



# The Indian Engineer

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## From the Chairman's Desk



At the outset I wish to thank all the members of our Board of Governors and the Member Associations for re-nominating me as the Chairman of Engineering Council of India (ECI). This is a great responsibility as ECI has several tasks ahead for promoting the engineering profession and dedicate myself to undertaking these tasks with the help and involvement of all Member Associations.

Presently, there are two important issues requiring close working of ECI with its Member Associations. The first relates to the professional development of engineers. It was agreed in the last meeting of Board of Governors held on June 30, 2008, that ECI should go for a number of conferences/conventions/workshops/training programmes, some of which could be organised jointly with its Member Associations, where certificates to participants could be issued jointly and some revenue be shared by Member Associations with ECI. CPD was one of the important components of the whole process of registration of professional engineers. ECI had, in consultation and involvement of its Member Associations, developed systems and procedures for the CPD, which were equivalent to that of EMF - a world body recognising professional experience of engineers. If various programmes of the Member Associations are accredited under these systems and procedures and credit hours assigned for participation in these programmes under a joint certification programme, it would be very easy to retrieve these credits and use these later as a part of the registration process. ECI has already signed the MOUs with a couple of its Member Associations; and it is awaiting the response from the others to whom the draft MOUs had been submitted in this regard.

Secondly, ECI is exploring whether the Associate Membership Examinations conducted by some of our Member Associations can be duly recognized by a University as a B.E. degree. If the candidates get the proper university degree after passing these examinations, they can go overseas for higher education and employment and better compete at the national as well as international levels. Earlier we had interaction with the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in this respect. Recently, we contacted Assam University, which is a Central University. Professor G. D. Sharma, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the Assam University, joined us at our BOG meeting and AGM on June 30, 2008. He mentioned that the main condition to be ensured is that any course, not sanctioned by the UGC, has to be self-sustaining in an Institute. He felt that MOUs can be signed between the University and ECI along with its Member Associations but there would have to be some checks and controls in position as required in the distance mode of education wing of the University. Member Associations conducting Associateship examinations may indicate whether ECI should pursue this matter.

*Uddesh Kohli*  
(Uddesh Kohli)



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## 6th National Conference : Re-engineering Engineers

It is often said that the current engineering education system does not prepare engineers for the role of project engineers and managers. Engineers need a familiarity with the world of business and commerce, dealing with people and resources, environmental, health and safety aspects, legal aspects, project, logistics and procurement engineering, application of IT and communication technology, learning the finer elements of contracts and claims, apart from the changing world of technology itself.

The 6th National Conference on the theme **Re-engineering Engineers** is being organized to consider these issues in depth for evolving a working strategy and system for re-engineering of engineers with the support of Engineering Council's Member Associations (ECI) on **November 28, 2008 in the Main Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003. Refer to our website for details: [www.ecindia.org](http://www.ecindia.org)**

## World Environment Day

This event is organized universally on June 5 every year on a theme chosen by the United Nations. This year the theme chosen was 'CO<sub>2</sub> - Kick the Habit : Towards a Low Carbon Economy'. The importance of this event does not require being overemphasized. The effect of globalization and the consequent growth in economy has fuelled the ever-increasing demand for energy in the heightened living standard of the population. Consumerism is increasing at an alarming rate with the consumption of various available means of energy beyond sustainable levels. The obvious fallout is the greenhouse effect and depletion of ozone layer, an essential ingredient for human race to survive on earth. Development does not necessarily have to be done compromising with the environment and altering the ecological balance. Engineers are at the root of various developmental activities and it is they who really have to face the challenge and plan a roadmap for development sans environmental degradation.

