

Report of
Technical Seminar

Topic: “**Professionalism and Moral Responsibilities of Engineers** “

Held on August 5, 2017

Delhi State Centre of The Institution of Engineers (India) jointly with Delhi Regional Centre-Institution of Public Health Engineers organized a technical programme on theme “**Professionalism and Moral Responsibilities of Engineers** “ on August 5, 2017 at Institutions’ Premises, New Delhi.

Delivering the welcome address, Shri Devendra Gill, Chairman, Delhi State Centre-IEI highlighted the importance of moral responsibilities of Engineers which is one of the Pillar of their success. There have been occasional cases/reports of immoral behaviour of Engineers in Public Life which is very worrisome. In view of current situation, many universities have included the topic of “Ethics & Moral Values” in their B. Tech Engineering programmes.

Delivering his Address **Shri Dinesh Chand**, Chairman, Delhi Regional Centre Institution of Public Health Engineers stated that IEI-DSC & IPHE-DRC have associated in recent times to organise events of mutual interest which have received tremendous response. He stated that today’s topic is very relevant to present scenario where such abrasions are being observed at frequent times these days. Engineers need to conduct in most professional and morally responsible manner.

Gracing the occasion as Chief Guest, Shri Paritosh Tyagi, Former Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board apprised that the **Professionalism** is common to all professions but each profession is placed in circumstances specific to it. For engineers, the overlay of political and bureaucratic authorities calls for specific traits, such as named below: -

1. Uprightness, which comes from competence, honesty, boldness, firmness, sense of duty and adherence to objective. It should be noted that uprightness is different from ego, arrogance, outspokenness, obstinacy and rigidity.
2. Keeping updated in knowledge and skill, which rates high, in particular, in the engineering profession.
3. A capacity to work in inter-disciplinary teams, which is generally lacking among engineers on account of the institutional set up. This capacity has to be specially built up.
4. Application of mind, which includes taking a comprehensive view of all issues and impacts. Often, thumb rules and type designs are adopted without application of mind.
5. Encouragement and support to juniors in the profession, which is a very important part of professionalism.

Moral Responsibility of Engineers can be summed up by stating that much of the mess created on earth is on account of engineering activities and, incidentally, only the engineers have the capacity to remedy it. Therefore, engineers have a moral responsibility first, to avoid creating such mess any more, secondly to remedy the mess already created and thirdly to bring about lasting environmental improvements.

It may be recalled that engineers joined the scientists in a sort of competition with Nature, collaborated with entrepreneurs to produce more and more goods and services and acted with many others with the belief that the resources on earth are infinite.

Engineers concentrate on implementing individual projects, not realizing that the impacts are cumulative of all projects. They design the projects for the beneficiaries, setting an arbitrary provision for the project-affected persons. They have, like the economic planners and administrators, regarded spectacular infrastructure as real development and have associated their objectives with standard of living rather than quality of life. They have generally not considered innovation as respectable enough to enter their profession and they have not paid the attention that should have been given to training and research. Lastly, there are some glaring examples of repeating earlier mistakes rather than learning from them.

Vote of thanks was delivered by Shri Praveen Kumar Singh, Honorary Secretary, Delhi State Centre-IEI.

Nearly 40 Corporate Members, Professionals and Student Members attended the programme.