

Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Karnataka State Centre

The Karnataka State Centre completed 75 years of its eventful existence and useful service to the engineering profession. The Inaugural Function of the Platinum Jubilee was held on **09.09.09 in the august presence of His Excellency Sri Hans Raj Bhardwaj, Governor of Karnataka.**

His Excellency Sri Hans Raj Bhardwaj, Governor of Karnataka graced the occasion as Chief Guest and inaugurated the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations by formally lighting the lamp and unveiling the plaque.

Dr. L.V. Muralikrishna Reddy, Chairman, IEI, Karnataka State Centre while welcoming the Chief Guest and the invitees said, 75 years of existence is a testimony to the success of the Centre as one of the most widely recognized and professional public engineering institutions in Karnataka and even in India. This recognition and reputation is a result of untiring efforts and inimitable contributions of the past Chairmen and Honorary Secretaries, office-bearers, corporate members without whose support the Centre would not have achieved such a historic milestone. He expressed confidence that the Centre is poised to become a Model Centre in a short time and serve the engineering fraternity by providing a forum for exchange of ideas and technical knowhow on current and emerging needs.

Sri D.V. Nagabhushan, Past Chairman, IEI, Karnataka State Centre and Council Member, IEI spoke on the history of the Institution of Engineers (India). He briefly narrated on the glimpses of IEI – starting from establishment in 1920 ; the grant of the Royal Charter of Incorporation on 9th September, 1935 by his Majesty King Emperor George V. Today, IEI, is a dream come true. It is a nationwide organization with a membership of over 6.0 lakhs – the largest body of its kind in the whole of Asia with international status and bilateral relations with many sister societies round the world. The Institution during its journey through decades of eventful existence has already achieved commendable accomplishments. Its corporate members have been recognized as leaders in the profession and identification with the Institution is now looked upon as a symbol of professional status.

Concluding, Sri Nagabhushan said that the Institution has now attained a landmark achievement. It has obtained full membership of the Engineers Mobility Forum (EMF) for India at the Bi-annual International Engineers Meetings 2009 held at Kyoto, Japan on 17 June 2009.

The Engineers Mobility Forum Agreement is an International Recognition Agreement for Professional Engineers between the engineering organizations in the member jurisdictions, which creates the framework for the establishment of an international standard of competence for professional engineering, and then empowers each member organization to establish a section of the International Professional Engineers (IntPE) Register. Engineers on this International Register receive credit when seeking registration or license in the jurisdiction of another member organization. Engineers on the International Register are free to practice engineering in member countries and are recognized at par local Professional Engineers.

Sri B.N. Thyagaraja, Past Chairman, IEI, Karnataka State Centre spoke about its formative years and the present status of the Centre. He said, prior to the formation of the Institution of Engineers (India), in the old State of Mysore, an association of Engineers was formed in the year 1863 by the Engineers working in the State Public Works Department on a modest scale to cater to the technical needs of engineers registered as **Mysore Engineers Association**.

After formation of the Institution of Engineers (India) in 1920, the Mysore State Centre was established in the year 1934 with Sri. N.N. Ayyangar as its first Chairman. Many Engineers of the then State of Mysore who were members of the Mysore Engineers Association became members of the Institution of Engineers (India) also since the activities of the Institution gave a wider scope and variety though they were similar. The executive committee members of both these divisions decided to merge the Mysore Engineers Association with the Local Center of the Institution as this would avoid duplication of activities and strengthen the local centre of the Institution to a great extent.

The Mysore Engineers Association conducted its centenary celebrations on 26th January, 1964. His Highness Sri. Jayachamaraja Wodeyar, the then Governor of Mysore presided and Sri. S. Nijalingappa, the Chief Minister of the State inaugurated the function. After the centenary celebrations, the cherished desire of the engineering fraternity for amalgamation came in to effect on 24th May, 1964. Dr. K.L. Rao, the then Union Minister for Irrigation and Power presided over the merger and he also opened the new office building at No.3, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore – 560 001. Widening its horizon of activities, the State Centre established 8 Local Centres to cater to the needs of local engineers. They are at Mysore, established in 1965, Dharwad in 1966, Munirabad 1969, Gulbarga 1973, Mangalore 1973, Belgaum 1989 and Davangere 1989. With a meager membership to start with, the Centre has 9153 Corporate Members and 24222 Non-Corporate members as on 31-3-2009.

His Excellency the Governor of Karnataka spoke in favour of professional autonomy not only engineers, but also for advocates and doctors to improve the quality of their respective services in the light of globalization. Engineers are creators and are involved in road, buildings, airports and all infrastructure development required for the community. Their role is very important for development of the Country. They should be prepared to face the changing situations due to advancement of technology.

Professionals should always enjoy autonomy and the decision pertaining to their activities should be taken by their professional peers. Professionals never retire as they have knowledge and experience which would be of benefit time and again in taking the State and the country forward. He said, the engineers of Karnataka are sought after by all States in the country as Karnataka is an 'exceptionally superior' State.

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As part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, His Excellency Sri Bharadwaj presented awards to eminent engineers - 'Eminent AMIE – iens'. The following four members were conferred with these awards in recognition of their contribution to the engineering fraternity.

- * Sri Rajanikanth Kanekal, IT Analyst, Tata Consultancy Services, Bangalore
- * Sri A R Rama Rao, Chief General Manager (retd), Bharat Earth Movers Ltd, KGF
- * Sri V Seetharama, Chief Engineer (retd), Karnataka Power Corpn Ltd, Bangalore
- * Dr. V Venkatesan, SASP Co-ordinator, South Asian Seas Programme
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme, Sri Lanka

Two past Presidents of the Institution, namely, **Padmashri Dr. H.C. Visvesvaraya**, Former Vice Chancellor, Roorkee University and **Dr. M.P. Chowdiah**, Distinguished Professor and Hon. Director, Centre for Agile Manufacturing Research & Development, Bangalore University were honoured by His Excellency the Governor in recognition of their contribution to the Centre and IEI as a whole.

Smt Prafulata Bhardwaj who also graced the occasion launched the Platinum Jubilee Logo and presented it to the Chairman, Dr. L.V. Muralikrishna Reddy and Dr. K. Gopalakrishnan, who designed the Logo.

A Souvenir highlighting the history of IEI, formation of Karnataka State Centre and its achievements during the 75 years, bio-data of past Chairmen with photos, details of all the Local Centres in the region, etc was brought out to mark the Platinum Jubilee Celebration. The Souvenir was released by Dr. M.P. Chowdiah, Past President of the Institution of Engineers (India).

His Excellency Sri Hans Raj Bhardwaj was conferred with **Honorary Fellowship of the Institution of Engineers (India) by the Chairman of the Centre, Dr. L.V. Muralikrishna Reddy during the Inaugural Programme of Platinum Jubilee Celebration.**

The function ended with vote of thanks by **Dr. S.B. Ganjigati**, Honorary Secretary.