not play politics in the education sector. One national test for entrance to engineering courses will not take away the powers that the states enjoy in developing education sector, particularly the higher technical education under the concurrent distribution of power dispensation between the centre and the states.

In a way, Engineering Council of India feels elated with the initiative that the Ministry of HRD has taken because one of the important consensus recommendation that emerged from the five national conventions, two national conferences and one national workshop that the Council have organized at various places in the country since 2006 on the subjects, which were related to the reform of engineering education for better employability of engineers, was that the government should re-visit its policy regarding selecting the candidates for admission to engineering colleges. The present practice of holding multiple examinations is proving counterproductive. Instead, there should be one entrance examination for admission to all engineering colleges in the country, which should also assess the aptitude for engineering profession. Further, the merit should not be compromised for the quotas for admission to engineering colleges. The initiative taken by the Ministry of HRD is, therefore, apt and timely.


(P.N. Shali)

Eminent Indian Engineer : Shri B Muthuraman



Mr B Muthuraman, an avid reader, a keen golfer, and cricket enthusiast, President CII and the Vice Chairman, Tata Steel, is an internationally well known steel man, engineer and manager. He contributed very significantly in placing Tata Steel among the giants of the steel industry in the world. This eminent Indian engineer also contributed his brilliance as a change agent of Tata Steel. Mr Muthuraman joined Tata Steel in 1966 as a graduate trainee. On completion of training, he worked in the areas of Iron-making and engineering development for 10 years and then moved to the Marketing & Sales Division of Tata Steel and spent nearly 20 years there, ultimately rising to the position of Managing Director, Tata Steel in July, 2001. He was selected to spearhead the prestigious Cold Rolling Mill Project which was finally completed in record time. He was appointed Executive Director (Special Projects) in August 2000 and served as the main change agent for the major diversification projects of Tata Steel.

Positions Held

Chairman, Natsteel Asia Pte Ltd. Singapore, Chairman, Tata Steel (Thailand) Public Company Ltd., Bangkok, Chairman, The Tinplate Company of India Ltd., Director, Tata Incorporated, New York, Director, Tata International Limited, Director, Tata Industries Ltd., Director, MICO Industries Ltd. and Member, UN Global Compact Board, Director on the Board of CEDEP, France, Chairman,

National Institute of Technology (NIT), Jamshedpur, Chairman, Board of Governors, Xavier Labour Relations Institute, Jamshedpur, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, National Council Member, Confederation of Indian Industry, Member, Business Advisory Council of Economic & Social Commission for ASIA and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and Director, International Iron & Steel Institute (IISI), Brussels.

Awards and Recognitions

Shri B. Muthuraman has received many prestigious awards and recognitions. While the list is very large, some of the important ones are covered here. These are: a distinguished Alumnus Award from IIT Madras (1997), Tata Gold Medal from the Indian Institute of Metals (2002), CEO of the Year Award, IIMM (2002), National HRD Network Pathfinders Award in the CEO Category (2004), CEO of the year (2005), Business Standard and CEO with HR Orientation Award at the World HRD Congress held at Mumbai in 2005, and 'Management Man of the Year 2006-2007 Award' by Bombay Management Association. Further, Honorary Fellowship of the All India Management Association was conferred on Shri B. Muthuraman in 2007.

Shri Muthuraman is a B. Tech in Metallurgical Engineering (IIT Madras; 1966). He did his MBA from XLRI Jamshedpur in 1975 and Advanced Management Programme from CEDEP/INSEAD, France.

UGC regulations for deemed universities a retrograde step

The 'UGC Regulations for Deemed Universities 2010?' is a retrograde step that interferes with the autonomy and freedom of private university administration, according to the founder-Chancellor of VIT University, G. Viswanathan. Mr. Viswanathan has written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in response to the MHRD's recent announcements with regard to reforms in higher education. He said the Ministry had announced certain policies with good intention, but steps to implement them seemed retrograde, which "strengthened the permit raj and discouraged the participation of the private sector." Pointing to regulations that prohibit the managing trustee or any other trustee of the trust which runs the University from holding the positions of Chancellor as well as the Chairman of the Board of Management (BoM) and limit the number of trustees on the BoM to 2, he said: "The focus ought to be on how sound the governance is, the quality of education and the outcomes of the institution rather than on disallowing trustees to take part in governance without regard to their capability, dedication and honesty." Unfair to fix fees" on the proposal to fix the fees to be

collected by deemed universities, Mr. Viswanathan said that while the government did not fix the fees to be charged by private hospitals for various essential services rendered to the public, it would be unfair to fix the fees for deemed universities. Referring to the Tandon Committee report on deemed universities, he said it had "tarnished the good reputation of most of the deemed universities" and prevented the "creation of many new private deemed universities." It also replaced a report that a UGC Committee comprising leading academicians had put together. "Laudable move" Calling "The Foreign Educational Institutional Bill 2010?" a "laudable initiative," Mr. Viswanathan sought a level-playing field for deemed universities with the same autonomy outside the regime of the UGC and the AICTE." There is a need for expanding both the public and private education system. Since the government is unable to spend money, it is unable to expand the state education system. In the same breath, it is disallowing expansion of private universities. Given the acute shortage of seats in the country, there will be enough elbow room for all students only if there is expansion of the higher education sector (The Hindu, : Jun 28, 2011).

