

Report on JSPE 2008 AGM and Symposium:

The Japan Society of Professional Engineers (JSPE) held the 8th Annual General Meeting followed by reception and short program at Tokyo Grand Hotel, Tokyo, on June 7, 2008.

The morning session began with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of JSPE, comprising of the Society's top-policymaking body, as stipulated by Articles of Incorporation. The activities & financial statement for the previous year and the budget plan for forthcoming year were approved by unanimous consent. It was followed by enthusiastic discussion among attendees. All opinions and suggestions were intended to improve the status of Society further, as well as to encourage the current board members' initiatives.



Following a short break, the second session commenced. As informed to JSPE members earlier, this years JSPE convention included a special feature on Japan – India Industrial collaboration. A special seminar on “Growth of Indian Economy and relevance to Japan” was addressed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Japan President Mr. Masahiko Kaji.

Mr. Kaji highlighted his views about growth of Indian economy and how Japan can benefit from global partnership with India. His speech was full of experiences and observations of long association he continues to have with India, beginning the year 1967. He was one of the first to recognize India's potential. An avid mountaineer, he led Alpine Club of Japan and led Himalayan Mountains expedition several times. Lately, he represented an Industrial house and led its operation in Mumbai (Industrial capital of India) suburb. With deep insight into India's social and economic fabric, Mr Kaji's 2 hour seminar attracted a rapt attention from full house. Mr. Kaji admired the rising Asian economy and lamented the lack of notable presence of Japanese industry vis-à-vis other industrial nations. His seminar was sprinkled with advice to Japanese industry, especially to engineering domain. With Mumbai-Delhi Industrial Corridor (MDIC) promoted by JETRO taking shape, the main requirement of Japanese industry in India i.e. basic infrastructure is going to be fulfilled. Whether this will materialise into increase in presence of Japanese industry in India, only time will decide, he stated.



Notable among the persons who fielded questions were Dr. Kenji Fujisue, Senator of Japan's Upper Legislative House. Needless to say that curiosity about Indian state, its economic growth was much more than the allotted time, for which Mr Kaji promised to deal individually.

JSPE members and invitees then moved to a reception hall where they were welcomed by Mr. D a Daisuke Uemura, President of JSPE. The President of National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE, USA), Mr. Bernard Berson, who was the chief guest of honour, was requested to address the gathering. Mr. Berson thanked JSPE for invitation and spoke in his audience-friendly speech sprinkled with humour. He shared his long association with NSPE and his professional experience. He outlined the present status and future directions briefly and urged JSPE for their cooperation. JSPE members showed special interest about possible revision in the qualifying criteria of Professional Engineer certification, being planned by



NSPE.

Professor Imai, founder of JSPE was a special invitee and proposed a toast with Mrs and Mr. Bernard Berson, cheered by all JSPE members, invitees.

The luncheon reception was followed by select invitees and sponsors of this program. Dr Thadathil Pankajakshan, representing Embassy of India, in his capacity of Science and Technology Councillor, read out a congratulatory message. Mr. Rajeev Supekar, representing Institute of Engineers (India) gave introduction about Professional Engineering (P. Eng.) qualification in India after reading congratulatory message from IEI's President Mr. R.P. Gupta and Secretary General Cdr Arvind Poothia.

Dr. Ganeshan, President of Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChE), who had specially flown in for the program from India, gave a short introduction of IChE and aspired for a bilateral relationship with Society of Chemical Engineers of Japan (SCEJ). Present on this occasion was Professor Miura, past president of SCEJ. JSPE could incidentally provide a great memorable moment for both India and Japanese leaders of chemical engineers associations, to have shaken hands and acted as catalyst in first step of their intended collaboration.

The baton then passed on to the sponsors, all five of them. Each of the five sponsors, represented by Engineers, gave a short introduction to their industrial association, partnership with India and their presence in Japan.

The Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) Japan presentation was carried out in chaste Japanese by Dr Allauddin Ahmed, Regional Manager for Vertical Manufacturing Industry. This was followed by presentation of Nozomi Infotech, Mr Mahesh Deshpande, President and CEO. Nozomi have a Japanese language training centre and operates in Financial sector in Japan. Vertex Software Pvt Ltd. was represented by Mr. Sudarshan Kulkarni who gave insights in their Japanese operations and development centre in India. Vertex, recently acquired by NTT Data as a majority shareholder, has highly visible Japanese language and cultural literacy among their employees. Lastly, General Manger of Toyo Engineering Corporation Human Resources Development Division, Mr. Yutaka Kita briefed TEC' association with India for last 35 years. With around 2000 engineers (and growing!) in their Indian subsidiary and global operations for executing projects all over the world, the presentation drew special attention of audience. Toyo Engineering also has in-house development program for budding Professional Engineers. AMB Property Japan Inc had exhibited their corporate promotion DVD, which attracted keen viewers.



Western Japan (Kansai) and Nagoya representatives of JSPE made a brief presentation, informing various activities carried out and planned by them.

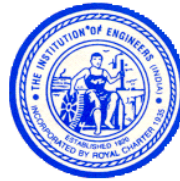
The program ended on a high note after the vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Masahiko Tsuchiya, Vice-President and Secretary General of JSPE.

JSPE continues its strong march in the ninth year since inception and this year's program was termed a major success by one and all.



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