

The Civil Engineer

NEWSLETTER

Volume -I, No. 8 Jan-Feb, 2010

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The Institution of Civil Engineers (India)

The Civil Engineer News Letter is the Official Publication of The Institution of Civil Engineers (India).

(Registered under Societies Registration Act, XXI of 1860).

Chairman of the Institution
Er. S. L. Swamy

Civil Engineer-News Letter contains the news of Institution of Civil Engineers (India) unless it is stated that an article or a letter does not represent the ICE(I)'s views.

Notice of change of address must be received in the Offices of the Institution of Civil Engineers (India) Regd. Off. or Delhi Off.: 'Career House' 4, East Park Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110 005.

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The Institution of Civil Engineers (India)



From the Editor-in-Chief's Desk

This is the first issue of the News Letter "The Civil Engineer" in the current year 2010. As usual this issue is an amalgam of information of different hues and colors.

I'm happy to know that the first batch of candidates both in Civil Engineering and Architectural Engineering have completed their theory papers successfully and have undergone practical tests and training in AICTE approved institutions. These candidates have also submitted their project reports through the heads of Civil Engineering and Architectural Engineering Departments of AICTE approved institutions. These candidates will be certified after evaluation of their project reports. Similarly the second batch of candidates is also ready for the purpose and this process will go on and more candidates will be joining the ICE (I) family.

This issue also contains articles covering various aspects of Civil and Architectural Engineering which I'm sure will be of immense value to the readers.

I'm keen to make this News Letter a truly participative venture where we are able to include articles from our corporate and non corporate members and are also able to answer the questions which our readers may have in their minds.

Such a request has been made earlier also and I'm just impressing upon the need and desirability of such a contribution which will be beneficial to all of us and surely it will enrich the News Letter from strength to strength.

I take this opportunity to wish a very Happy and Lively New Year to the Editorial Board, Readers and all well wishers of ICE (I).

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Er. S.L. Swamy
Chairman, ICE(I)

The ethics of excellence are grounded in action (what you actually do) rather than what you say you believe. Talk, as the saying goes, is cheap. Better to do something imperfectly than to do nothing flawlessly.

Futuristic Trends in Civil Engineering

Civil Engineering Building the Future

Civil engineers have one of the world's most important jobs: they build our quality of life. With creativity and technical skill, civil engineers plan, design, construct and operate the facilities essential to modern life, ranging from bridges and highway systems to water treatment plants and energy efficient buildings. Civil engineers are problem solvers, meeting the challenges of pollution, traffic congestion, drinking water and energy needs, urban redevelopment and community planning.

As the technological revolution expands, as the world's population increases, and as environmental concerns mount, civil engineering skills will be needed through out the world. Whatever area you choose, be it design, construction, research, planning, teaching or management, civil engineering offers you a wide range of career choices. And there's no limit to the personal satisfaction you will feel from helping to make our world a better place to live.

There are seven major, interrelated branches of civil engineering:
Structural Engineering

Structural engineers face the challenge of designing structures that support their own weight and the loads they carry, and that resist extreme forces from wind, earthquakes, bombings, temperature and others. Bridges, buildings, amusement park rides and many other kinds of projects are included within this specialty. Structural engineers develop appropriate combinations of steel, concrete, timber, plastic and new exotic materials. They also plan and design, and visit project sites to make sure work is done properly.

Environmental Engineering

The skills of environmental engineers have become increasingly important as we protect our fragile resources. Environmental engineers translate physical, chemical and biological processes into systems to destroy toxic substances, remove pollutants from water, reduce nonhazardous solid waste volumes, eliminate contaminants from the air and develop groundwater supplies. Environmental engineers are called upon to resolve the problems of providing safe drinking water, cleaning up contaminated sites with hazardous materials, disposing of wastewater and managing solid wastes.

Geotechnical Engineering

Geotechnical engineering is required in all aspects of civil engineering because most projects are supported by the ground. A geotechnical engineer may develop projects below the ground, such as tunnels, foundations and offshore platforms. They analyse the properties of soil and rock that support and affect the behaviour of these structures. They evaluate potential settlements of buildings, the stability of slopes and fills, the seepage of ground water and the effects of earthquakes. They investigate rocks and soils at a project site and determine the best way to support a structure in the ground. They also take part in the design and construction of dams, embankments and retaining walls.