View Point

Addressing the Skill Gap-Santanu Paul and Dilip Chenoy

The fact that India is at the crossroads in terms of employability is widely acknowledged. Many studies document the enormous potential of our demographic dividend as we morph from one of the oldest civilizations to one of the youngest nations in the world in the next decade. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has begun partnering with the private sector to create a skilled workforce of 150 million by 2020. Skill development is crucial, because the failure to transform our youth into productive citizens may lead to a demographic nightmare of social unrest. In wake-up call article (FE, February 28, 2011) Milind Deora, MP, made an impassioned plea for greater training capacity and funding, and implored industry to focus on rural India to help mitigate urban migration. Our article highlights some of the NSDC-funded skill development initiatives that are addressing very similar concerns, especially relating to the three million students that graduate every year from our colleges. To start with, there is an urgent need for a

geographically dispersed network of skill development centers that can transform unemployed graduates into industry-ready professionals. David Kolb, the father of the experiential learning method, observed that adults learn best when they are faced with a concrete experience of reality; in other words, to do is to learn. Too many colleges are still imparting outdated and narrow theoretical content, taught by instructors with no understanding of industry. The result is a startling 80% unemployables rate among our educated youth. In addition, these centers must also intervene in the area of personality development, because a majority of our youth does not have the confidence or communication skills to secure and retain well-paying jobs. A first set of skill development centers must be in urban locations, where it is relatively easy to attract high quality instructors with solid industry experience. These centers will cater to resident and migrant unemployed graduates, turning them into certified, employable professionals ready to join the nation's

Contd. page 8...

Engineers strike back on the Shunglu Committee branding engineers incompetent, and inefficient, blame approval delays

After the urban development ministry announced the whip would be cracked on engineers involved in Commonwealth Games-related projects saying they would be held directly responsible for delays, the engineers are hitting back. Engineers are saying that the government must look inwards and find out how much time has been wasted in giving administrative approval, which left virtually a bare minimum of time for the execution of Games projects. The Board of Governors of Engineering Council of India, a confederation of professional bodies of various engineering institutions met at the Scope Complex, New Delhi on 27th June, 2011 under the Chairmanship of Dr Uddesh Kohli, Chairman Emeritus, Construction Industry Development Council; Former CMD, Power Finance Corporation Ltd.; Chairman, SCOPE; Chairman, Consultancy Development Centre and Advisor, Planning Commission, Govt. of India. The Board noted that some investigation committees probing the alleged irregularities in recent Commonwealth Games have shown engineers in bad light. Some of these committees had ignored the excellent professional work done by engineers in the Commonwealth Games related projects and other developmental and infrastructural work done by the engineers. Such partisan reports do not augur well and are likely to demoralize the engineering professionals in the Country.

The Central Engineering Service (CES) is displeased with the findings of the Shunglu Committee report regarding the performance of engineers on the CWG Projects. The Confederation has written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expressing its displeasure over the findings of the Shunglu Committee report on the Commonwealth Games projects. The letter states that members of the engineering fraternity in general and those who were associated with the Games-related projects in particular "are shocked, saddened and demoralized by the treatment meted out to them after the successful completion of the Commonwealth Games-2010". Despite the late start of the projects due to various reasons beyond the control of engineers, they toiled hard and beyond the call of normal duty to ensure completion of all the projects before the Games so that the nation's prestige was saved. However, the media gave a very negative coverage to all the preparations made for the Games. Due to this pressure, various agencies swung into action immediately after the Games for examining and scrutinizing all the projects with a pre-set mindset to bring out faults in their execution. Apparently, the Shunglu Committee did not even care to verify the facts or seek clarification from the agencies concerned on the issues being raised by them. Most of the findings or recommendations are based on incorrect facts and cast serious aspersions on the capability and integrity of the engineers concerned. All this has shaken the spirit and confidence of engineers

to take up challenging projects in future (Staff Reporter, New Delhi).