## From Editor's Desk

### A Need for Statutory Authority for Engineers



Engineering is one of the important professions not only in India but also in the entire world in contributing to the economic development of a country and also in being the change-agent for bringing better quality of life for the citizens through employment of scientific principles. In India, as in the other countries, engineers and technologists are expected to take decisions with due professional integrity. It is, therefore, necessary for us to properly regulate the practice of engineering by an Act of Parliament for protecting public interests and ensuring safety and welfare of the people. While in India professions such as Medical, Legal, Architect, Chartered Accountancy, Dentistry, Company Secretary, etc. have legal status and statutory bodies in position which register/license the practice by the members of the profession, no such body exists for the engineering profession. A Statutory Authority needs to be set up that shall lay down, from time-to-time, specifications for competency in professional practice and shall have the mandate for recognition of this competency through a process of registration and renewal keeping in view the need for Continuous Professional Development (CPD). In many developed and developing countries including Pakistan, registration/licensing of engineers is necessary if they have to practise and work on engineering assignments. In India today, among professional services, which will be traded internationally under GATS, also include engineering services. Trade in professional services will open shortly. This will imply that engineers should be able to move out of India for providing their professional services in the world market. This can happen only if professional experience of the Indian Engineers is recognized abroad. One of the articles of GATS provides for recognition of competence of service-suppliers. Article VII.5 of the GATS provides that "Wherever appropriate, recognition should be based on multilaterally agreed criteria which are in terms of education and licences or certification". Many countries have a certification system design to certify the professional expertise of engineers in accordance with an accepted set of criteria. Presently, India does not have a system to certify Professional Engineers for meeting the criteria which will be internationally acceptable. For this also, we need to have the Statutory Authority and an Engineers Act in position. Without it, India will not be able to trade in the engineering services. India cannot afford this.

In the August 4, 2008 issue of the IEI News, from the President's Desk, inter alia, it is stated that the IEI has submitted the draft engineers bill to the Government of India where it is under process. This does not reflect the factual position. As a matter of fact, the Engineering Council of India (ECI) had submitted the draft Engineers' Bill to the Ministry of HRD in September 2004. The Ministry had set up a Committee with representation from ECI and the Institution of Engineers, IE(I). Although the report was submitted by the committee in June 2005, the IE(I) later opposed the recommendations, and the Ministry looked for a consensus draft. Consequently, after several meetings held under the chairmanship of Mr R V Shahi, former Secretary (Power), a consensus draft was developed and submitted to the Ministry in May, 2007. Both IE(I) and ECI participated and supported this draft, which was approved by ECI's Board of Governors on May 27, 2007. This Draft is now under consideration of the Ministry. It provides for the registration of all graduate engineers before they can practise. ECI is now pursuing it so that the Bill comes on the statute as the Engineers Act. With this, engineers will get a legislative cover as is available to the other professionals and the engineering profession would be legally recognized. Though the Draft Engineers Bill provides for the registration of all engineers, a provision in the Engineers Act for granting Professional Engineers (PE) certification to Indian engineers, which is in accordance with the standards developed by the EMF, is very desirable. ECI, for the sake of consensus, has agreed to the present Draft and it will continue to pursue this important aspect.

(P.N. Shali)



## Engineering Education needs Re-Engineering

Engineering has emerged as a multi-task profession. Mere training in compartments of different disciplines is not considered suitable to industry today. The problem in the engineering education in India is that things have not changed during the last three decades. Some of the concepts that are being taught and topics and subjects that are in the curricula are quite outdated. There is too much of pure sciences and mathematics with no clear idea of their relevance to applications. While too much theory is taught, too little emphasis is given on experiments and on-the-job training. There is no solid interdisciplinary base. There is too much of the compartmentalization. Students have no idea as to what they are studying and what they are going to do. An engineer, after passing out, enters industry and then only he/she is trained there for meeting his/her job requirements. There is, therefore, no correlation in the present engineering education system between theory and practice. Technology today has become more interdisciplinary. There is no subject which can make you understand technology in its entirety; it needs interdisciplinary skills and knowledge to understand and comprehend.

The basic challenges of the engineering education are the ever-changing world of engineering which demands a new way to educate future engineers. So, the engineering curricula should encompass effective use of computer tools, a greater variety of organizational work contents, management concepts, basic concepts of economics, statistics, basic concepts of other disciplines, etc. As a matter of fact, since the last decade the engineering profession has become more interdisciplinary. Seamless transition in the engineering education has, therefore, become important. This cannot be ignored and keeping status quo in the engineering education cannot be afforded in the given circumstances.

Engineer should also have sufficient knowledge of other disciplines such as finance, law, dispute redressal, computer applications, public relations, team dynamics, HRD, management skills, etc. The latest example of seamless engineering can be found in the emergence of a new multidisciplinary nano-science and technology and in the Aeronautical Engineering. An effective interaction between academia and industry is also required for producing practising engineers.