Water Resources Engineering

Water is essential to our lives, and water resources engineers deal with the physical control of water. They work with others to prevent floods, supply water for cities, industry and agriculture, to protect beaches or to manage and redirect rivers. They design, construct and maintain hydroelectric power facilities, canals, dams, pipelines, pumping stations, locks, seaport facilities or even waterslides.

Transportation Engineering

The quality of a community is directly related to

the quality of its transportation system. Transportation engineers work to move people, goods and materials safely and efficiently. They find ways to meet our ever-increasing travel needs on land, air and sea. They design, construct and maintain all types of transportation facilities, including airports, highways, railroads, mass transit systems and ports. An important part of transportation engineering is upgrading our transportation capability by improving traffic control and mass transit systems, and by introducing highspeed trains, people movers and other intermodal transportation methods.

Construction Engineering

The construction phase of a project represents the first tangible result of a design. Using technical and management skills, construction engineers turn designs into reality on time and within budget. They apply their knowledge of construction methods and equipment, along with the principles of financing, planning and managing, to turn the designs of other engineers into successful facilities.

Urban and Community Planning

Planners are concerned with the full development of a community. They analyse a variety of information to co-ordinate projects, such as projecting street patterns, identifying park and recreation areas, and determining

determining areas for industrial and residential growth. They employ their technical and people skills to co-ordinate with other authorities to integrate freeways, airports and other related facilities.

Qualifications and Trends

More and more, those entering the civil engineering field must have skills in communication, computers, management and foreign languages, as well as advanced knowledge in a speciality within civil engineering. Students increasingly need to have knowledge of foreign languages or cultures, because many civil engineering mega projects are now overseas: Petronas Towers in Malaysia, the Channel Tunnel in Europe and the new Akashi Kaikyo Bridge in Japan, which is the longest suspension bridge in the world.

Engineers with geotechnical and environmental engineering expertise remain in strong demand because environmental concerns touch all infrastructure projects. Robotics and computer skills are also prized in civil engineering as automation and information technologies continue to evolve the civil engineering workplace. Today's engineers will see more specialisation, working in teams, globalisation, new materials and increased use of computer applications.

Today, engineers must continue their education long after their bachelor's degree. Whether through continuing education and professional development programs, many of which are offered through ASCE, or master's degree programs, students will need to increase their knowledge base to remain competitive. In addition, more and more employers are encouraging employees to earn master's degrees and become licensed professional engineers.

**The views expressed by the author are his own*

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Pivotal Role of Construction Engineer in Construction Engineering

In the July-August,2009 issue we of the “Civil Engineer” had dealt with “Civil Engineering A Multidimensional Discipline”. Civil Engineering today is comprised of many related specialties which overlap and shade into each other and we had glimpse of the improvement areas of Civil Engineering.

In the December,2009 issue of the said News Letter we had an article on “Pivotal Role of Structural Engineer in Structural Engineering” which dealt with the subject in great details. It was also indicated that we shall be taking up the other areas in a phased manner.

We shall now discuss the Pivotal Role of Construction Engineer in Construction Engineering. The role of a construction engineer is one which has multiple tasks and duties associated with it. The construction engineer implements a construction project and wears many different hats along the way. How useful this individual truly is in today’s society can be seen from the following paras.

A construction engineer is the individual who directs a construction project. He handles everything from the design of the construction

project to being on hand during the daily construction activities to make sure that everything is going as planned. Depending on the particular project, the role of the construction engineer varies. However, many construction engineers share the same tasks in various projects. A construction engineer may design the plans for roads, bridges, pipelines, sewage systems, railroads and more.

General Responsibilities of a Construction Engineer

In general, a construction engineer is responsible for the planning of the construction project. This includes conducting surveys, engaging in research, analyzing results, planning the construction and overseeing it along the way. The construction engineer also provides information to the pertinent parties and general public to keep them informed and in the case that any issues arise before, during and after the construction. A construction engineer is the one who plans the project and advises the workers.

