



SRI LANKAN CONSULTING ENGINEER



Newsletter of the Association of Consulting Engineers, Sri Lanka
(Founded in 1980, Incorporated by Act No. 42 of 2003)

A Member Association of
the international Federation
of Consulting Engineers

August 2005

Issue 14

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, SRI LANKA

COUNCIL MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

The following Council meetings were held during the period 1st April to 30th July 2005.

- Council Meeting No. 180
- Council Meeting No. 181
- Council Meeting No. 182
- Council Meeting No. 183
- Council Meeting No. 184

Apart from routine matters, the major discussion at these meetings was the proposed International Conference 2005 organized by the ACESL and the TCDPAP Secretariat, India. The other aspect was the involvement of the ACESL in Tsunami Rehabilitation work. Although some industry members were contributing towards this noble cause, making use of their own contacts, there has been still no response from the government to use the services of the ACESL as a recognized body. Efforts are however continuing to get ACESL involved in the Tsunami rebuilding process.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has passed the Association of Consulting Engineers, Sri Lanka (Incorporated) Act, No. 42 of 2003 and was certified on 15th December 2003. The passage of this Act safeguards and enhances the status of a Consulting Engineer in his environment. In order to maintain and ensure the credibility of the Association, the governing Council scrutinizes all applications for membership in great detail before a member is admitted to the association.

Considering the provisions in the Act, Consulting Engineers who have still not registered with the ACESL should do so immediately and obtain application forms from the Hony. Secretary, Association of Consulting

Engineers, Sri Lanka, 415, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7.

The recognition of the ACESL by the government will be greatly enhanced as the membership grows day by day.

Quote "3. General objects of the corporation.

The general objects for which the corporation is constituted are hereby declared to be –

- (g) To determine scales of fees and conditions of engagement for consulting engineers, within Sri Lanka."

Accordingly a comprehensive publication by the ACESL viz. ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY SERVICES PROFESSIONAL FEE STRUCTURE - June 2005 has been released and will be of great value to members and prospective members.

FIDIC 2005 Annual Conference Sustainable Engineering – Global- Leadership

This conference to be held in Beijing from 4-8 September 2005 will be attended by Mr. Tudor Munasinghe, President, ACESL and K. Suntharalingam, Vice President, on behalf of ACESL. Attendance of this conference will be a great boost to ACESL as the leaders of the world's consulting engineering industry will gather in September 2005. FIDIC has prepared itself to accept the challenge of global leadership in the implementation of sustainable engineering for projects in both developed and developing countries.

The conference will define and accept the challenge by preparing and developing an action plan for the industry to assume a leadership position.

Also please visit the web site www.fidic.org/conference/2005 for more details.

TCDPAP NEWS

TCDPAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2004

TCDPAP has been very active in the past year. The highlight of the year's events was the TCDPAP international Conference on "Development of knowledge infrastructure : Role of Consultants" at New Delhi from 11-13 October 2004. The following topics were covered in the conference.

- Core areas in Knowledge Infrastructure
Public Systems; Industry ; Health Services
- Technology management
Knowledge Development and sharing; IPR;
Knowledge Intensive Consulting
- Knowledge Infrastructure
Perspectives in Knowledge Infrastructure;
Role of Consultants in Knowledge
Infrastructure ; Knowledge Management
through networking.
- Key areas in Knowledge Infrastructure
Human Resources Capabilities;
Information and communication
technologies; Knowledge Institutions.
- Case studies in knowledge Infrastructure
Sectors : Social, Industry, Services

The other major activities of TCDPAP were :

- 🗑️ Consultancy Development Centre (CDC) facilitating Bangladesh Consultants Ltd. Dhaka for obtaining certification to ISO 9001:2000 QMS
The consultants were successfully certified during October 2004 by DNV (The Certification Agency Det Norske Veritas, The Netherlands).
- 🗑️ Promotional visits to Jakarta, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Hanoi, Seoul, and Beijing.
- 🗑️ Seminar on "Challenges of Emerging International Competition in Consulting Industry : Networking Regional Synergies" at Dhaka, Bangladesh on 2nd and 3rd March 2005 The seminar was organized by Bangladesh Association of Consulting Engineers (BACE) assisted by TCDPAP.

A post seminar technical tour to the 4.8 km long Jamuna Bridge was offered on 4th March 2005 .

- 🗑️ Preparation for the proposed TCDPAP assisted International Conference in Sri

Lanaka on "Challenges of Engineering Consultancy in the Asia Pacific Region".