According to the August, 2006 issue of Business India, USA produces more engineers despite having less number of universities and around a little more than half of its population when compared with India. Primarily, it is because USA produces more general engineers and India does not. A definite trend in the world of knowledge creation and its dissemination can be seen quite clearly today which is essentially a trend towards convergence and indivisibility. Whatever we may do with regard to re-engineering, the engineering curricula for which a lot of ideas have been thrown up like, campus-corporation collaboration, institute-industry interaction, we want reflective practitioners. Academicians should make a temporary transition to the world of work from the world of teaching. Any change, that we may want in the conventional

practices, cannot be done through legislation. It can be better and quicker done through credible consensus-building process. This is what this convention on the Seamless Engineering, organized by the Engineering Council of India is trying to realize.

The Indian industry today is generally of the view that engineers, who come out of colleges, are not suitable for them. The Industry does not provide information to the academia about what they expect from the passing-out engineers. There is no interactive mechanism in place between the two. This is the problem. Industry-academia interaction mechanism abroad is well established to the extent that professors become with their position in the academy (an academic institution) automatically the top most industrial consultants. There is, therefore, a need (for us) to put in place such a mechanism for synchronizing what we need to teach students so that they can meet the needs of industry. It is only then that it would be possible for both the stakeholders to come to common understanding as to what engineering curriculum needs to be taught. If we are perhaps able to create this synergy between the industry and the academia, the need for the seamless engineering will get more prominence.

In order to meet the present requirement of industry, a student, who wants to finish engineering with general engineering, should be able to do so and enter industry as an engineer after three years of engineering course. A student, who wants to branch out into various special streams of specialization, should be able to do it during the subsequent two years, i.e., during 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year of the course. We should, therefore, have general engineering course and produce general engineers who could do any kind of job. Specializations can also be done at the undergraduate level itself with two years' more course in continuity of the three years of general course. Alternately, it could be a general course of three years and two years of specialization thereafter - either in continuity or with a break of two years which can be spent in an industrial unit. Another alternative could be four years of general engineering course at the undergraduate level and two years' course in particular specialization at the postgraduate level. In this alternative also there could be a break of two to three years for taking up employment in an industrial unit. We can select the required alternatives.

Creating seamless thinking primarily is the responsibility of the professional bodies. They should discharge this responsibility. Engineering Council of India has taken the first step by organizing thought-provoking, apt and timely national conventions and the 6<sup>th</sup> National Conference being organized at New Delhi on November 28, 2008 will further look at this subject closely.

Strategy for action is that the professional guilds, institutions and the Engineering Council of India should join hands and evolve a workable curriculum. Industry must spell what to be taught; the professional guilds should validate it and adopt continuous professional development.



## Eminent Indian Engineer : Dr. Placid Rodriguez



Dr. Placid Rodriguez, an eminent nuclear scientist and engineer, former Director, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and past President, The Indian Institute of Metals was born in Quilon, Kerala on October 5, 1940. After obtaining his B.Sc degree from Kerala University in 1958, he did his B.E (Metallurgy) at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. In August

1960, he joined the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India through its Training School and worked in the Metallurgy Division of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) at Bombay from 1961 till 1974. He was deputed to Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA during 1963 to 1965 for specialised training; during this period, he obtained his M.S in Metallurgical Engineering from University of Tennessee. He was awarded the Ph.D degree of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in 1976. In 2001 he obtained an MBA degree from Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) with specialisation in Human Resources Management.

In June 1974, he moved to Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) formerly known as Reactor Research Centre (RRC), DAE, Government of India as Sr. Metallurgist of Metallurgy Programme and in 1986 was designated as Head of the Metallurgy, Materials & Quality Assurance Programmes in the Centre. He took over the position of Director, IGCAR on December 1, 1992 and remained on this coveted position till October 31, 2000. After superannuation from DAE, he joined DRDO on November 1, 2000 as Chairman of its Recruitment and Assessment Centre, New Delhi. He also served from 2004 to August, 2008 as a Raja Ramanna Fellow at IIT Madras, Chennai and AICTE-INAE Distinguished Visiting Professor at NITs at Surathkal, Nagpur, Tiruchirapalli & PSG College of Technology Coimbatore. Dr. Rodriguez was internationally well-known for his R&D contributions in Mechanical Metallurgy, Welding Metallurgy, Nuclear Materials and Fast Breeder Reactor Technology. His work in the area of Serrated Yielding and Dynamic Strain Ageing was the most well known and most cited. He was equally well known for his work in creep, creep-fatigue interactions and for novel experimented techniques like Stress Relaxation and Acoustic Emission for studying dislocation dynamics.