Specific Duties of a Construction Engineer

A construction engineer has to fulfill a variety of specific duties on a daily basis. Prior to

to even thinking about starting a construction project, the construction engineer surveys the area. In conjunction with this he will need to produce reports and environmental statements detailing how the project will be done and what areas it will affect. During the pre-construction phase, the construction engineer prepares diagrams, charts and surveys showing specific information about the area and the desired project.

Once the reports, charts and data have been compiled, the construction engineer needs to discuss such items with related parties such as builders, environmental agencies and local, state and federal entities. These items may also have to be made available to the general public for their objections to be heard.

The construction engineer inspects the site to ensure that the building which will be taken place can be accommodated by that area. Tests will be performed relating to the ground and water level. The construction engineer may also have to determine the grade and elevation levels of the area.

Some construction engineers must determine the costs of their construction projects. This is done by proposing bids and determining the costs of labor and materials to ensure that the project can be carried through in keeping with

the budget that has been set aside. This will be an estimation on the part of the construction engineer but it must be as close to the true number as possible.

The construction engineer provides technical advice to all parties involved with the project. This may relate to any number of topics including the construction of the site to abiding by certain laws, codes and regulations. A construction engineer is something of a jack of all trades in many respects and therefore is consulted on a number of issues.

Positive Traits for Construction Engineers to Possess

There are a few different traits which would be beneficial for construction engineers to possess. The first is good analytical skills. A large part of a construction engineer's job is to analyze the situation prior to the construction taking place. This includes performing surveys and research from which the construction engineer will draw conclusions. Once the conclusions have been made, the construction engineer will draft reports, graphs, charts and present data to the pertinent parties. Therefore, superb analytical skills will come in quite useful throughout these various tasks.

Construction engineers must also have wonderful problem solving skills.

A construction engineer will find that from time to time he/she encounters problems along the way. By possessing good problem solving skills, it will be that much easier for the construction engineer to analyze the situation and then solve the problematic issues which have arisen.

Good mathematical skills will also prove useful for the construction engineer. Figures and mathematical equations are commonplace in the job role of a construction engineer. By having adequate mathematical skills, the construction engineer will find that their daily tasks are completed much more quickly and correctly than if they lacked these skills.

Another positive trait for construction engineers to possess is good teamwork skills. Although construction engineers may complete a number of their specific job tasks alone, there are other job duties where they must rely on a team in order to properly complete them. By being a good team player, the construction engineer will be able to work in harmony with others around them and make the job that much easier.

Communication skills will also come in handy for the construction engineer. A construction engineer will often have to express their findings to individuals or even large groups throughout the course of a construction project. Therefore, it is easy to see how good

communication skills will be useful. If one possesses such skills they will be able to detail the information to others in an effective manner and those listening to the details will be able to understand what they are being told.

Attention to details is an additional positive trait for construction engineers to possess. When it comes to construction, preciseness is crucial and one who exhibits good attention to details will be more likely to ensure that the construction is performed correctly.

From the above, we will conclude that A construction engineer is a vital player in the construction business. They must survey the area in which the construction will be taking place, estimate costs involved, submit proper paperwork, inform others involved and take part in the planning. All of these activities are vital in the construction process and the process is one which would not be able to be completed without the construction engineer. If a construction engineer possesses certain qualities such as good analytical skills and communication skills, they will find that they can complete their work in an efficient manner. The job role of a construction engineer is both a fascinating and important one and certain individuals may find that they are perfect for the job.

(Source : www.exforsys.com)

Role & Responsibilities of an Architect

An architect abstracts the complexity of a system into a manageable model that describes the essence of a system by exposing important details and significant constraints.

An architect maintains control over the architecture lifecycle parallel to the project's software development lifecycle. Although an architect may be most visible during the requirements and design stages of a project lifecycle, he or she must proactively monitor the adherence of the implementation to the chosen architecture during all iterations. Architecture on paper is fruitless unless implemented proficiently.

An architect stays on course in line with the long term vision when projects' scope creep attempts to manipulate software architecture in a certain way in order to satisfy the desires of myriad stakeholders. An architect must focus on actions that produce results early while staying on course for the long term. When project variables outside of one's control change the architect must adjust the strategy given the resource available while maintaining the long term goal.

