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Call to adopt modern construction techniques

By Our Correspondent
LAHORE

PAKISTAN Engineering Congress President Engr. Hussain Ahmed has said that Pakistan should adopt advanced and state of the art construction and rehabilitation techniques in order to cope with coming wars and natural disasters which has also destroyed our infrastructure in the past.

He was speaking at a seminar organised by the Pakistan Engineering Congress PEC on Saturday. Hussain said by adopting latest technologies, we would be able to build in two days what was taking 20 days to build.

He said times have materially changed due to unparalleled advances and excellence in the fields of science and technology. Architectural innovations in construction of high-rise buildings with a view to achieve economy and maximum utilisation of space had become compulsions due to accelerated urbanization and emergence of mega cities; construction of bridges, dams and underground structures.

In his lecture on "Modern Concrete Systems for Construction and Repairs", Prof. Dr. Syed Ali Rehman (Wise President PEC) briefed the audience on latest technologies being used in the world.

He said Pakistan should follow footsteps of construction and engineering giants such as Germany and Japan and should work in collaboration with their companies.

He said the country should also allow engineering firms of these two countries to establish their offices in Pakistan so that the advanced technologies could be shared.
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Congress delegation participation in “the 60th international executive council (IEC) meeting of the international commission on irrigation and drainage (ICID) IN new delhi – India

Participation of Pakistan Delegation
In 60th IEC Meeting and 5th Asian Regional Conference, New Delhi, India

International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage, ICID was established as a Scientific, Technical and Voluntary Not-for-Profit Non-Governmental International Organization (NGO) with headquarters in New Delhi, India. ICID started its operations on June 24, 1950, dedicated to enhancing the worldwide supply of food and fiber for all people by improving water and land management and the productivity of irrigated and drained lands through appropriate management of water, environment and application of irrigation, drainage and flood management techniques. This year, International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage (ICID) celebrated its Diamond Jubilee year, completing 60 years of its experience in the transfer of water management technology and in the handling of related issues.

The Pakistan delegation participating in this Mega Event was led by its President, Pakistan Engineering Congress, Engr. Husnain Ahmed.

In this historic occasion for ICID, the 60th International Executive Council (IEC) meeting and 5th Asian Regional Conference (ARC) were held at Vipvan Bhavan, New Delhi, India. The 5th Asian Regional Conference highlighted the theme of “Improvement in Efficiency of Irrigation Projects through Technology Up-gradation and Better Operation & Maintenance”. During above events, over 32 ICID work body meetings and 6 Special Sessions were held. The papers received for 5th Asian Regional Conference were presented in 20 technical sessions.

The mission of ICID is to stimulate and promote the development and application of the arts, sciences and techniques of engineering, agriculture, economics, ecological and social sciences in managing water and land resources for irrigation, drainage, flood management and river training applications, including research and development and capacity building for achieving sustainable irrigated agriculture. Starting with 11 founding member countries in June 1950, today 107 countries have so far been admitted to the fold of ICID for sharing its efforts in the direction of sustainable irrigation. Currently, 66 countries are actively participating in the activities of ICID, including Pakistan as one of its founding members.

The event brought together 740 delegates from 47 countries across the world, of which about 440 local delegates and representatives from international organizations participated in various events to make it practically successful.

Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh, inaugurated the 5th Asian Regional Conference held alongside 60th International Executive Council Meeting. Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal, Union Minister of Water Resources, Mr. Vincent H. Pali, Minister of State for Water Resources, Mr. U.N. Panjwar, Secretary of Ministry of Water Resources, Mr. A.K. Bajaj, Chairman, Central Water Commission / Indian National Committee of ICID, Prof. Dr. Chandra A. Madramootoo, President of ICID and Er. M. Gopakrishnan, Secretary General, ICID also attended it.

Union Finance Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee was the chief guest for the closing ceremony. Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Mr. Sachin Pilot, Hon’ble Minister of State for Communications & Information Technology and Mr. S. Manoharan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources also were also present.

Special postal cover marking the “Diamond Jubilee Year” (1950-2000) of ICID was released during the closing ceremony.

The six member delegation comprises of Engr. Husnain Ahmad, President of Pakistan Engineering Congress, along with Engr. Syed Mansoob Ali Zadri, Senior Vice President Pakistan Engineering Congress / Former Secretary Irrigation & Power Govt. of Punjab and Life Member of American Society of
Congress delegation participation in “the 60th international executive council (IEC) meeting of the international commission on irrigation and drainage (ICID) IN New Delhi”

Civil Engineers (ASCE), Mr. Hassan Javaid Afridi, Vice President (Water Resources Division). National Engineering Services Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd., Mr. Bashir Ahmad Sial, General Manager (Water Resources Division) National Engineering Services Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, Chairman Irrigation & Drainage Department, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and Dr. Muhammad Arshad, Associate Professor Irrigation & Drainage Department, University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