Reacting to the warning of further delays of the Game-related projects given to the engineers by the UD Secretary Ramachandran, President of confederation of central engineering services (CES), Shri S. Srivasatava stated that due to the narrowed time frame for the carrying out of construction and completion of projects, work at sites was taken up around the clock. You don't find this happening in London which is preparing for the next edition of the Olympic Games. The competent UK authority has conceptualized plans and cleared all projects between 2005 and 2007. The next three years has been kept exclusively for construction and work at sites. As against this, here in India, the administrative approval and land for some key projects was given by the competent authorities very late. In fact, the approval for the construction of elevated road over the Barapulla Nallah connecting Sarai Kale Khan to Jawaharlal Nehru stadium was given in August 2008 and the deadline of the completion of this massive 4-km elevated road project was June 2010. Engineers got only 22 months to complete the project against the standard time frame of 36 months. Similarly, in UP Link Road, the administrative approval was given in May, 2008, and engineers got the final patch of land only in October, 2010! How could have engineers completed the project by July, 2010. While bureaucrats passed the buck on to engineers, they and political leadership overlooks their roles in delaying the project. (Dipak Kumar Dash | TNN)

In a letter to the Cabinet Secretary, Govt. of India dated May 18, 2011 Shri S Ghosh, President, the Indian Association of Structural Engineers (IAStructE) has stated that the engineering profession has received a severe beating in the aftermath of the CWG 2010. Engineers are being branded as incompetent, and inefficient. We feel that these impressions require to be corrected lest the country wishes the engineering profession to be 'Extinct' IAStructE feels totally disheartened on reading the Shunglu Committee Reports available on the Government website. The contents of the reports have caused wide-spread dismay and de-motivation in the engineering fraternity. While the report has taken no note of the significant achievements of the engineers in completing world-class state-of-the-art infrastructure for the CWG 2010 in an incredibly short time schedule made available to them, the Committee has seems to have not examined fully the reasons for the inexplicable delay in the decision process in the years preceding the frenzied attempts to complete the projects on time for the Games. They have also not considered, we believe, guidelines that govern the construction projects. We suggest that the technical aspects be put for resolution to the arbitration of a high ranking body of 3 or 5 prominent members of the engineering fraternity.

Letter to the Editor

Distance Education- Pathetic Plight

Dear Sir: It is really very sad, painful and moving when I read the letter of Ms. Rani Ratna (The Indian Engineer, March, 2011), a meritorious person, who completed AMIE very successfully, and has also gained four years experience subsequently in a blue chip company - all finally to be rejected by Infosys, NIT, IIT etc..! For a long time, in our younger days, we all knew that AMIE was treated equivalent to a Bachelors Degree in Engineering and that those who had passed AMIE examinations were all getting equivalent jobs in the government, public sector etc.. In the earlier years, those with qualifications like B.Sc., Diplomas in Engineering, etc., would choose AMIE course to realize the dream of a "Graduate Engineer". Today when we talk about the HRD crunch in the country in various disciplines, we are seriously thinking of Distance Education, Lateral Entry etc., as possible avenues not only to make up the numbers but also to reach the



human resource targets for our economic growth. Viewed from the above background, let us all recall the quantum of time, energy and money that Ms. Rani Ratna would have spent for AMIE with the usual ambitions of a young person, who begins a career, wanting to climb the ladder. One fails to understand who would compensate her now. It will be nice if ECI can bring the content of her letter to the present HRD Minister, Mr. Kapil Sibal and also the Chairman of the Distance Education Council (DEC) Prof. V.N. Rajasekaran Pillai as early as possible. There may be many more students in the same plight who have not conveyed through letters. Sooner we address this problem, the better it will be for the younger generation and also for the country.

Yours Sincerely,

L. Pugazhenty

Past President (2008-09),
Indian Institute of Metals

News Corner

More Jobs for Engineers ☺☺☺

Government fixes Rs. 70,000cr for roads for the fiscal



The Union Government has targeted, reputedly, to build 11,050km long national highways involving an estimated investment of Rs. 70,000cr during the current financial year. The Prime Minister, DR.

Manmohan Singh has recently reviewed the entire road building plans with the senior officials from the Union Transport Ministry and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and also fixed separate targets for various on going national highways programs. Elaborating further, of the total road projects to be awarded during the current financial year, 7,300km would be contracted under an ambitious National Highways Development Program (NHDP) thereby recording an increase of 44 percent as compared to 5,095km road works contracted in the preceding fiscal. Under the NHDP programs, the government has targeted Rs. 57,000cr investments for the fiscal. As a part of speedy road development strategy especially in the left wing extremism (LWE) infected areas, the government is keen to complete 1,759km of roads involving a whopping investment of Rs. 3,000cr on fast tracked basis during the current fiscal.

