"ASK the EXPERT" Portal

It has been observed that undergraduate and post-graduate students and freshers face various types of problems in design of their project reports, understanding of the instrumentation and controls, sizing of equipment with practical considerations, process safety, cost estimation, process simulation and validation, etc. The freshers and young graduates with 3 $^{\sim}$ 4 years of experience are not able to meet the industry expectations. It has been experienced that sometimes they are not able to complete tasks assigned to them for want of the right guidance. These youngsters, employed in SMSE or even in Large Industries or Consultancy Organisations remain clueless in proceeding ahead in their assigned jobs. At times, their Seniors are too busy to devote time for solving their difficulties.

There is a wide gap between expectations of the industry from the academics and what knowledge is actually imparted during graduation and its effectiveness. Fresh engineers are employable but not "deployable" because of lack of practical training in colleges. Science of engineering is a set of mathematical and scientific tools, used to solve engineering problems – skill acquired as part of a curriculum. Practice of engineering is the Recognition and Formulation of a problem and its solution – the main expectation of industry from freshers and young engineers.

What is expected:

- Ability to acquire and apply knowledge of engineering fundamentals
- > Ability to acquire in-depth technical competence in a specific engineering discipline
- Ability to design and conduct experiments, as well as to analyse and interpret data
- Competency in theoretical and research— Visualization of size of equipment and machines
- Innovation and Out of Box Solution

Considering the above, to help students, freshers and young engineers, IIChE has planned to introduce a separate portal on the IIChE Web site. The Portal will be titled as "Ask the Expert" and as a service to Chemical Engineering Professionals. No fees are to be paid - A FREE SERVICE to Chemineers (Young Chemical Engineers) and students, who are IIChE members either as student member or as regular member.

Mode of Operation of "ASK the EXPERT" Portal:

Who can access the Portal?

All the student members of IIChE / All regular members of IIChE can access this portal. While accessing the portal, they have to mention their membership status (Membership No.). The undergraduate or post-graduate students will also mention their Institute name, whereas Freshers or Young Engineers will have to mention whether they are from Industry or Consultancy Organisation. They may not declare name of their organisation.

Reporting of Difficulty or Problem faced

The students or regular members will explain their difficulty / problem clearly to be put on "Ask the Expert" Portal, so that experts can understand the problem / difficulty.

Who are Experts?

Experts are the IIChE members from Academia / Industry / Consultancy Organisations/ R & D establishments.

How experts can be approached?

The students / freshers / young engineers, facing a problem, will send their problems/ queries to the IIChE HQ . The HQ will put these problems / queries on IIChE's "Ask the Expert" portal.

How expert will advise?

Any IICHE member from Academia / Industry / Consultancy Organisation / R & D establishments will directly reply on "Ask the Expert" Portal. There can be more than one solution / explanations / suggestions.

What is time frame for reply to query?

Once the problem / difficulty is reported on the Web Portal, it may take around 2 to 3 weeks as the engineers / academicians / R& D personnel will have to review and prepare answers.

What to do if supplementary query arises?

If supplementary query arises, the concerned student or engineer can put his query under the answer of an individual expert and the concerned expert or any other member is free to reply or give his / her opinion.

Responsibilities of IIChE:

This Portal is a service to young millennia students / engineers. The views / solution / explanations / suggestions expressed will be based on the experience of the experts in good faith to help the millennia students / engineers. IIChE shall not bear any responsibility on these views.

What is benefit to IIChE?

As mentioned above, this portal on IIChE Web site is being created as a service to young millennia students / engineers. This will infuse vibrancy and greater professional values to IIChE. The non-members will be inspired to become member as they will realise that this is a professional body which cares for them. This will also generate a strong data base of difficulties and solution / suggestions, which can be compiled and published by IIChE as ready reckoner reference handbook.

D M Butala

President, IIChE

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