

The 67th Annual Session (1996-98) was inaugurated by **Mr. Muhammad Rafiq Tarar**, President of Pakistan on May 12, 1998 **Engr. Khalid Latif** was the President of Pakistan Engineering Congress.

Important Activities of the Congress during the session in brief were as under:

- i) The Council met 24 times regular and a couple of times specially to discuss matters of urgent nature.
- ii) More than 109 new members were enrolled during the session.
- iii) Sixteen (16) Technical Papers were printed in the Annual Proceedings. Six (6) Technical Papers in Annual Symposium on the Subject of ‘Impact of Power Policies on Social and Productive Sector’ were printed, circulated and discussed during the Annual Proceedings. A Mid-Term Symposium on “Construction of Reservoir Storage” was held which was attended by more than 400 engineers. Recommendations of the Symposium were sent to the Government of Pakistan. Thirteen (13) Technical Papers were presented and discussed in this symposium.
- iv) For the first time, Computer Centre was established and computer courses for the members were introduced at subsidized fees. More than 210 participants got computer training till the end of 66th Session.
- v) The following technical visits were arranged during the Session:-
 1. Lahore, Telephone Region Exchange
 2. New Bridge over River Ravi.
- vi) Four issues of the Quarterly Engineering News Journal were brought out during the Session.
- vii) Visit to important engineering works on the conclusion of the session included the following important Engineering Works:
 1. Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes in Balochistan
 2. Delay Action Dams around Quetta for re-charging of Aquifer.
 3. Visit to Quetta, Ziarat Road improvement works and other engineering projects of the Irrigation Department.
 4. Visit to Bolan Medical College under construction and Sheikh Khalifa Medical Complex Project.
- viii) Four very important lectures, talks/discussion meetings were arranged on 3.10.1994, 20.12.1994, 29.3.1995 and 16.12.1995 during the session. Address of Dr. S.S. Kirmani was of special interest to the engineers.
- ix) A working paper highlighting the problems of engineers, promotion, Five Tier Service Structure and other allied matters were submitted to the Chief Minister Punjab.
- x) A delegation of the Pakistan Engineering Congress comprising President / Secretary and the other senior members called on the Governor, Punjab, and apprised him of the problems and “Service Structure” of Punjab engineers.
- xi) A delegation of Congress led by its President made presentation to Chief Minister, Punjab, Chief Minister, Sindh and Chief Minister, Balochistan separately in their respective provincial capitals on the urgency of construction of reservoirs / storages.
- xii) As per decision of the Wealth Tax Department, the Congress was not subject to levy of any Income Tax. A penalty of Rs. 43 lacs imposed on the congress was withdrawn and the Wealth Tax case remanded.

After extending his heartiest gratitude to the Chief Guest for sparing his valuable time to be with them at the august annual session event, the President of the Engineering Congress recounted activities and achievements of the Organization. He took the opportunity to

congratulate the Government, the people of Pakistan at large and specially the engineers and scientists in successful launching of 1500 km range **Ghauri** Missile that went a long way in safeguarding the frontiers of the Country.

The President of the Congress drew the attention of the Chief Guest towards the need of ever increasing energy demand in all walks of life, may it be for food and agri products or communications and industry etc and remarked, "It would not be in the fitness of things if depending on cost effective thermal power houses, instead of cheaper hydel power generation, continued when vast un-tapped potential was available adding that the attention of the Government was drawn towards this important issue in the last session too but without any foreseeable Government Policy outcome".

"In this context the President also highlighted the neglected role of Engineers in so much as they were ignored in policy making decisions of developmental projects" adding, "that in 1989 a policy decision was taken that at least seven Federal Ministries being technical be necessarily headed by Engineers. However, the decision did not find favour with the bureaucracy much to the dismay of engineering community". The President pleaded for a settlement of this problem as well as reformation of service structure of Engineers in Public Sector.

The President drew the attention of the Chief Guest about the sad and poor state of National economy. He said, "It had, therefore, become expedient to have the bare minimum reliance on the Expatriate Consultants for technical inputs in our Projects being funded by Loan Shark Agencies like World Bank, IMF, ADB and the like. It had been decided by the Government sometime back that input of foreign Consultants would be involved when absolutely necessary and to unavoidable extent only. But the policy had not been given due consideration till then resulting in ever increasing debt liabilities".

In reply the Chief Guest, President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Muhammad Rafiq Tarar said: "It is indeed an honour for me to have been invited at such an elite gathering of engineers from all over the country. I feel delighted to know that the Engineering Congress is a non-profit organization working as NGO and engaged in the promotion of science and technology for achieving self reliance for the Country". Addressing President of the Congress, the Chief Guest remarked, "you have rightly congratulated the Government of Pakistan for successful launching of 1500 km range Ghauri Missile, we are peace loving people but we had to remain vigilant and alert of the volatile and unstable conditions in the region in particular when one of our powerful neighbors was putting up sophisticated armaments and installing medium and long range missiles all along our borders. All of our cities were within the range of Pirthivies and Agnies. To counteract these lethal weapons, our engineers and scientists had done commendable job in developing Ghauri Missile". Continuing he said, "He would advise the engineers to continue research and develop more potent Ghaznavi and Abdali missiles."

The Chief Guest assured the Congress that despite signing of thermal power generation MOU's by the previous Government; his Government was making efforts for amending these anti-national agreements. As regards construction of water shortage Dams the Chief Guest remarked that it was a pity that some people wanted to waste about 40 million acre ft. water to sea than to have that used for irrigating the arid lands and supplementing the existing short supplies to boost the food production.

The Chief Guest was pleased to extend his sympathies with the Engineering communities remarking, "No Government worth the name could afford to ignore you. I agree to recommend your righteous place in various echelons of governance and improvement of service structure commensurate with cadres of other Government".



Engr. Khalid Latif, President PEC introducing the Executive Council (67th Annual Session) to the Honourable President of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Rafiq Tarar.



Honourable President of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Rafiq Tarar presenting the Inaugural Address at 67th Annual Session of PEC.



Honourable President of Pakistan Mr. Muhammad Rafiq Tarar presenting Gold Medal to Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan.



A view of the audience.