Bosch braces for Rs. 2,500cr expansion

The Germany-based engineering giant, Bosch Group, reportedly, has chalked out an ambitious plan to push its existing capacity in India matching local market requirements entailing an investment of Rs. 2,500cr. Out of the total targeted investment it plans to invest Rs. 150cr in setting up a manufacturing plant at Sanand in Gujarat for making electrical controls and drives and the unit is expected to become operational in 2012. Apart from this, the group is also setting up a greenfield facility at Verna in Goa for packaging solution and another plant in Chennai for electrical drives. The investment plans also included capacity expansion of its existing plants at Jaipur, Nashik, in Maharashtra and Naganathapura in Bangalore. A major chunk of investment will be used to manufacture products for growing local demands as after having met Bharat Stage III norms with the inline pump, the company is putting in more efforts to upgrade these pumps for higher injection pressure to meet future emission norms. It is also investing huge funds in software engineering and developing power trains electronics for gasoline and diesel engines along with hybrid and electric vehicles. It has already acquired land in Coimbatore for setting up its own software technology development campus and engineering labs.

PP projects worth Rs. 2,000cr up for grab

The Indore Development Authority (IDA) has drawn up an ambitious plan to build five mega construction and infrastructure projects under the public private partnership (PPP) model involving a whopping investment of Rs. 2,000cr. According to the Assistant



Architect Planner, IDA, Vijay Marathe, the upcoming projects related to strengthening the state transport system by setting up a state of art Inter State Bus Terminal (ISBT). Similarly, the government is also building top class and sprawling sports stadium equipped with modern and hi-tech facilities to promote state and national levels sportsperson. For providing healthcare facilities to the masses of the state it is setting up a world class Medicity, besides ensuring hassle free and smooth vehicular traffic it is also constructing transport logistics and also a mega convention centre. In this connection the nodal agency has decided to invite over 100 major real estate and infrastructure players to attend the forthcoming investors' conference slated to be held in Indore on June 24 and 25.

Doosan and Thermax seek Rs. 18,000cr equipment contract



Engineering giants Doosan and Thermax, reportedly, have joined the race for securing the supercritical equipment contract from the NTPC involving a staggering investment worth Rs. 18,000cr. The mega technical bids for the project involving

supply of boilers opened recently saw participation from five companies and consortiums and the NTPC is currently evaluating the firms on the basis of their technical parameters before they are given nod to place their financial bids. Sources claimed that these Korean equipment makers have also forged technical collaboration with the US based Babcock and Wilcox for manufacturing supercritical equipment in the country, and are participating for the first time in the bulk tender process started by the NTPC. The BHEL and Larsen and Toubro are the other players in the race for 800mw equipment supply contract for the projects. The equipment in question are aimed at improving the efficiency of NTPC plants alongside helping the company to reduce emissions in its upcoming projects like Lara in Chhattisgarh, Darlipalli and Gajmara in Orissa and Kudgi in Karnataka.

Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI) clears Rs. 1,376cr projects via VGF model

The Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI) and state governments, reportedly, have unanimously agreed to a new funding formula under which viability gap funding (VGF) would be provided by the Centre



to states for building national highways stretches that are financially unviable. Under the newly accepted formula Maharashtra secured two road projects entailing an investment of Rs. 1,376cr and four projects in Rajasthan and one in Punjab have also secured in principle approvals for implementation under the same model. As per the newly evolved formula the development of road would be carried out on a build operate and transfer (BoT) module instead of the earlier scheme of cash contracts. According to official sources the government will extend up to 40 percent of the project cost in the form of VGF for all national highway projects undertaken on BOT model. The new model become operative because some state governments including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab claimed that they could also implement the highway development program on the model adopted by NHAI and the projects would be tendered via BoT route for which the VGF amount would come from the Centre. Adhering to Central norms the state governments will tender the projects and supervise the work.

Award

The President of the Republic of Togo, His Excellency Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE, personally bestowed upon Shri Chander Verma, Chairman, Construction Industry Development Council; Treasurer, Engineering Council of India and Chairman,



Continental Construction Projects Limited, the "Officer de order de Mono" award for exemplary service to the country as Honorary Consul of the Republic of Togo to the entire territory of India at its national day celebrations parade on 27th April 2011 at Lome, Togo. The decoration is the highest Civilian award conferred upon the individuals who have shown extraordinary merit, irrespective of their Nationality.

Our congratulations

News from the Member Associations

Association of Consulting Civil Engineers (India)

ACCE (India) has been making regularly a request to the younger engineers for becoming its member. The response, reportedly, is very good. Professional competence alone does not lead to excellence; a civil engineer today is required to deliver results in a highly competitive and demanding environment. In addition to the conventional knowledge at his/ her command, every civil engineer must not only acquire additional skills but should also be able to integrate newer technologies and methodologies that become available to him / her. Gaining purposeful and meaningful control over the specialized technical knowledge through a process of dynamic learning and implementation is also a necessity. It is here that the ACCE(I) has played, and continues to play, a vital role as a catalyst. ACCE(I)'s awards convention and consultants colloquiums organized regularly have been playing a very important role in sending the message down the line.