An architect progressively makes critical decisions that define a specific direction for a system in terms of implementation, operations, and maintenance. The critical decisions must be faithfully made and backed up by understanding and evaluation of alternative options. These decisions usually result in tradeoffs that principally define characteristics of a system. Additionally these decisions must be well documented in a manner understood by others.

An architect sets quantifiable objectives that encapsulate quality attributes of a system. The fitness of the architecture is measured against set marks.

An architect works closely with executives to explain the benefits and justify the investment in software architectures. This may be done by participating in business process re-engineering activities, by using Cost Benefit Analysis Method, or by measuring the level of component / architecture re-use between projects with the help from the software process improvement team. Software architect must be effective in order to deliver results that are meaningful to the projects that have an impact on the bottom line that result in greater profits.

An architect inspires, mentors, and encourages colleagues to apply intelligently customized industry's best practices. Educating the recipients and participants of system architecture is essential to successfully selling the chosen architectural path. Specifically the stakeholders must be able to understand, evaluate, and reason about software architecture. If an architect is the only one who can read and understand documented system architecture, then he has failed to integrate his best practices into the organizational culture.

An architect fights entropy that threatens architect's structural approach to problem solving. It's an architect's job to keep the inertia going once the project is in progress. He or she must convince all relevant stakeholders that the chosen approach is sound – moreover the chosen architectural solution must be well explained and justified. The benefits of implementing a system in a particular way must be explained not only in terms of “that's the right pattern for this problem,” but also to demonstrate the measurable benefits - such as easier integration. For example, in a product line approach an architect must be able to demonstrate how the subsequent projects will be easier to implement due to the presence of a common base from which subsequent work can be done.

An architect creates and distributes tailored

views of software architectures to appropriate stakeholders at appropriate intervals. For example, a customer may demand to become more involved with a project and they may need to know an abstract view of a system on the level understood by them. A government customer may require an architect to demonstrate early in the project how a given system meets High Level Architecture requirements for a specific framework. It's the architect's responsibility to identify and present a sufficient level of information that a customer needs.

An architect acts as an agent of change in organizations where process maturity is not sufficient for creating and maintaining architecture centric development. If the concept of software architecture is not well recognized in an organization it may be a “tough” sell to formally recognize the role of software architecture in a SDLC. Without senior management commitment and without mature software development process, architecture of the system on paper may not reflect the actual architecture of a system.

Architect's Personality and Other Traits

No empirical studies have been done to determine the best character traits that define a successful architect. But it's reasonable to derive the following traits based on the duties of an architect.

An architect is a human filter that process complexities and outputs an abstract high level model of a system. Conveying the output to the stakeholders requires excellent communication skills – written, verbal, and presentational.

An architect is a negotiator. The method of principled negotiation should be the tactic of choice for an architect. This method is most suitable in contrast to soft or hard negotiation method, because it seeks mutual cooperation between an architect and project stakeholders. An architect will be expected to deliver better, faster, and cheaper, but since only two-way combo can be selected an architect must negotiate to decide which aspects of a system will be considered first and under what conditions.

An architect must convey a sense of credibility and trust; an architect must be perceived as successful. An architect can attain such status with his prior successful experience, formal training in the field (certifications in the future), and by his or her ability to deliver successful and relevant architectural artifacts through every stage of the SDLC.

An architect believes in his ability to perform well. In a leadership position attitude is everything – if the passion for success is

absent, then an architect must step down from the leadership pedestal.

An architect must be patient and resilient, as the only thing constant is the change itself. Since software architecture has direct influence on the quality characteristics of a system, an architect will interact with a great number of people with a full spectrum of personalities. He or she must quickly adapt to the way stakeholders operate, as it's not possible or feasible to expect them to speak the language of an architect.

In order to be effective, an architect must be familiar with the business domain at hand so that solutions crafted are practical and less academic. At the same time an architect must stay in touch with the rapid evolution of the field as the discipline grows towards becoming a true engineering discipline. New methodologies, practices, and vendor tools are re-defining, again and again, the responsibilities and duties of an architect. Proactive participation and involvement in the software architecture community in is a duty of every architect.

