

**The 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Session** (1998-2000) was held under the Presidentship of **Engr.S.N.H. Mashhadi** on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2001 at The Avari Hotel. **Lt. General (R) Tanwir Hussain**, S-Bt, Chairman National Reconstruction Bureau was the Chief Guest.

Brief Activities of the Engineering Congress during the 68<sup>th</sup> Session were as follows:

1. Executive Council Meetings during the Session  
The Council met 19 times to discuss technical and other issues. It also held some special meetings to discuss ways and means to counter the situation which arose from time to time regarding the Engineering Profession.
2. Membership of the Congress  
The Membership of the Congress rose from 2546 at end of the last Session to 3182.
3. Proceedings  
Twenty six (26) technical papers were cleared for inclusion in the Proceedings Volume-68 which was printed and available at the Session Counter.  
  
Seven papers had been presented in the Symposium on “Transportation Engineering and Related Issues”.
4. Lecture / Talks / Symposia’s References  
Six (6) lectures were delivered during the session by eminent Engineers on diverse aspects of engineering problems.  
  
These lectures were educative, technically useful, and absorbing.
5. Mid-Term Symposium  
A Mid-Term Symposium on “The Need for Hydropower Development to Solve Energy Crisis” was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1999 and was very well attended by more than 500 Engineers. Recommendations were prepared after a detailed panel discussion and submitted to the government for consideration.
6. Memorial Reference  
Two memorial references were arranged as under:-
  - a) Memorial Reference for Engr. Dr. S.S. Kirmani (Late)  
A Memorial Reference was held on 21.7.1998 in memoriam of Dr. S.S. Kirmani (GBH) 26 speakers from various departments all over the country spoke in honour of the departed celebrity. The proceedings of the reference were printed in a memorial reference book which was provided to the colleagues and family of the departed legend.
  - b) Memorial Reference in the Honour of Engr. Sh. Ahmad Hassan (GBH)  
The reference was held on 17.10.2000, where 18 speakers took part and brought out the capabilities of the legend in their own way. This reference was also very largely attended and earned high acclaim from the profession.
7. Visit to Engineering Works  
A visit to the following engineering works was undertaken just after the last AGM:-
  1. Islamabad Telecommunication Complex.
  2. Tarbela Dam Project and Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Sciences & Technology in TOPI (Swabi)
  3. Ghazi Barotha Hydropower Project

- a) Mid-Term Visits to Engineering Works
  1. Highway Works in Slide Areas around Murree were visited on 27 & 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1999.
  2. A Congress delegation of 22 members undertook a visit to works in the Islamic Republic of Iran from 15.9.1999 to 22.9.1999. This was the first ever international visit by the Congress delegation that had a feel of the development programme, construction and maintenance of engineering works in the sister country. During this visit, the delegates also visited religious and tourism attractive places like Mashhad, Qoom, Tehran and Isfahan.
- b) Visit to Beeta Pipe Factory Lahore  
The Beeta Pipe Factory was visited on 19.2.2000. About 40 members took part to watch the manufacture of Polythene pipes and connections.
- c) Visit to the Under Construction Jinnah Fly Over in Cavalry Ground Area at Lahore.  
A Congress delegation of about 30 members visited the under construction Jinnah Fly Over. The delegates took keen interest in the design and construction of the bridge.
- d) Visit to Chashma Barrage, Chashma Nuclear Power Plant and Chashma Right Bank Canal  
This visit was undertaken in 1999. The delegates had the opportunity to observe, discuss and learn the latest construction methodology and approach which benefitted the young and the middle level managers.
8. Wealth Tax Case  
The Wealth Tax Department had been issuing notices to the Congress for recovery of Wealth Tax amounting to Rs. 4.10 million since 1993 for the period ending 1993. The case was lingering on and the wealth tax department had attached the Congress building rents from the tenants.

In his address of Welcome the President of the Congress extended gratitude of the Engineering Congress to the Chief Guest for sparing time from his busy schedule to be with them. He introduced to the Chief Guest the aims and objectives in the formation of the Congress, its achievements and the services of the engineers to the Nation. Narrating the achievements of the Congress, he proudly acclaimed world famous theories of Design of Stable Channels in Alluvium by Mr. Lacey and Design of Barrages on Permeable Foundations by Mr. Khosla both of which were propounded by Congress Members. He went on to mention the massive and voluminous technical literature of 830 technical papers in 68 volumes, Symposia held on different problems alongwith annual sessions, seminars in the mid-sessions and Engineering News Journals etc. produced by the Engineering Congress which are duly preserved in the archives of Congress Library for reference by the posterity. These are also available in national libraries.