Broad Cast Engineering Society (India) (BES)

The world telecommunication day was celebrated on May 16, 2011 at New Delhi. It was very well attended. The BES encourages the developments in the field of broadcasting; for this, 12 awards are given by the Society every year. Out of these, 9 awards are given in the inaugural function of the BES EXPO and 3 awards of Public Service Broadcasting are given on the occasion of Public Service Broadcasting Day held every year on 12th November. For details visit: www.besindia.com. BES(I) has solicited views from its members and others on: "Is launch of 3G in India a threat to the broadcasting industry? For details Visit www.besindia.com."

Consultancy Development Council (CDC)

CDC, as an autonomous council of the Department of CSIR, Government of India is continuing with its objectives which include to expose professionals to consulting process, practices and tools, impart basic consultancy, project management and comprehensive problem solving skills to professionals and working executives, encourage professional to opt consulting as a career option, and to develop skills and expertise for internal consulting in organisations. For this it has been conducting from time-to-time various programmes which included also basic studies on the various issues concerning developing world class professional consulting capabilities in India in various sectors of our economy.

Computer Society of India (CSI)

CSI supported the SIGAI - a forum to encourage quality research. A workshop on emerging research trends in artificial intelligence (ERTAI-2011) was held during June 19-21, 2011 at Bangalore. The workshop included invited talks covering current trends, specific challenges, etc. in artificial intelligence (AI), mentoring research scholars on publication, research methodology, etc., and presentations by those currently pursuing research in AI area. A panel of experienced researchers evaluated and mentored the research presentations. The National Workshop on the "Chemin Formatics" was organized under the Bioinformatics Infrastructure Facility Of the Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi and Special Interest Group on Bioinformatics of the Computer Society of India during June 13-17, 2011 at Surat. Both of these events were well attended. The upcoming programmes include a two- days International Conference on Issues and Challenges in Networking, Intelligence and Computing Technologies (ICNICT, 2011) slated for September 2-3, 2011, a two-day national conference on "Emerging Trends in Information & Communication Technologies" slated for October 14 - 15, 2011 at Hyderabad. Research scholars and students would also be encouraged to take part in this Conference. CSI looks forward to welcoming all interested engineers to these exciting programmes. For details, visit www.csi-india.org.

Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC)

The first national advisory board meeting of the 17th Asia Construct - Construct Asia" Building capacities through cooperation" Chaired by Shri Chander Verma, Chairman, CIDC was held on 13th June, 2011 at New Delhi. Dr. P.R Swarup, Director General, CIDC gave a brief overview about the formation of Asia Construct, explained its theme and objectives. While reviewing the theme note, a few issues were discussed, Dr. Swarup requested all members to mobilize resource based support and sponsorship for the event by spreading the message

and creating greater awareness amongst construction industry stakeholders.

Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI)

CEAI, western region centre in association with the Tata Projects Limited organized a training programme on the contract management during June 3-4, 2011 at Mumbai. CEAI organized a training course on the contract management during June 6-7, 2011 at Hyderabad. Both these courses were very well attended.

Indian Association of Structural Engineers (IAStructE)

IAStructE organized a technical discussion on "proof checking / third party audit of structural design" on June 30, 2011 at New Delhi. Proof checking or third party audit of structural design is in practice to ensure correctness of design. Many government departments and development authorities have made it mandatory for granting permission for construction. It was very well attended. A two-day National Conference on Repair & Rehabilitation of Concrete Structures was organized in association with ICI Western UP Centre Ghaziabad at NOIDA on 06-07 May 2011. The Conference was attended by more than 200 delegates from all parts of India. A technical discussion on geotechnical studies to assess liquefaction potential during earthquakes and its engineering solutions was held on April 28, 2011 at New Delhi. It included two case studies namely, Commonwealth Games Village in Delhi and the Gautam Budh University, Greater Noida. It was also very well attended.

Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS)

IGS-Kochi Chapter. organized a seminar on "Piling Foundations" and the national executive committee meeting of the society on May 07, 2011 at Kochi, Kerala. The seminar was very well attended. Many thought provoking recommendations emerged from the seminar after day's deliberations, which are under compilation. The book on "Geotechnical Engineering in Ancient India" authored by Dr. A.S. Nane was released at a function organized by the IGS-Pune Chapter on June 11, 2011 at Pune. This was followed by lectures delivered by Dr. A.S. Nane and Prof. K.S. Rao, President, Indian Geotechnical Society. A National Seminar on "Recent Advances in Geotechniques for Infrastructure Development" was organized by the IGS-Baroda Chapter on June 18, 2011 at Vadodara.