Links

*Firebrand Architect® blog post on this topic with additional links and view points.
<http://blog.firebrandarchitect.com/2007/02/duties-of-software-solution-architect.html>*

Add to Your Vocabulary

- **Acoustical Ceiling Coating**
Rough, decorative coating, sometimes called popcorn because of its appearance. Coating is sprayed on to acoustical board to aid in the reduction of reflected sound. Acoustical ceiling coating applied over drywall has less sound damping properties, but required less drywall preparation than other textures, offering both time, labor and cost savings.
- **Adiabatic Curing**
The maintenance of ambient conditions during the setting and hardening of concrete so that heat is neither lost nor gained from the surroundings of the concrete.
- **Aerosol**
Mixture in a pressurized container, which has small particles of solid or liquid, suspended in gas and is dispensed through a special nozzle that atomizes it into a spray.
- **Aisle**
Pathway through sections of a building or room, such as between sections of seats in a theater.
- **Anchor**
Any fastener (usually metal) used to attach parts, such as joists, posts, etc., to masonry materials.
- **Arcade**
A regular that controls the operating temperature of the hot water distribution system in boilers and water heaters.
- **Balloon framing**
In carpentry, the lightest and most economical form of construction, in which the studding and corner plates are set up in continuous lengths from the first floor line or sill to the roof plate to which all floor joists are fastened.
- **Bearing Pile**
A pile which provides support through the tip (or lower end) of the pile
- **Bell and Spigot Piping**
Also called hub and spigot piping this gravity-rated vent and drain or pressure piping, has a bell-shaped section at one end with a straight section at the other. The straight part fits into the bell-shaped end as pipe is being installed.
- **Birdsmouth**
Cut that resembles the open mouth of a bird, which is made in the end of a rafter so that the rafter joints are snug with the top wall plate.

Non-Corporate Members, ICE(I)

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Professional Vistas

• **Recognition by Govt. of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education** vide Gazette Notification No. F.24/1/2007-TS.III Dated 06.11.2007.

• **Recognition by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** vide letter No. Eqvi./AB/Gen.Corr./2008-09 dated 16.9.2008.

• **Recognition by Association of Indian Universities (AIU)** vide letter No. EV/III (366)/2008/71 Dated 11.04.2008.

• **Recognition for GATE** by National Coordinating Board-GATE, Deptt. of Education, MHRD, GoI.

• **Recognition by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** New Delhi Vide letter No. F.2/1/2007-EIB Dated 30.06.2008.

• **Recognition by Government of Andhra Pradesh** vide letter No. 10232/EC.2/2008-02 Dated 05.11.2008

• **Recognition by Government of Goa** vide letter No.12/11/87-PER/Vol.II Dated 06.03.2008.

• **Recognition by Government of Meghalaya** vide letter No. FDN.156/2001/249-A Dated 21.08.2008.

• **Recognition by Government of Kerala** vide letter No.3946/GI/08/H. Edn Dated 08.07.2008.

• **Recognition by Government of Nagaland** vide letter No. IT/10-1/04 Dated 30.07.2009

• **Recognition by Government of Uttarakhand, PWD, Pauri Garhwal** vide letter No.1011/20(15) E.A.-Parv./09-10 Dated 06.09.2009.

[TO BE PUBLISHED IN PART-1 SECTION -I OF GAZETTE OF INDIA]

Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi,
the 6th November, 2007

NOTIFICATION

No.F.24 - 1 / 2007 - TS.III. On the recommendations of the High Level Committee for recognition of Educational Qualifications in its meeting held on 22nd May 2007, the Government of India has decided to give recognition to the Section A & B of Associate Membership course, equivalent to Degree and Part - I & II of Technician Engineers (T) equivalent to Diploma in Civil Engineering and Architecture Engineering Courses conducted by the Institution of Civil Engineers (India), Ludhiana (Punjab) as per syllabus approved by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) w.e.f. the academic session 2007 - 2008 for the purpose of employment to the posts and services under Central Government in the appropriate field. It is subject to the conditions that the total number of candidates who can be admitted for the said examination would not exceed the authorized strength of the concerned Institutions with which Institution of Civil Engineers (India), Ludhiana (Punjab) has entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs). A review in respect of recognition of educational qualifications shall be made by Ministry of Human Resource Development after one year through All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

(RAVI MATHUR)
Joint Secretary to the Government of India
Tel: 2338 1097

To

The Manager,
Government of India Press,
Faridabad.

