

**Presidential address by Prof Dr M Bhattacharyya on Occupational Health & Safety Training Programme (October 20 & 21, 2001)**

**Learned friends,**

Safety, Health & Eviron (SHE) Awareness is gradually percolating the Nations at large through a strange paradox. While we strive hard to consume more and more, we also think of environmental protection. The simple truth that nothing hails from zero industrial activities, is often lost sight of . Each industrial activity unleashes some form of pollutants, may be magnitude varying. When will human conscience be aroused, WANT NOT, WASTE NOT?

Employers, not all, look upon safety measures as a hindrance to production. But do they concern about production or productivity? The two terms seem synonymous, but there is a world of difference between them. Sustained productivity can be ensured and it can be improved by applying appropriate attention to the most important resource of production namely human resources, their training, their attitude which require sound health of the workforce in order to be productive. There are so many socio-economic factors, but no effort should be spared by the employers and employees as well so that occupational disease factors are effectively taken care of. Remember, no machine however sophisticated works without human command.

Occupational disease, which develops slowly, stems out of various causes like ill ventilation, bad illumination, temperature & humidity, chemical effects like out-break of fire, blood contamination, skin irritation, mechanical injuries, dust etc etc. These along with their remedial measures will be deliberated upon by competent learned speakers to-day and to-morrow and more would be revealed at the panel discussion with the participants who are also knowledgeable in the field. I am a mere student in this area and it occurs to me that the Principle of 3 Es is the only antidote to all the safety problems, not to speak of occupational health and hazard in isolation.

The Association of Engineers , India founded by the Indian Nationalist Engineers in 1919 even prior to the establishment of another premier body of Engineers, had its hay day in pre-independence period. But the other one founded to counter the effect of Nationalist Engineers with the blessing of the then British Ruler equipped with Royal Charter saw its hectic growth in the post independence era as anglicized culture gulped the so-called educated classes like a whirlpool. Nevertheless, our Association has been trying all these 82 years through many odds and little evens to take up the modest cause of the Nation in a very modest way and this productivity improvement programme is one of many we undertake. We offer various in-house tailor-made training programmes to different industries, big & small and to educational institutions as well. We have been offering diploma in Safety Engg, certificate course in Construction Supervisors affiliated to West Bengal State Council of Technical Education and many more are in the pipe line.

I do not like you to hang over my trivial lecture any more. I do only hope that this programme will be a success and that if hospitality is missing somewhere please look at our WARM HEART for all of you. I am sure we will continue receiving such enthusiastic co-operation from you in our future activities also.

Long live the The Association of Engineers, India.

Prof. Dr. M. Bhattacharyya

20.10.2001

**AN APPEAL**  
**BE A LIFE MEMBER OF YOUR ASSOCIATION.**  
**Hony Secretary, Er. C. Haldar**