Indian Concrete Institute (ICI)

Chennai Centre, Tamilnadu of ICI in association with IIT Madras is organising a one day national workshop on: Precast concrete Buildings in India: Practices, Possibilities & Prospects on 6th August 2011 at IIT Madras, Chennai. For details send mail on: civil@iitr.emet.in, surenkaushik@rediffmail.com, eskayfce@iitr.emet.in

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

IIBE had planned to organize a national seminar on "Steel Bridges" during April 28 - 29, 2011 at Delhi. The sub-themes of the seminar was Composition Construction/Design/Fabrication/Erection/ Launching/Fabrication/Alloy Steel and Innovation in Technology. The seminar has been postponed due to some technical reasons and the new dates will be announced in due course.

Indian Institution of Plant Engineers (IIPE)

The 22nd Advance Maintenance Management Programme sponsored by the Power Grid Corporation and the Bhilai Steel Plant (SAIL) on the Asset Management and Maintenance Assurance System - A Gateway to Business Excellence was Organised by the IIPE during June 15-18, 2011 at Bhilai. The programme was very well attended.

Institute of Marine Engineers (India) (IMEI)

The Delhi Branch, IMEI celebrated its Annual Dinner on June 18, 2011 at New Delhi-110021. The Chief Guest was Vice Admiral Ganesh Mahadevan, AVSM, VSM and Guest of Honour were Mr. Ram Sarup Nayar, Vice President Emeritus, Institute of Marine Engineers (India), and Shri M.V. Ramamurthy, President, IMEI. The prominent figures who were invited and attended included Shri P.N. Shali, Director, Engineering Council of India and Capt. Sagar, Principal Officer, MMD, Delhi. The function was also attended by Rear Admiral Sailendran Madhusudan, Chairman Elect and his team, and the Doyens of the Shipping Industries and Senior most

Marine Engineers of Indian Navy and Coast Guard. 61st Governing Council Meeting of the Institute was held on 28th and 29th May, 2011 at IMEI House, Navi Mumbai. On 28.05.2011 Prize Distribution Ceremony for "IMEI-Students Essay Competition" was also held in the IMEI Auditorium. A one day Annual Seminar of the Navi Mumbai Chapter was also held on 28.05.2011 at IMEI Auditorium which was followed by a "Family Social Evening" at Nerul Gymkhana. Chennai Branch participated, on behalf of the Institute, as knowledge partner at the "Indo-Korean Connect" an International Business Summit and Trade Fair held from 24th to 26th June 2011 at Taj Coromandal and Hilton, Chennai. Members of the Institute also presented papers at the meet. The process of elections to the various Executive Committees (Main and Branch-wise) for 2011-13 is in progress. All election results will be declared at the Annual General Meeting of IMEI to be held on 27.08.2011 at Chennai. AGM of Chennai Branch was held on 11.06.2011. AGM of Pune Branch was held on 18.06.2011.

Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Inc.

IEEE including its Indian incorporation held international conference on the theme: Computer and Communication Devices (ICCCD) during April 1-3, 2011 at Bali, Indonesia, which provided a forum for laying the foundations of a new principled approach to computer and communication devices. Under its joint programmes, it organized a conference with the theme: International Frequency Control and the European Frequency and Time Forum (FCS) during May 1-4, 2011 at San Francisco, CA, USA. The conference discussed about research, development, and applications of frequency control. A conference was organized on the theme: Technology Time Machine (TTM), which covered a selected set of potentially high-impact emerging technologies, their current state of maturity, and scenarios for the future during June 1-3, 2011 at Hong Kong, China. All these conferences were very well attended and realized the objective that was set.

Institute of Urban Transport (India) (IUT)

Reportedly, under the new leadership and vision, and the new agenda for the capacity building, IUT intends involving all its members in its efforts to take the urban transportation agenda on a sustainable path. The Government of India has mandated IUT preparing at least 2500 professionals from the transportation domain to help the country address the myriad issues that are required to be addressed in the urban transportation domain. As the very first step, IUT intends to update the current contact details of all its members along with their individual professional details. This shall help in drawing out the relevant expertise from this set of qualified people for various tasks ahead which shall be mutually beneficial and gratifying.

Institution of Surveyors

Like other professional technical institutions of all India standing, Institution of Surveyors is an association of professional and technical persons who are engaged in the profession of Surveying. It was established in 1950 as a result of concerted efforts of some eminent persons belonging to the profession, importance of which to the country was so obvious that the proposal to put the surveyors on an organized basis met with an immediate response from the Government of India. It appointed a committee of experts to draw up the rules of the proposed Institution, which recommended the formation of the institute with two sub divisions to begin with namely Land Surveying and Building & Quantity Surveying. The institution has grown to its present international stature since then.

The Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers

Among the events organized by the IETE during April-June, 2011 included an Apex forum on "Tele - Healthcare in Rural India- Prospective & Challenges" held on May 11, 2011 at Ahmedabad, a technical lecture on "Standardization - its Relevance and Importance in the Telecom Sector" held on June 24, 2011 at New Delhi, and a Seminar on "New Horizons in Broadcasting" held on June 27, 2011 at New Delhi. 54th Annual Technical Convention on "ICT in Rural Development" to coincide with the ATC, Exhibition - IETE Expo-2011 on "Product and Services" is slated to be held during Sept. 23-25, 2011 at Ahmedabad. For details on this event visit : www.iete.org. The elections to the IETE's Governing Council - 2011-14 have been announced. For details visit www.iete.org.

The Indian Institute of Metals (IIM)

The Indian Institute of Metals will be holding the 49th National Metallurgists Day (NMD) and 65th Annual Technical Meeting at Hyderabad during 13-16 November 2011. The event is being organized by IIM, Hyderabad Chapter, in association with the Students Chapters of National Institute of Technology (NIT) Warangal, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology, Hyderabad and Jawaharlal Nehru Technical University, Hyderabad. Metallurgists, both experienced and young, who have excelled in Metallurgical Engineering and Material Engineering, will be recognized through national awards, instituted by the Ministry of Steel, Government of India as well as the awards of the IIM. The ATM themes this year will be Materials for (1) Aerospace (2) Energy (3) Defence (4) Automobile Applications (5) Functional Materials and (6) Emerging Materials. About 750 metallurgists, material scientists, teachers, researchers and industry participants will be congregating at the event, which is being held in an international venue namely Leonia International Centre for Exhibitions & Conventions at Shameerpet near Hyderabad.

Appointments



Prof. H.R. Vishwakarma

Prof. H.R. Vishwakarma, Hon. Secretary of Computer Society of India and Senior Professor of VIT University, Vellore has been elected as the President-Engineering Sciences Section, Indian Science Congress Association for the term 2011-12. In this crucial role, his primary responsibilities will include the promoting the objectives/programmes of Indian Science Congress Association and particularly organizing the Engineering Sciences Sectional Programmes during the 99th Indian Science Congress, Bhubaneswar Focal theme- Science and Technology for Inclusive Innovation- Role of Women."

Dr Sanak Mishra, Vice President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Greenfield Projects in India of ArcelorMittal, Past President of the Indian Institute of Metals has been elected as the Chairman of IOMMMS (International Organisation of Materials, Metals and Minerals Societies) for tenure of 2 years; 2011 and 2012. Its Secretariat is the TMS Headquarters in USA. All the major metallurgical bodies of the world are its members, such as the Chinese, Japanese, Korean, American, German and Indian societies/institutes of metals. He chaired the meeting of IOMMMS in San Diego in March, 2011.

Shri M D Agrawal has taken over as the President of the Computer Society of India. Dr S Chatterjee, Principal Consultant S Chatterjee



Dr. Sanak Mishra

Associates Consultants Pvt Ltd has taken over as the President, Shri Amitabha Ghoshal, Chairman - Eastern & North Eastern Region, Director & Vice President, Stup Consultants Pvt Ltd, Shri Sudhir K Dhawan as the Vice Chairmen and Maj S J M Jafri, Principal Consultant - Infrastructure, SNC-Lavalin Infrastructure Pvt Ltd as the Hony Secretary and Shri Biswarup Mukherjee, Associate Director, LEA Associates South Asia Pvt Ltd, as the Hony Treasurer of the Consulting Engineers Association of India for the term 2010-12.

Shri Anil Gupta, a Metallurgist, Manager and Administrator has taken over as the Chairman, the Indian Institute of Metals, Delhi Chapter for the term 2011-12 at the recently held AGM of the Chapter. Shri Gupta has contributed very significantly to the development of Steel Industry when serving with the Ministry of Steel, Government of India and the Steel Authority of India (SAIL) at very senior positions.



Anil Gupta



Dr. S. Abrol

Dr. K. Jayakumar has taken over as the Member Secretary and Director General, Consultancy Development Centre.

Dr. S. Abrol, former DG, CDC has taken over as the Vice president of the Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI).

Our congratulations

For want of higher-order skills - Chandra Mohan Baloni



Engineering students are neither creative nor good at problem solving and hence fail to get jobs in the competitive global market. The Common Entrance Test (CET) Cell is all set to commence the counseling process for admissions to engineering courses from July 7.