Dr. Rodriguez's standing in his profession led to his involvement with many editorial responsibilities. He was the Subject Editor in 2001 in the area of Nuclear Materials and Irradiation effects of the Encyclopaedia of Materials: Science and Technology published by Elsevier Science Ltd. He was the Editor of Publications of the Indian National Academy of Engineering during 1998-2000. He was on the Editorial Boards of Metals, Materials and Processes, Journal of NDE of ISNT, International Journal of Pressure Vessels and Piping, Steel India, Welding and Joining, Indian Journal of Chemical Technology and Indian Journal of Power and River Valley Development. He served as an Editor of Transactions of the Indian Institute of Metals during 1977-87 and was the Chief Editor of this Journal for another 10 years, i.e. 1987-96.

Dr. Rodriguez was a Member of the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet (SAC-C). Dr. Rodriguez had been a member of many national funding agencies for Science and Technology like Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) of DST [1991-97] and Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS) [1992-97]. He had also served during 1992-99 on the Boards of Indian Rare Earths Limited (IRE) and Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC). During 1998-2000, he was the Chairperson of the Research Council of the Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI), Karaikudi, a Member of the Academic Council of the Anna University and the Technology Development Committee of the Shree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST). He chaired the Technology Transfer Committee of SCTIMST. He was a Member of the TIFAC-CUSEC (Committee on Up gradation of Science & Engineering Colleges), the apex committee guiding Mission REACH. He chaired the TIFAC Committee on S&T inputs to Small and Medium Enterprises.

Dr. Placid Rodriguez was an outstanding Indian material scientist, an important architect of the fast breeder reactor programme. Dr. Rodriguez, among other significant contributions that he made to science and technology and engineering profession, will also be fondly remembered for his important contribution to the building of Indian professional engineering societies like Materials Research Society of India, Indian Nuclear Society, Indian National Academy of Engineering and many more. He also served as a distinguished member of the Board of Governors of the Engineering Council of India for the terms 2002-04 and 2006-08 and a member of the national search committee for selecting the Chairman of Engineering Council of India.

Dr. Rodriguez was a recipient of many National Awards. Notable among them are:

- National Metallurgists' Day Award (1978) of the Ministry of Steel and Mines.
- Keith Hartley Memorial (Lecture) Medal (1986) of the Indian Institute of Welding.
- G.D. Birla Gold Medal (1987) of the Indian Institute of Metals.
- VASVIK Research Award for Materials Science and Technology for the year 1990.
- MRSI Lecture Medal (1991) of the Materials Research Society of India.
- MRSI-ICSC Award (1997) of the Materials Research Society of India.
- Shri Om Prakash Bhasin Foundation Award (1999) for Engineering including Energy and Aerospace.
- MRSI-Distinguished Lectureship for the period (2000-2001) of the Materials Research Society of India.
- National Metallurgists' Day Award (2000) of the Indian Institute of Metals.



- Platinum Medal (2003) of the Indian Institute of Metals.

Other Awards won by him include For the Sake of Honour Award (1998) from the Rotary Club of Madras, Vadapalani, and Swadeshi Sashtra Puraskaram '98 awarded by the Swadeshi Science Movement.

Dr. Rodriguez played important leadership roles in the Professional Societies of his specialization. He was a Past President (1996-97) and an Honorary Member of the Indian Institute of Metals and Past President of the Indian Institute of Welding (1993-95). He was a Vice President of the Materials Research Society (MRSI)(1997-20003) and was

Honorary Secretary of the Indian National Academy of Engineering.(2000-2004). He was the President of Indian Nuclear Society and a Vice President of the Indian National Academy of Engineering. He was a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, the Indian Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences India, the Tamil Nadu Academy of Sciences, the Indian Institute of Metals, the Indian Institute of Welding and the Society for the Advancement of Electrochemical Science and Technology and a Member of the Asia-Pacific Academy of Materials and Honorary Fellow of Non-Destructive Society of India.

## Awards

Shri K.Viswanathan, Past President, Indian Society for Non-Destructive Testing has been honoured with the most prestigious award of the society, viz., **LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Science and technology of Non-Destructive Testing and Evaluation for the year 2007. This award was given to him at the Society's Annual convention at Baroda on 28th Nov 2007.

