

The 66th Annual Session (1994-96) was held on October 29, 1996 under the Presidentship of **Engr. Ch. Mazhar Ali. Mr. Wasim Sajjad**, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan was the Chief Guest at the event.

Following activities of the Engineering Congress during the Session were accomplished:

1. Executive Council Meetings during the Session

The council met 24 times to discuss technical and other issues. It also held some special meetings to discuss ways and means to counter the situation which arose as a result of Federal and Provincial Governments posting of non-technical officers against the technical posts.

2. Membership

The membership of the Congress rose from 2184 at the end of last session to 2276.

3. Proceedings

16-technical papers were received, reviewed, cleared and presented at the Proceedings, which were printed and made available at the Session.

4. Mid-Term Seminar

A Mid-term Seminar on the subject of "Role of River Water Storages" was held on 31.1.1995 at WAPDA Auditorium, Lahore. Malik Ghulam Mustafa Khar, Federal Minister for Water and Power was the Chief Guest. The Seminar was sponsored by M/S BIGBIRD BREEDERS (Pvt) LTD. About 300 engineers/experts participated in the Seminar and 6-high quality technical papers were presented and discussed in this Seminar.

5. Lectures Delivered

Three lectures were delivered by eminent engineers, titled as;

- **Privatization of Highways in Pakistan** by *Brig. (R) Khalid M. Amin* on March 03, 1994.
- **Role of Engineers in Development of Pakistan** by *Dr. Mubashir Hasan* on October 03, 1994.
- **Our Institutions and the Priorities of International Development Banks** by *Engr. Dr. S.S.Kirmani* on December 20, 1994.

Besides, a Discussion Meeting was held on 16.12.1995 at the Congress Office with Dr. S.S. Kirmani of World Bank about problems being faced by the engineering profession.

6. Technical Visits

Two technical visits to LTR Exchange on 26.11.1994 and to New Ravi Bridge on 29.4.1995 respectively were attended by about 40-50 delegates.

7. Annual Symposium

Six technical papers of high standard were received, reviewed and cleared for inclusion in the Symposium. The subject of the Symposium was "impact of Power Policies on Social and Productive Sectors".

8. Multan Local Centre

An "International Symposium on Hill Torrents" organized by Engr. Syed Mansoob Ali Zaidi, Chairman of Multan Local Center/ The late Engr. Nazar Muhammad Malik,

Secretary at Multan was arranged on January 17th, 1996. Engr. Ch. Mazhar Ali, President (PEC) presented the welcome address to the Chief Guest, Sardar Maqsood Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister for Irrigation and Power Govt. of the Punjab. About 300 engineers and experts participated in the deliberations. Ten technical papers were presented and discussed in the Symposium. Sardar Maqsood Ahmad Khan Leghari inaugurated the International Symposium.

In his address of welcome to the Chief Guest Mr. Wasim Sajjad, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, the President gave a brief account of the history of the Congress, its aims and objectives of voluntarily promoting Science and technology outside the Government ambit, its achievements in producing a massive technical knowledge in the shape of technical papers at Annual Sessions, Symposia and Seminars on the issues besetting the national economy and progress.

The President gave an overview of the role of Engineers in completing a good many mega Projects such as:

- i) Expansion of telecom network to the nook & corners of the country raising lines to 3 million;
- ii) Expansion of electricity & sui-gas networks;
- iii) National Drainage Projects;
- iv) Ghazi Barotha & Chashma Hydropower Projects;
- v) Chashma Right Bank Irrigation Canal Project;
- vi) Modernization and expansion of National Highways;
- vii) Large number of Farm to Market Roads;
- viii) Lahore Islamabad Motorway Project etc.

The President assured the Chief Guest of Engineer's commitment to play their role in the development of the Nation and strive for achieving cherished goal of self-reliance, self-respect and economic independence.

The President apprehended stark conditions of wheat shortage looming large fraught with and traumatic conditions of becoming heavy importers of cooking oil, sugar, pulses and vegetables unless the available abundant water resources were tapped.

Speaking about the non-development of local construction industry the second largest contributor to GDP and employment, the President said, "It was facing serious limitations and problems due to vested interests of foreign loan giving institutions, lack of understanding and support by the Government and detrimental State Bank regulations and uncalled-for attitude of local Banks. The domineering technical role of the advanced countries in extending grants or foreign loans and technical assistance to third world countries with inherent intent of fleecing provisions of the projects, an apparent exploitation by all means". He went on, "Our repeated requests, warnings, and even protests have generally invited frowns from the corridors of power, with charges of inefficiency and corruption which resulted in back sliding of Engineers role from top jobs/slots both at Centre and in Provincial Power Circles. The engineering organizations like Telecom Corporation, WAPDA, Provincial and Federal Engineering Departments had been the target of organized adverse publicity of the multi-million-billion dollar clubs who sit somewhere else. The technical organizations have virtually been left with no financial, administrative and even technical power and freedom to manage their own affairs, and all lines of command stand annihilated".

The Chief Guest in his reply highly appreciated the Pakistan Engineering Congress and its members in various walks of life for their significant non-profit and voluntary professional role. Acknowledging the state constraints he said: "Despite several limitations and financial constraints, the main objective of every Government in Pakistan should be to improve the lot of the common man, raise their living standard, eliminate poverty, hunger and disease & promote literacy besides carrying out many other developmental and

nation-building activities. In the performance of this basic function, the Governments have faced financial difficulties”.

The President went on to add “significant portion of our national budget has perforce to be earmarked on defence and in debt servicing to keep ourselves vigilant and alert because of the volatile and unstable conditions in the region particularly when one of our neighboring countries is piling up sophisticated defence armaments and installing medium and long range missiles all along our borders. In defiance of world opinion, our neighbour is bent upon carrying out the second nuclear test as it did in 1974 disregarding international displeasure”.

Despite all these impediments and pressures, the Chief Guest added, “we in Pakistan had tried not to remain oblivious to development needs while remaining within our limited resources. Much has been done over the years in agriculture, industry and infrastructural development. In these fields, the engineers have played a pivotal role but our resources have not kept pace with our demands. We had to borrow heavily to meet with our needs equally for defence and development.”

Before concluding he advised the Congress, to “Keep up your tradition of over 9-decades and express opinions openly and fearlessly on the issues concerning the nation. Thus the Engineers would not only abide by their code of ethics which are based on the Holy Quran but also do their duty to the Nation as patriotic Pakistanis”.



President Pakistan Engineering Congress introducing the Executive Council (66th Annual Session) to the Honourable Chief Guest, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, Chairman Senate of Pakistan



Honourable Mr. Wasim Sajjad, Chairman Senate of Pakistan and Engr. Ch. Mazhar Ali, President PEC standing for the National Anthem.



Engr. Ch. Mazhar Ali, President PEC (66th Annual Session) presenting shield to the Honourable Chief Guest Mr. Wasim Sajjad.



A view of the audience.