Participation of the Pakistan delegation, compared to other delegations attending the occasion was considered as the most effective and exceptionally commendable, not only because of its active participation in each and every session of Working Groups (WGs), Task Forces, and various Committee meeting(s) but also for its valuable contributions. It was the most sought after delegation and especially came into the glare of publicity when:

Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad’s ‘Wheat Bed Planter’ won the WaterTech Award 2009. The bed planting machine develops two beds and three furrows in single operation. This machine is the result of Dr. Rai’s individual research spanning more than a decade. It is designed to plant furrows on one bed. A furrow for irrigation separates each bed. There is a buffer zone in the center of four rows on the bed. The machine develops two lines of crop on both sides of the furrow. Each furrow irrigates only 20 cm (8 inches) of the adjacent bed. The center to center distance of two beds is 90 cm (36 inches) with a bed of 60 cm (24 inches). Thus, the machine has provision to plant 4 lines in 90 cm (36 inches) width while maintaining the traditional plant population. This saved 45% of water compared to traditional methods, with 17% increase in yield. The machine has been used for other crops (cotton, maize and rice with different but similarly impressive results). The water productivity improvements were achieved don 815 ha at four locations, but the technology has great potential (6.4 Mha of wheat in Pakistan alone). The work of Dr. Ahmad can be more succinctly termed as “Bed Planting Machine”. Engr. Husnain Ahmad on his behalf received the WaterTech Award-2009 during the IEC meeting in a prestigious ceremony from the president ICID Prof. Dr. Chandra A. Madramootoo.

Engr. Husnain Ahmad, President, Pakistan Engineering Congress & head of the delegation was selected as member for “Permanent Committee for Technical Activities” (PCTA). In addition to Engr. Husnain Ahmad’s nomination on PCTA, the Pakistan delegation comprising of 8-members bagged:

- 5-Nominations on Working Groups
- 1-Nomination on Task Force

- India
Lecture on “high early strength grout systems”
Lecture on “high early strength grout systems”

PEC organises lecture programme

HASSAN ABBAS

LAHORE: Professor Dr. Engineer Thomas A. Bier has said that according to European legislation, sustainable construction in Germany follows a guideline focusing on the design, construction and use of building materials with emphasis on ecological and economic aspects.

Bier is delivering a lecture on “trends for sustainable construction in Germany and Europe” organised by Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) on Saturday. He is an eminent engineer and authority on the use of cement based materials.

He said that there is a strong pressure on construction material industry to reduce CO2 emissions. He also said that the production of building materials like cement requires huge energy consumption, which resulted in using new fuels like used oils, crashed tyres, animal bone flour and waste plastics. He said that some factories in Germany using nearly 100 percent waste fuels.

He said modified clinker chemistries, such as rapid setting cements, eco-cements or calcium aluminate cements are being used more frequently than ever before. Such clinkers allow reduction in sintering temperature and results in CO2 emissions.

Another approach, which is called clinker replacement, he said could be adopted by using secondary raw materials, which could be inert, latent hydraulic and pozzolanic. In Germany, buildings are thermally insulated to reduce energy consumption. He further said that energy also exploits huge natural resources and various materials procedures are used for this purpose.

President Pakistan Engineering Council Engineer Husnain Ahmed said that early strength grout systems are used for repairs and construction.
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World Water Day – 2010
“Communicating water quality challenges and opportunities”

PEC NEWS

World Water-Day 2010
Commemorated by
Pakistan Engineering Congress

The World Water Day was celebrated by Pakistan Engineering Congress on 22nd March 2010 at Mithi Mad Hall, Congress Headquarter Building, Liberty Market, Gulberg-III, Lahore on the theme of: “Communicating Water Quality Challenges and Opportunities”

Engr. Husnain Ahmed, President, Pakistan Engineering Congress presenting welcome address

The Chief Guest was Mr. Shakil Durrani, Chairman, WAPDA.

The proceedings of the day started with recitation from Holy Quran. Eng. Husnain Ahmad, President Pakistan Engineering Congress, while presenting his welcome address quoted numerous verses of the Holy Quran that emphasise the immense significance and the critical role of water in the socio-economic sphere of mankind & other living beings. He said that Environmental experts have visualized that unless the present levels of “Carbon emissions” are drastically reduced; there will be earth-will melt away thereby raising the sea levels by as much as seven (7) meters submerging low lying coastal areas, reduction in area since 1962. (over a 48-year period).

Another study including Pindari, Gangotri & Dokriani uprooting millions of people with devastating economic fall-out, altogether disappearance of some of the islands.

Himalayan Glaciers melt. The Himalayas Glaciers (12000 to 15000) occupying 500,000 Sq.Km) are receding fast. A study involving 1387 selected glaciers reveals 16%

1. Most parts of Amazon rain forest will stand dried / burnt throwing-out millions of tons of extra dioxide.
2. Greenland’s ice

Chief Guest Mr. Shakil Durrani speaks at the event

Predominantly Water Scarce Barani Districts 3 Nos
Predominantly Brackish Districts 11
Sweet Water Districts 13
Mixed (Brackish Barani) Districts 7

34 Nos