*Our Congratulations*

## Appointments/Achievements

Shri L. Pughazhanty, Executive Director, Indian Lead-Zinc Development Association (ILZDA) has taken over as the President of the Indian Institute of Metals .

*Our Congratulations*

Shri B.D. Jethra, former Adviser (Industry & Minerals), Planning Commission, Government of India has been awarded the Honorary Membership of the Indian Institute of Metals.

*Our Congratulations*

**Student Enterprise Award for Bannari Amman :** Only ten (10) best projects are selected worldwide by IEEE and this recognition is, therefore, creditworthy. The prestigious and internationally acclaimed IEEE Student Enterprise Award for 2007-08 (\$1150 Fin. Support attached) was bagged by the IEEE Student Branch of Bannari Amman Institute of Technology, Sathyamangalam under Madras Section for the project "FPGA model of Fuzzy PD Controller for Insulin Pumps for Diabetes". The project is a novel approach to identify and design a simple robust fuzzy FD controller for insulin pump with minimum number of fuzzy rules for diabetic patients as a single injection process. The blood glucose level is monitored from photo plethysmograph of pulse oximeter and the result is expected to be a boon to diabetic patients.

*Our Congratulations*

Er. O. P. Gupta, VSM, Er. M. M. Sangal and Er. B. N. Moolchandani, all members of ICC, have been elected on the Governing Body of the Indian Buildings Congress (IBC).

*Our Congratulations*

"Don't tell me the sky is the limit, there are footprints on the Moon"

"One thing I know for sure, the love of invention will never die."

*- Karl Benz*

I am emphasizing that we should work for Energy Independence. What does it mean? It means freedom from fossil fuel and lead India towards sustainable clean green energy and environment.

*- Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India*

"Do something for somebody every day for which you do not get paid."

*- Dr. Albert Schweitzer*

## OBITUARY

Dr. T. N. Subba Rao, Chairman & Managing Director, Construma Consultancy Private Limited, Mumbai-400052, a legend in Civil Engineering and former CMD, Gammon India Ltd. left for heavenly abode on August 13, 2008. ECI expresses its condolences to the bereaved family.

Dr Placid Rodriguez, a distinguished and internationally renowned Nuclear Scientist and Engineer and former Director of Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) passed away due to cardiac failure on August 31, 2008 at Chennai. ECI commiserate with his family at their loss. May his soul rest in peace.

Justice H. R. Khanna, Patron, ICC, left for heavenly abode. ECI expresses its condolences to the bereaved family. May his soul rest in peace.



## News from the Member Associations

### Indian Concrete Institute (ICI)

ICI organized a workshop on "EUROCODES" at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on September 11-13, 2008.

ICI is organizing an international conference and exhibition ICI-Innovative World of Concrete '08 on December 11-14, 2008 at Greater Noida Expressway, New Delhi, India. Themes of the conference have been carefully chosen keeping in view the emerging trends and technologies in the construction industry. It will also focus on Energy Efficient Technology for the Cement Industry.

### Indian Association of Structural Engineers (IAStructE)

With the current high rate of economic growth in the country and the consequent rapid urbanization, we are witnessing an unprecedented boom in construction activities and infrastructure development almost throughout the country. This has given rise to the need for structures which are ever-increasing in height, span and their inherent complexities. This necessarily demands more and more well-qualified structural engineers of high caliber and competence. Simultaneously, the need to disseminate knowledge and information on latest developments in structural engineering practice, both within India and abroad, has become paramount. It is in this background that the IAStructE, jointly with Akar InfoMedia Pvt. Ltd. (AIM), has brought out its new magazine "Structural Engineering Digest (SED)" which also aims at providing an insight into the professional issues facing in the practice of the Structural Engineering practice in India. It will be published once in two months in the beginning and will become a monthly afterwards.

In view of the requirement of at least 50,000 Civil/Structural Engineers by the year 2010 in India, Shri Mahendra Raj, President, is in constant touch with the concerned authorities in planning for technical education in India with a view to initiating a dialogue on the subject.

The 2nd Structural Engineers Day was celebrated by the IAStructE on August 8, 2008 in a befitting manner.