Planning Strategy for Infrastructures for High Density Houses

By K. Suntharalingam, Vice President - ACESL

General

In housing settlements, when the population density exceeds 7,500 per km² environmental stress begins to manifest. Larger the spread the complexity of the environment increases and it is crucial that these factors are taken care of at the conceptual and planning stages to maintain the functional requirement while sustaining the environmental integrity of the project. **Alleviation** of the tsunami disaster should not be allowed to result in environmental disaster. The UN organization handling tsunami relief also has stressed this aspect.

The main infrastructure components that deserve these considerations are sewerage, water supply, solid waste and storm water drainage . These problems could be very acute particularly with large settlements. Another aspect that needs careful attention is the linkages to the external civil institutions such as the local bodies and or the line departments of the central governments under which these functions fall. This is very necessary since these settlements should ultimately become part of the townships or villages in which these are sited.

The infrastructure facilities should also conform to National Standards and Specifications.

Sewerage

In high density settlements when the plot of lands allocated is less than around 2 perches the traditional septic tank and soakage systems will cause immense problems. Further impervious soil or high water table will exacerbate these problems. It may be appropriate to resort to common treatment subject to adequate land being available for such a treatment system. Disposal of the treated effluent to meet environmental standards would be another problem area that deserves early attention.

Solid waste

This normally wouldn't be a problem in small settlements. However in large settlements or storied housing complexes, solid waste disposal may present problems unless there is an already

existing collection and disposal system under the local bodies. Self contained disposal systems within the housing settlements will not only be unwieldy but also may be uneconomical.

Water Supply

Generally it is possible to link it to the town or the village supply. This will ensure good reliability in terms of continuous supply and also provide wholesome and safe water. If the water supply is to be a self supporting system the preferable choice should be to look for a good and adequate ground water source. This will require reliable investigation such as pumping tests and chemical analyses. Storage and distribution is a straightforward issue and can be easily handled. If reliance is to be made on surface water the economic viability of the intake and the treatment systems will gain significance. For such an alternative to be viable the settlements should be large enough-say more than 250 housing units. Location too would be a determinant factor.

Storm water disposal

The issues with the storm water disposal will very much depend on the contours and the internal road network. However an exit to the external drainage channels or watercourse will be necessary. A successful drainage solution will depend on how the micro networks of the housing systems blend with the external drainage patterns.

Roads

Roads formulations are fairly straight forward. But also class of roads will be determined by the housing settlements and other policy decisions.

Engineering consultancy Services take Wrong turn

We have come across inappropriate and poor designs and contract documents submitted by some so called international consultants. We also find that some expatriate consultants have sent incompetent and inexperienced staff to be in charge of the implementation of the projects. There have been numerous instances of this.

In my experience, I have come across incompetent and sometimes even unqualified persons being sent by expatriate consultants to be in charge of construction supervision and management of contracts. The mistakes made

by these men due to their ignorance and lack of common sense have cost our poor country in no small way. Yet some such expatriate consultants continue to be engaged in our projects when they should actually be blacklisted.

What is the cause of all this? Basically it is corruption! Corruption on the part of some officials in the lending organizations and corruption or ignorance (or both) of some of our own officials. If the work is to be entrusted to a particular consultant for good reasons, full details of such a firm or individual should be sent for approval by the organization concerned.

Ultimately our own officials are responsible if incompetent firms and men are engaged. Unfortunately there are some in authority who are prepared to sacrifice the interests of a project and of the country for their personal gain for a mess of pottage.

Some expatriate consultants are known to have their own way in Sri Lanka. Anything is good enough for the natives. When there was no provision in a recent road improvement project designed and supervised by expatriate consultants for drainage of storm water from the adjoining surroundings, they told the client that the storm water should be sent down to the road! These consultants would not dare to do this in their own country.

Consultants should provide what we need and what is suitable for our country. They should at least learn about these before they come here. Of course, they will say that they will engage local counterparts and that they will be duly advised. But that arrangement does not work. Local engineers are engaged as cheap labour to run errands. They are not consulted and have no role to play. A senior designs engineer was attached to an expatriate firm merely to say that they have local engineers on the project. He had been told to run errands. He left in disgust.

It is the bounden duty of Lankan engineers to impress upon our government the need to use domestic consultants to the maximum, which will be cost-effective.