..contd./-



Professional Vistas

(भारत के राजपत्र के भाग-1 खण्ड-1 में प्रकाशन के लिए)

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शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली

6 नवम्बर, 2007

अधिसूचना

सं.एफ. 24-1/2007-टी.एस.111।।। शैक्षणिक योग्यताओं को मान्यता प्रदान करने के लिए उच्च स्तरीय समिति की दिनांक 22 मई, 2007 की बैठक में की गई सिफारिशों के आधार पर भारत सरकार ने उपर्युक्त क्षेत्र में केन्द्रीय सरकार की सेवाओं तथा पदों पर रोजगार देने के उद्देश्य से शैक्षणिक सत्र, 2007-08 से सिविल इंजीनियरी संस्थान (भारत), लुधियाना (पंजाब) के अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद द्वारा अनुमोदित पाठ्यचर्या अनुसार संचालित सिविल इंजीनियरी और वास्तुकला इंजीनियरी पाठ्यक्रमों में एसोशिएट सदस्यता पाठ्यक्रम की धारा (क) और (ख) को डिग्री के समकक्ष और तकनीकी इंजीनियरों (त) के भाग 1 और 11 को डिप्लोमा के समकक्ष मान्यता प्रदान करने का निर्णय लिया है। यह मान्यता इस शर्त के अधीन होगा कि अभ्यर्थियों की कुल संख्या उक्त परीक्षा के लिए सम्बन्धित संस्थान की अधिकृत दाखिला क्षमता से अधिक नहीं हो जिसके साथ सिविल इंजीनियरी संस्थान (भारत), लुधियाना (पंजाब) ने संगम ज्ञापन किया है। मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय एक वर्ष के बाद अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद के माध्यम से शैक्षणिक योग्यताओं की मान्यता की पुनरीक्षा करेगा।

(रवि माथुर)

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• **Recognition by Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi** vide letter No.1(1)/2008-DD/SB/1520/5609 Dated 29.10.2008.

• **Recognition by Administration of Daman & Diu (UT)** vide letter No. 10.2 (PART-IV) EST-GP/2008-09/797 Dated 11.11.2008.

• **Recognition by Visvesvaraya Technological University, Karnataka** vide letter No. VTU/Aca/OS-GC/2009-10/2118 Dated 04.06.2009

• **Recognition by CPWD- Central Public Works Department, Government of India** vide letter No.A-12021/1/2006-EC VI/74-75 Dated 19.01.2009.

• **Recognition by Directorate of Technical Education, Haryana** vide letter No.351-53/Dev. Dated 13.06.2008.

• **Recognition by Delhi Development Authority (DDA)** vide letter No.F.7(98)2008/PBI/2399 Dated. 20.08.2008.

• **Recognition by Directorate General Border Roads** vide letter No. 13616/Gen/Rect /DGBR/97/E1A Dated 21.10.2008.

• **Recognition by IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED** vide letter No. IRCON/HRM/31/28/728 Dated 01.09.2008.

• **Recognition by RITES Limited** vide letter No. RITES/RI/RCED/Misc/2008 Dated 14.07.2008.

• **Recognition by Shapoorji Pallonji & Co. Ltd.** vide letter No. Nil Dated 30.10.2008.

Snippets

RESULTS

Results of the Winter-2009 Examination are likely to be declared in the 2nd Week of March, 2010.

Old Question Papers

Question Papers for previous Examination are available from the Office of the ICE(I) New Delhi @ Rs. 150/- (Part-I) / (Section-A) and Rs. 250/- (Part-II)/(Section-B) for Technician Membership Examination & Associate Membership Examination respectively.

LAST DATE FOR ENROLMENT FOR SUMMER -2010 EXAMINATION

30th April,2010 is the last date for Enrolment for Associate Membership Examination [AMICE] & Technician Membership Examination [T.Engg] of ICE(I).

GLOBAL SUMMIT ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Sh. Prithipal Singh, Secretary, ICE(I) attended the Global Summit on Higher Education held at India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi on 16-17 February,2010. The Summit was addressed by Hon'ble HRM Sh. Kapil Sibal among others who discussed issues relating to Global partnerships: towards expansion excellence and inclusion.