**ZAK Rooftech Expo 2008, International Trade Fair on Roofing & Cladding** is going to be organized with the support of IAStructE at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on December 5-7, 2008.

**Built Today 2009 Trade Fair & Exhibition on Architecture, Construction, Engineering & Building Materials** is going to be organized with the support of IAStructE at Mumbai in February, 2009.

### Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI)

CEAI organized a Seminar on ENERGISING URBAN INDIA on July 11-12, 2008 at Intercontinental The Grand, Barakhamba Avenue, New Delhi - 110 001. It was inaugurated by Smt. Sheila Dikshit, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of NCT Delhi and eminent speakers like Dr Kirit Parikh, Member, Planning Commission, participated.

### Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC)

With increase in the internationalization and liberalization of trade and commerce there is a need to ensure that the laws in India are adapted to meet the needs of world markets and cross

border transactions. There is a pressing need for harmonization and modernization of laws in India so as to keep itself apace with the rest of the world. CIDC, jointly with Construction Industry Arbitration Council (CIAC), United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), International Council of Consultants (ICC), National Law University Jodhpur (NLUJ) and Chanakya National Law University (CNLU), is going to organize International Conference on "Institutional Arbitration in Infrastructure & Construction - Based on Uncitral rules" at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on October 16-18, 2008. UNCITRAL has been in the forefront of the efforts made by the United Nations to remove the obstacles in international trade and investment by progressive harmonization and modernization of national laws in areas, such as, dispute resolution, international contract practices and sale of goods. India's Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996 is the outcome of such an attitude and endeavor. This conference seeks to showcase the work of UNCITRAL in the field of international trade laws. It seeks to provide a forum where the applicability and desirability of incorporation of the elements of UNCITRAL's legislative and non-legislative instruments into India's domestic laws will be discussed and deliberated.

The Conference will be useful to Arbitrators, Judges, Lawyers, In-House Counsel and Legal Officers, Engineers, Project Managers, Senior Government Officials, Academicians, Policy Makers and all those involved in dispute resolution, especially professionals associated with the construction industry. For more details, please contact mail@ciac.in.

### International Council of Consultants (ICC)

The International Council of Consultants (ICC), in association with the Construction Industry Development Council of India (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 May 29, 2008 to empower the delegates with various aspects of construction projects. A one-day International Executive Development Programme on "Managing your Construction Contracts" was organized by ICC on May 29, 2008 at Radisson SAS Hotel, Dubai Media City, United Arab Emirates. The programme was well attended by internationally reputed participants.

ICC is organizing an International Conference on "Institutional Arbitration in Infrastructure & Construction - based on UNCITRAL RULES" on October 16-18, 2008 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

Recognizing the need of training in India and abroad, ICC is planning to conduct a series of EDPs and is open to such trainings as per the specific requirements of organizations & ICC members. ECI extends its best wishes for enhanced professional reputation to the ICC.

### Indian Buildings Congress (IBC)

Buildings consume about one-third of primary energy, two-third of electricity generated, one-third of raw material inputs and a substantial percentage of freshwater resources. At the same time, buildings account for one-third of greenhouse gas emissions and material waste output. The building sector contributes up to 40% emissions, mostly from energy use during



the lifetime of buildings. Identifying areas to reduce these emissions has assumed significant priority in the global effort to reduce climate change. It is with this view that IBC proposed to hold its Mid-Term Seminar on "Environment Protection in Building Industry" in November, 2008. The Seminar is likely to be held at Patna. Many of the problems can naturally be avoided or at least mitigated by foresight in planning and development of built environment. IBC has been actively engaged in various technical activities for the dissemination of knowledge relating to the Built Environment amongst the professionals and construction agencies of the Government and Private Sector. It has recently brought out two useful publications of international standard viz. Handbooks on "Seismic Retrofit of Buildings" and "Energy Conservation in Buildings".

Active steps are being taken for construction of an additional floor in IBC Headquarter Building with a view to increasing the technical activities of the organization.

For enhancing knowledge of the construction technicians and workmen, IBC is keen to set up 'Workmen Training Institutes', in UP, Rajasthan and Maharashtra and efforts are on towards this objective.

The 15th Annual Convention of the IBC will be held sometime in May, 2009. A Seminar on a topical subject would be held along with this Session.