Students should be careful in their choice of college. The quality of teaching staff, lab facilities and other infrastructure vary from college to college and have a bearing on the process of learning and acquiring skills. A recent research revealed that engineering graduates in the country are falling short of professional, core employability and communication skills. Engineers with such skills are in short supply in IT and infrastructure, power and water, and many other sectors. The survey conducted by the World Bank - "Employability and Skill Set of Newly Graduated Engineers in India" (2011) - stated a majority of employers in India are not satisfied with the skills of newly hired engineering graduates. Only 64 per cent of employers said they are "somewhat satisfied" with the current engineering graduates. About 3.9 per cent of employers' rate the skills as "not at all satisfied" while 16.1 per cent are "not very satisfied." The higher education system has responded to the increased demand for engineers by massively expanding production of engineers. For example, Karnataka alone provides admissions to 70,000 students in 184 engineering colleges. But the system has not addressed the issue of imparting quality education and the kinds of skills demanded by employers in the global

market. The survey report, authored by Andreas Blom and Hiroshi Saeki, found that engineering graduates were not good at problem solving, creativity, use of modern tools, system designing to needs, application of mathematics, science and engineering knowledge and customer service. They lacked knowledge of contemporary issues too. The survey said that "Indian employers are less satisfied with their engineers compared to U.S. employers." There has been an average decline in the quality of students, said the Bank, which surveyed employers in 20 sectors, including IT, power and infrastructure. Half of the respondents were large companies with over 500 employees, with 40 per cent from North India, 27 per cent from the West and 19 per cent from the South. Interestingly, where the employers found the fresh engineering graduates most lacking in is critical thinking and problem solving. Besides professional skills, the employers look for (a) core employability skills, which cover generic attitudinal and affective skills such as reliability and team work, and (b) communication skills. Employability and communications skills are often referred to as soft skills. Engineers who are in high demand possess these sets. Employers are likely to perceive soft skills as more important than professional skills. However, engineering graduates with limited and weak professional skills are undesirable for employers. The report said memorizing textbooks for examinations is not a skill appreciated by the employers. Many experts ask if the Indian engineering education system trains students to memorize science and engineering knowledge, without adequately emphasizing the applicability, analysis and out-of-the-box thinking that employers look for.

Contd. from page 3...

workforce. The second set of centers must be in rural or remote locations. Since it is not easy to attract industry-savvy instructors to such settings, these centers will be connected to their urban counterparts through a husband-spoke model, with the aggressive use of technology to replicate the instructor experience. Such centers will address the large segment of economically-challenged graduates who can neither find employment locally nor migrate to urban centers for jobs. Considering the economic vulnerability of the target population, rural skill development programmes can be subsidized considerably.

The third set of centres must be located within college campuses. Unlike urban or rural centres that cater primarily to a post-campus population, in campus skill development centres provide an opportunity to make early interventions and impact students well before they graduate. Done right, this can save a great deal of downstream remedial expense and attendant frustration. With regard to funding, government subsidies have a legitimate place in the scheme of things, but the best way to create an efficient and accountable ecosystem in the long term is to enable collateral free, small-ticket bank loans that cater exclusively to the skill development sector. The basic idea is that trainees must be allowed to borrow from banks to pay for their skill development, and then repay their loan over a short series of affordable installments once they start working. To that end, Central Bank of India has taken the pioneering step of creating a skill development loan product in partnership with our respective organizations. Once the issues of capacity and funding begin to get addressed, it is conceivable that industry will start to migrate from their current practices to new ones. For example, the practice of recruiting graduates and running in-house training programmes is a proven profit-killer. Similarly, industries over dependence on urban talent has been wreaking havoc in terms of wage inflation and attrition. Therefore, it is quite likely that the very promise of a large talent inventory will encourage industry to conduct bolder experiments. Instead of training their recruits, they may insist on recruiting the

trained. When choosing the location for their next back office, they may skip Hyderabad and head for Hindupur. Helping our youth earn their first pay cheques is the first step towards inclusion. At the same time, it is important to make skill development efforts commercially sustainable, and not have it become another arena for perennial government subsidies. In that sense, private sector initiatives in skill development that lead to high employability must be encouraged as legitimate business for social good. To paraphrase Benjamin Franklin, for all stakeholders, an investment in skill development should pay a really good interest.

(Paul is MD & CEO of Talent-Sprint and Dilip Chenoy is MD & CEO of NSDC).

Glimpses



9th AGM on June 27, 2011 at New Delhi in Progress



28th BOG on June 27, 2011 at New Delhi in Progress



ENGINEERING COUNCIL OF INDIA

3rd Floor, Jawahar Dhatu Bhawan, 39, Tughlaqabad Institutional Area (Near Batra Hospital), M. B. Road, New Delhi-110062
Tel: 65640356, 29963281, 29963282 Fax: 29963283 E-mail: eci@ecindia.org, ecindia@vsnl.net Website: www.ecindia.org

Published by Shri P.N. Shali, Director, Engineering Council of India for restricted circulation from Jawahar Dhatu Bhawan, New Delhi-110062
Printed by : Maansee Printers, E-mail : maanseeprinters@yahoo.co.in