

Inaugural address by Prof. Dr. Sankar Kumar Sen, Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University, Calcutta-32 at the 17th AICEME

Prof. Sankar Sen, Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University inaugurated the 17th AICEME. First of all Prof. Sen thanked the Organiser for the invitation and expressed his pleasure to be present in this occasion. Prof. Sen reminded the audience about the important role of the Association, which has its root in the National Movement of the country, playing during the last seven decades. From this point he could find some similarity between the Association and the Jadavpur University, which was born out of the struggle for Independence of the country. He also insisted that it is the quality not the quantity and dedication to work that matters in our profession. Though the Association of Engineers, India is one of the oldest Professional Body in the country it could not grow to a very big size for various reasons. However, due to the quality of the dedicated services and sincerity of its members the Association has already made a great dent in the profession in and outside the country.

Coming back to the topics of discussions of the Conference Prof. Sen expressed his satisfaction and also thanked the Organiser for considering the two very important topics pressing the society for that matter the country as a whole. It is true, that unless we know

the qualitative value of our products which may be goods and services of the factories, industries and agricultural fields and also the trained man-power of the Universities and Institutions, it would be difficult to make better and efficient use of them. This is required even for planning as well. Human resources development is a huge area and he hoped that during the deliberations the speakers would throw light upon the mode of training to be imparted on the various problems confronting the society. He reminded that present mode of training of Engineers and Technologists in our Institutes and Universities are getting more oriented towards theory. The late National Professor S. N. Bose often observed that "D/Dt Type Engineers" would hardly play an effective role in the practical world. Agreeing totally with Prof. Bose in this regard Prof. Sen raised a "serious point" to the present day planners of Technical Education and also to the executioners of the Technical Education i.e. to the teachers involved in training engineers and technologists. 'Computer', according to Prof. Sen, which has become a commonplace in the Undergraduate Curricula for our Engineers and Technologists should be used with 'great caution'. For students these days are getting more allured with the glittering arena of 'Computer' rather than involving

with the "dirt and dust of the hard engineering world". The Professional Bodies in the country cannot remain passive to this, on the contrary, they have to be more active to achieve a balance here such that the "Engineers and Technologists" could properly be motivated to practical field. Accordingly the teacher should also put appropriate weightage on the practical aspects in the Curricula for Engineering and Technology to train Engineers and Technologists such that they might be more

active and more effective in the profession. Depending more on borrowed technology from the developed world might bring initial success but they are bound to be short-lived for development as a whole could be achieved with appropriate planning measures of the human resources.

Wishing the All India Conference on Engineering Materials and Equipment success Prof. Sen inaugurated the 17th AICEME.