With a view to having a recognized system for upgradation of skills and their certification in the country, IBC proposes to construct a Training Institute for enhancing/upgrading the skills of Construction Workers in different trades. IBC has identified a plot of land in the NCR of Delhi. A Committee of Experts has been constituted to work out the scheme and to finalize the modalities of the Training Programme.

#### **The Indian Institute of Metals (IIM)**

The IIM has set up two HRD centres at Chennai and Jamshedpur. These centres will be on stream in 2008 with a series of value-added programmes for the benefit of the members, students and industry. IIM is shortly launching a distant mode PG Diploma Course in Metallurgical & Materials Engineering essentially for employed, non-metallurgists and another course for the operators and technicians. "Students Outreach" will be a priority mission for the institute.

#### **The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE)**

IEEE Kharagpur Section and IEEE Sri Lanka Section are jointly organizing the IEEE Region 10 Colloquium and Third

International Conference on Industrial and Information Systems (ICIIS-2008) on December 8-10, 2008 with the theme "Real-time Communicative Intelligence for Tomorrow's Industry". The mission is to bring together innovative academics and industrial experts in the field of Electrical, Electronics, Computer Science & Engineering and Information Engineering to a common forum, where a constructive dialogue on theoretical concepts, practical ideas and results of the state-of-the-art technology will be developed, with a vision to sink present innovative international research and source it for the development of tomorrow's industry and information system.

The IEEE is holding a conference on Metering and Billing in October in Mumbai. Metering, Billing/CRM India 2008 will consist of a three-day conference and exhibition, showcasing local and international technologies available to the utilities sector. The content-rich programme includes international case studies, master classes, workshops and a site visit, as well as the co-located 'SMART GRIDS INDIA' executive forum that will focus on modernising ageing grid infrastructure.

#### **Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers**

Benchmarking: IIChE and Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE), UK have embarked on a joint exercise of 'Benchmarking' of the Chemical Engineering Departments of selected top academic institutes in India. In the first round, Benchmarking was conducted at three institutions, namely, IIT, Mumbai; University Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai; and; Jadavpur University, Kolkata during 14 - 18 July 2008.

Forthcoming Events: Student Exchange Programme: As part of the IIChE-IChemE collaboration, a student/young professional exchange programme was introduced with 3 students and a couple of young professionals from the UK visiting India in September 2008. They visited a few industrial units and attended the annual IIChE programme of Students' CHEMCON (SCHEMCON) at Jalandhar. For the UK leg of the programme, a small group of students and professionals from India will visit the UK in October 2008. Besides industrial visits, they will attend CHEMENG 08, to be organized by IChemE in Birmingham during 28 - 30 October 2008. SCHEMCON: The IIChE Students' Chapter at Dr B R Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar under the Doaba Regional Centre of IIChE will organize the annual Students' CHEMCON (SCHEMCON) at the NIT premises on 26 and 27 October 2008. The central theme of this year's SCHEMCON will be 'Present and Future Trends in Process Industries'.

### **News Corner**

AEC World Expo & Conferences is an Architecture, Engineering & Construction Exhibition (AECE) and is the only global interactive platform for the Indian Architecture Engineering & Construction industry which initiates and encourages showcasing of material design, path-breaking innovations and approaches in design, engineering & construction. The AEC World Expo & Conferences, 09 is scheduled on March 19-22, 2009 at NSE Complex, Goregaon, Mumbai. This event is positioned as India's only Experience Exposition for the Architecture, Engineering & Construction Industry. Engineering Council of India, having been evolved, over the years, as a critical institution, which has worked earnestly to promote interest of engineers & advancement of engineering profession that thread its members together, has been invited onboard their "Alliances Panel" whose singular purpose is

to offer channels of interaction and communication for the AEC World Expo to the target audiences in their specific country.

#### **Bauma China 2008**

Bauma China has established as the leading exhibition for construction machinery & building material machinery in Asia. It is organizing International Trade Fair for Construction Machinery, Building Material Machines, Construction Vehicles and Equipment on November 25-28, 2008 at Shanghai New International Expo Centre (SNIIEC), Shanghai (Pudong) China and will again be the meeting place for industry, trade, service providers and decision-makers. Builders' Association of India (BAI) is one of the 'International Supporters' of Bauma China 2008 and will also be participating.



## Glimpses of the Events

20th Meeting of the Board of Governors, 6th Annual General Meeting and the  
21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Board of Governors held on June 30, 2008



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