

## **ASSOCIATION NEWS**

I. A one day seminar on Health, Safety & Environment in Construction industry was organized at the Salt Lake Campus of the Association on April 30, 2005 where delegates from different construction industries participated. Formal inauguration was done by our President Prof. Dr. M. Bhattacharyya when he highlighted the importance of holding such a small group seminar where intense interaction of individual delegates could be addressed to properly, at the backdrop of ever increasing construction activities in India employing mostly unskilled labourers and therefore prone to accident. He wondered that even if Personal Protective Equipments (PPE) were given, they might not be used or even sold off by the labourers themselves for petty gain as the workers mostly lack in safety awareness; on the other hand whether a worker could retain his job insisting on PPE in the market while lakhs are running after such a job!

The technical session was conducted by Er. C. Chatterjee, Er. C. Halder, Er. B. Mukhopadhyay, Er. Subir Ghose and Er. S. K. Alley. Brain storming session was chaired by Dr. Swadesh Bhattacharya, Director General of Operation, KMDA assisted by Er. C. Halder and Prof. Dr. M. Bhattacharyya; all the participants took part.

Finally certificates were issued to the delegates by Principal Er. S. K. Nag and vote of thanks was proposed by Er. S. N. Basu Roy, Asst. Secretary, AEI.

II. A one-day Seminar on Rainwater Harvesting and Conservation was organized by the Association of Engineers, India, the oldest professional Engineering Institute, in association with ten (10) Co-sponsors and fifteen (15) Collaborators at AIKATAN, IA-290 Bidhannagar, (Salt Lake), Kolkata-700 097 on 21 September, 2005. More than 100 delegates from the Government/Semi-Government Departments, Municipalities and Private Organizations participated in the Seminar.

Dr. Nikhil Ranjan Banerjee, Vice-Chancellor, Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur inaugurated the Seminar. Dr. Sudip Kumar Banerjee, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board delivered the Key-note address and the welcome address was given by Dr. Swades Kumar Bhattacharya, Director General of Operations, KMDA. The presidential address was given by prof Dr M Bhattacharyya.

There were two Technical Sessions and one Wrap Up Session. The Technical Session-I was chaired by Dr. S. K. Acharyya. Ex. Director General, Geological Survey of

India and Emeritus Scientist, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. There were three papers in Technical Session-I. The Technical Session-II was chaired by Dr. S. P. Sinha Roy, Ex. Member, Central Ground Water Board. In this session also three papers were presented. The authors were from West Bengal State Pollution Control Board, Central Ground Water Board, All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health and experts from Private Organizations. The Sessions were highly interactive and representatives from the various municipalities and others showed keen interest. The Wrap-Up Session was chaired by Dr. Swades Kumar Bhattacharya while Dr. Shantanu Jha, chairman, Kalyani Municipality and Dr. S. P. Sinha Roy were present on the dais to express their considered views. The delegates present took active interest in deliberating on the draft recommendations and the final recommendations were drawn up for circulation to various Government Departments, Municipalities, State Pollution Control Board, Academic Institutions and to Kolkata Metropolitan Planning Committee as suggested by Dr. Shantanu Jha.

- III. On the basis of the resolution of the seminar on Rain Water Harvesting and Conservation, Shri C. Halder, Secretary and Shri A. Aich Assistant Secretary were sponsored for undergoing hand-on training on Rain Water Harvesting at the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), New Delhi from 7th to 11th November 2005. On return they formalized a syllabus for a short term course on Rain Water Harvesting and Conservation under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Balaram Bose which was approved in the Executive Council Meeting in Jan '06. New course shall be commenced from July this year.
- IV. Science Day was celebrated on 28.02.06 at IA-11 Salt Lake. A talk on "*The Angel atop The Victoria Memorial Hall : Myth and Facts*" was organized on that day. The talk was delivered by our President, Prof. (Dr.) M. Bhattacharyya who guided the revitalization work of the Angel in 1985 setting aside foreign quotations and the revitalization work of the same Angel in 2006 competently assisted (in 2006) by Sri Ashok K Aich, our Assistant Secretary. Council Members and some students attended the function. Media persons from ETV & Laban Hrad Sambad covered the function. Prof. (Dr.) N. R. Banerjea, Vice Chancellor, Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur who presided over the function, stressed the importance of Science Day.
- V. The 85th Annual General Meeting was held at 6.30pm at IA-11, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-97 on 29.06.05 where the members present deliberated on the agenda-points followed by adoption of unanimous resolutions.
- VI. Six (6) Executive Council meetings were held in the year 2005-2006,