He also mentioned that a Computer College had been established in the Congress building. The President lamented that while the Nation was abundantly bestowed with the bounties of the nature, the policies of the Government were not deriving optimum fruits of such natural gifts. To quote a few; no water storage had been built over the last 26 years although on the one hand millions of acre ft. water was running waste to the sea and on the other self sufficiency in agri-products was becoming a far cry. As a by-product cheap Hydel Power was also slipping away and more and more dependence was being relied on costly thermal power generation. Resort to such a policy was making transport costlier and costlier with every passing day and escalating price of everything that was cost effective.

The President spoke at length recounting merits for the construction of Kala Bagh Dam viz-a-viz any other water reservoir. The President also highlighted the difficulties experienced by engineers, right from seeking appointments in Government Sector to their delayed promotion and heading of engineering departments by generalists. The President also drew the attention of the Chief Guest towards the element of corruption which was pervading the rank and file of the Government Organizations/Departments that needed to be dealt with by the Government with strong determination.

In his reply the Chief Guest thanked the Congress for providing him an opportunity to meet the galaxy of engineers from all over the country. He said, "I appreciate the comments made by the President of Pakistan Engineering Congress on the policies, priorities and overall national objectives of the Government of Pakistan. You are aware that we are compelled to spend over half of our national budget on servicing the ever-increasing debt and over quarter of it on defence. We have to keep ourselves vigilant and alert because of our eastern neighbour's propensity for building upon its already large arsenal of conventional and nuclear weapons including missiles of varying ranges".

He went on "Despite the pressure of these huge problems on our economy, the government is not oblivious to the development of the country and the nation. Over the years, sizeable developments have taken place in the fields of irrigation, agriculture, industry and their related infrastructure and engineers have played a pivotal role in these fields. But our resources have not kept abreast of our needs. The government has, therefore, had to borrow heavily to meet with our needs of both development and maintenance."

He further remarked, "Mr. Mashhadi has spoken about corruption as well as about the effects of inflation on salaries of government servants. I wish to assure you that the government is very concerned about this issue and is committed to addressing this critical important matter".

However, he pleaded, "At this stage, please allow me to shed the shackles of formality and speak with candour. Corruption as a phenomenon does indeed have a link with the salary structure and an appropriate raise in salaries would certainly help check corruption. But corruption is driven not just by the need for making ends meet or even the maintenance of a reasonable standard of living. In most cases it is driven by the desire to attain an unreasonable level of well being. And no government can afford to raise salaries that will allow government servants to maintain the unreasonable living standards of many who may have gotten used to. And the engineering profession today, much to our collective regret does not carry a great reputation for honesty of purpose or honesty in dealing".

The second feeling, though less rampant" he went on, "Is that our engineers take the easy course of following the beaten track and apply old solutions to solving even new problems. We build veritable ovens to live or work in, and then cool them with air-conditioners. Our forefathers did not do so whether with huts or with palaces. And neither did the British. Even they built cool buildings, whether houses, offices, town halls or railway stations. But while I might have quoted examples of civil engineering, let me say that the malaise is common to all engineers. Engineers have to give-up the standard-solution approach to problem solving; and focus on creativity to invent new methods, new processes, new techniques and new technologies to solve new problems and to solve old problems but in a new environment. So creativity is critical to the profession. And creativity will not come naturally to engineers until our engineering education is fundamentally designed to develop creativity and foster inventiveness in our engineers".



President PEC (68<sup>th</sup> Annual Session) introducing the Governing Body (68<sup>th</sup> Annual Session) to the Chief Guest Lt. General (R) Tanwir Hussain, Chairman National Reconstruction Bureau.



Lt. General (R) Tanwir Hussain, presenting the inaugural address at 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of PEC.



Engr. S. N.H. Mashhadi, President PEC (68<sup>th</sup> Annual Session) presenting shield to the Honourable Chief Guest Lt. General (R) Tanwir Hussain.



A view of the audience.