

Overview of the Seminar

Preface

Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChE), the nodal body of Chemical Engineering professionals and academics in India since its inception in 1947, is actively engaged in advancing and promoting the interest of the chemical engineering profession and education across the country. As part of its mission to facilitate skill enhancement of personnel in Chemical Engineering and its allied fields, the Institute regularly holds seminars, conferences, workshops, etc., all across the country in which acclaimed professionals and eminent academics participate as resource persons and delegates. These events offer a platform for intensive interactions with the cream of professional fraternity as well as help the professionals to keep abreast with the latest technological and conceptual developments around the globe.

The most recent seminar on a national scale was organized on 'Project Management – Objectives and Challenges' on 7 - 8th July, 2017 at The Gateway Hotel, Kolkata. Indian Chemical Council -Eastern Region (ICC-ER) was an associate of IChE in organizing this Seminar.

Seminar Proceedings

Inaugural Session: After the introduction of the honourable Guests and the dignitaries, the seminar was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Mr Sutirtha Bhattacharya, IAS, Chairman, Coal India with the lighting of the lamp in presence of other dignitaries, including Mr Alok Mehta, ED of NMDC, Mr D P Misra, past President of IChE and Chairman of Organizing Committee, Prof. P.De, President of IChE, Mr B Chattopadhyay, Chairman of Indian Chemical Council – ER and others.

Prof. P.De welcomed the Guests and the participants to the Seminar briefly mentioning the activities of the Institute as well as objective of organizing this Seminar and Mr. B.Chattopadhyay discussed about the role of ICC with special reference to this event. Mr Kalyan Basu, the Organising Secretary of the seminar spoke on this occasion highlighting the program of the Seminar.

Mr. Alok Mehta, ED of NMDC representing Dr. N.K.Nanda, Director NMDC as Guest of Honour, spoke on the relevance of Project Management.

Mr Bhattacharya in his speech lauded the purpose of the Seminar and dwelt upon the need for effective project management as a key to success in implementation of projects. In the background of dwindling reserve of petroleum feedstock, he urged the audience to relook at Coal as an essential feedstock for production of Chemicals and Fertilizers. He mentioned about the Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in this connection and welcomed IChE for collaborative work with Coal India.

Mr Gautom Mitra, Joint Organizing Secretary, offered the vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural function.

Key Note Addresses:

In the post-Inaugural session, the Key Note address was delivered by Mr D P Misra, Director- DCPL and Chairman, Organizing Committee, on the Topic 'Project Execution in Process Industry, EPC/ EPCM Mode

– An Indian Dilemma’. Mr. Misra deliberated on the comparative merits of various modes of execution, particularly from the perspective of a project Consultant.

The key note address, scheduled to be delivered by Mr. Rabi Chowdhury ,MD, Haldia Energy Limited, on the second day was read out by Mr. Bhaskar Kumar Ganguly, GM of HEL in the absence of Mr Chowdhury. The paper highlighted the common features of good project management under three principal heads. These are: (i) Strategic Planning (ii) Use of 3 resources (man, money and machine) and (iii) A defined life cycle of beginning and end.

Technical Sessions: A conscious effort was made to select the seminar topics so as to address the key issues generally encountered during implementation of any Mega projects in Indian Conditions vis-a vis the best world practices adopted by global companies for most cost-effective delivery of a project.

The technical presentations spanning over 6 different sessions over two days were followed on each day by a Chairman’s Conclave, recapping the topics and summing up the salient findings.

The topics were covered with 16 lectures as follows:

1. Mr Ashok Chattopadhyay, VP-OSD of Reliance Oil & Gas, delivered his lecture on ‘Defining Projects and Project Management’. Project pre-phase activities, FEED/DPR, Technology, Finalization of execution approach, Consultant Selection, etc. were the aspects Mr Chattopadhyay touched upon along with different roles of the stake holders for ensuring the success of a project.
2. Mr Rabin Bramha, GM- Projects, NALCO discussed identification of Project Risk and Risk Management so as to address the impediments and mitigate them in an optimum way for successful delivery of a project in scheduled time and within budgeted cost.
3. Prof. Bodhibrata Nag, Faculty, Operation Management Group, IIM Calcutta, in his topic of ‘Effective Leadership – A Key for Project Success’, brought into light the important role of subtle aspects of operation and management.
4. Mr. Subhendu Moitra, Sr VP, SBI Caps, shared his immense experience of Project Financing while presenting his topic of Project Financing by Lenders. He stressed on critical monitoring of projects to arrest in time any failure and slippage.
5. Mr. Dipankar Chakrabarti, ED, Price Waterhouse Coopers, in his presentation entitled ‘Project Excellence in Capital Projects – How to Achieve Higher ROI’ stressed on the importance of effective project management by stakeholders in absence of which, he pointed out , about 12.5 % of money is wasted for every large project.
6. Mr. Prasant Dash, ED, NMDC Ltd., selected a few case studies to identify the problems in the execution of a Mega Steel Plant Projects. He also dwelt upon the importance of identification of these problems beforehand.
7. Mr. Benjamin Nandy, Manager, Coal Mining, NTPC Limited, spoke on ‘Project Management in Coal Mining’ from the perspective of a Miner, considering that NTPC also happens to be the largest producer of electric energy in the country.
8. Mr Subhobrata Guru, General Manager of Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd. dwelt on ‘Value Engineering in Project – A HPL Perspective’, with special emphasis on Value and Price from the perspectives of a large scale producer of multiple products.

9. Mr Sidhartha Chakarvarty, ED , MECON – a major engineering consultant in the Metals sector, delivered his lecture on Construction Management & Safety, Health and Environment, highlighting the Iron and Steel sector, in particular.
10. Mr V K Srivastava, GM, IOCL, Haldia Refinery discussed Safety & Environment aspects in debottlenecking project implementation in plant upgradation / modernization in oil refinery.
11. Mr. Bhaskar Rao Villari, Director (Technical, Engineering and Construction), AMEC Foster Wheeler, discussed the importance of change in management for successful project execution, not only from the perspective of a Consultant but also for making the audience aware of the greater stake of an Owner.
12. Mr. Niraj Sethi, ED- Projects, Engineers India Ltd., during his presentation on 'Mega Projects – A Project Management Perspective', covered critical aspects of various project implementation methodologies to handle complex, high CAPEX projects within tight timelines.
13. Mr K V Daniel, Founder & Director, Wrench Solutions, spoke on facilitating aspects of Project Implementation and discussed application of smart technology to prevent delay in engineering and construction of projects. He stressed upon the fact that right techniques will have to be decided during the Design phase itself to prevent delays later.
14. Mr Srinivas Narkedamalli, AVP and Head of Operation, Vedanta Aluminium Ltd., gave a precise presentation on the importance of 5 Ps in Project management, i.e., Project, Procurement, Pace, Price & Performance.
15. Mr K K Basu, Ex Director, Coperion & CFIT, Ex VP, Shriram EPC., in his presentation, stressed on the effective project communication procedures and document management.
16. Mr Gautom Mitra, Ex VP Nicco, EX Sr. Proposal Manager Foster Wheeler, Singapore, Ex Sr GM Commercial and Head Non-ferrous Business, TCE, concluded the Technical Session with his presentation on 'Subcontract Management – A Key to Project Success'.

The Technical Sessions were attended by representatives of Industry and Academia alike with the audience listening to the presentations with rapt attention. Different Sessions were chaired by the undermentioned acclaimed authorities in the related disciplines:

Prof. Asit K Mitra, Former Professor & Head, JU & past president, IICHe
Prof. Shekhar Choudhury, Ex Director, IIM- Calcutta, Director- Calcutta Business School
Mr Partha Purkayastha, MD, AMEC Foster Wheeler India Pvt Ltd
Mr A K Banerjee, VP, Hutni India
Mr Bhaskar Rao Villari, Director of Amec Foster Wheeler
Mr A K Chattopadhyay, VP-OSD, Reliance Oil & Gas

The seminar was concluded with vote of thanks, given by Mr Dipak Dutta, Hony Secretary, IICHe.

Certificate of participation was given away to all the participants during valedictory session, which was presided over by Mr. B Chattopadhyay, CEO of IVL Dhunseri Petrochem and Chairman of ICC-ER.