Unless our engineers wake up even at this late stage, the standard of engineering in our country will deteriorate further. We are training foreign engineers at our expense when our youthful engineers do not have sufficient opportunities. This is transfer of technology in reverse. The engineering fraternity should raise their voice on

such sensitive issues which have to do with patriotism as well. Or else we will have to depend more and more on expatriates. This is, perhaps, what the foreign lending organizations hope for.

Our engineers must express their views to the government in no uncertain terms of the impending danger. It is unfortunate that our engineers and the engineering fraternity, as a whole, are dilly-dallying with burning issues affecting their profession.

M. Chandrasena

By kind courtesy of the Island – 25.05.05

The TCDPAP/ACESL Conference – 2005

The Association of Consulting Engineers, Sri Lanka (ACESL) in association with Technical Consultancy Development Programme for Asia and the Pacific (TCDPAP) of New Delhi, India is organizing an Intentional conference in Colombo from 28-30 November, 2005. The theme of the seminar is “Challenges of Engineering Consultancy in the Asia Pacific Region”. The venue of the conference will be the Taj Samudra Hotel, Colombo.

This conference is the first to be held in Sri Lanka, since this event was organized annually in different member countries of the TCDPAP. The TCDPAP which has its main Secretariat in New Delhi is promoted by UN-ESCAP for developing consulting capabilities at National, Sub Regional and Regional levels in the Asia and the Pacific region. It is working towards promoting cooperation among the UN-ESCAP countries and to operate as a regional apex body for the promotion of engineering design and consulting services. The programme initiated in 1994, has been successful in networking among the organizations of the consultancy profession in the various countries in the region comprising of 14 countries of the Asia Pacific Region.

The conference will serve as a forum for mutual cooperation, networking and exchange of experience and information on the prevailing situation and national priorities, including effective approaches and best practices in combating the challenges of engineering consultancy.

The conference will bring together technical consultants, professionals, technocrats, scholars, industry professionals, government policy makers and other informed individuals from the TCDPAP member countries and from other countries of the globe.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Those interested to make a presentation during the international conference may submit their paper(s) along with the abstract (in hard and soft copy formats). The ABSTRACT of the paper should reach the TCDPAP Secretariat not later than 30.09.2005

GOOD MANAGEMENT AND READING BETWEEN THE LINES

John Jones, the head of the company asked his manager to write a detailed employment review describing Bob Smith, one of his programmers.

1. Bob Smith my assistant programmer, can always be found
2. hard at work in his cubicle. Bob works independently, without
3. wasting company time talking to colleagues. Bob never
4. thinks twice about assisting fellow employees, and he always
5. finishes given assignments on time. Often Bob takes extended
6. measures to complete his work, sometimes skipping coffee
7. breaks. Bob is a dedicated individual who has absolutely no
8. vanity in spite of his high accomplishments and profound
9. knowledge in his field. I firmly believe that Bob can be
10. classed as a high-caliber employee, the type which cannot be
11. dispensed with. Consequently I duly recommend that Bob be
12. promoted to executive management, and this proposal be
13. executed as soon as possible.

Signed - - -
Jim

A MEMO WAS SOON SENT FOLLOWING THE LETTER

John,
That, idiot was reading over my shoulder
while I wrote the
Report sent to you earlier today.
Kindly read only the odd numbered lines
above
(1, 3, 5,etc) for my true assessment of
him.

Regards - - -
Jim

An exhibition for Consultants, their related
products and services would be organized
during the international conference. 2m x 3m
size and 2m x 2m size booths are available

On the occasion of the conference, the
organizers would be publishing a souvenir
containing messages from dignitaries,
advertisements and valuable articles on theme
topics for which contributions are invited from
organizations and individuals.

Advertisements in the souvenir are also most
welcome and different charges will apply
depending on the location of the respective
advertisement.

For details of the conference, proposed papers,
messages, exhibition, souvenir articles and
advertisements please contact :

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ACESL TCDPAP Conference Rates for Souvenir Advertisement

Back Cover	Rs. 50,000/-
Back Cover (Inside)	Rs. 30,000/-
Front Cover (Inside)	Rs. 30,000/-
Full page	Rs. 20,000/-
Half Page	Rs. 15,000/-

N.B. Advertisement will be in colour

Rates For Exhibition Booths

☐ 2m x 3m Booths – With 1 Table, 2 Chairs, 3 spotlights, plug points and company Fascia	
Charges	Rs. 30,000/-per booth
☐ 2m x 2m Booths – With 1 Table, 2 Chairs, 3 spotlights, plug points and company Fascia	
Charges	Rs. 20,000/-per booth

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