

POST SHOW REPORT



GLOBAL STONE TECHNOLOGY & BUSINESS FORUM

INTERNATIONAL STONE CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 22-23, 2007, Jaipur



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November 22-23, 2007
Jaipur

GLOBAL STONE TECHNOLOGY & BUSINESS FORUM, the International conference on stones and business meet was jointly organized by Centre for Development of Stones (CDOS), the apex stone industry promotional organization in India and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the apex industry organization in India. Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd. (RIICO) was the Principal Sponsor.

Two concurrent events were held:

- ❖ International Conference
- ❖ Business Meet

Global Stone Technology & Business Forum was inaugurated by Mr. Narpal Singh Rajvi, Minister for Industries, Government of Rajasthan. Mr. Laxmi Narayan Dave, Minister for Mines, Govt. of Rajasthan and Mr. Hafeez Contractor, renowned architect graced the occasion besides leading luminaries of the trade & industry and the architectural fraternity. Mr. Ashok Sampatram, Principal Secretary Industries, Government of Rajasthan, Mr. Sunil Arora, Chairman, RIICO & CDOS, Mr. Kuldeep Ranka, MD, RIICO and many senior officers from Rajasthan Government, representatives of various National and

International agencies and also the trade witnessed inauguration of this mega event.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Narpat Singh Rajvi, Industries Minister, Rajasthan appreciated the concept of organizing this global conference, which would create awareness amongst the participants and other stakeholders of the industry for adopting best global practices for quarrying, processing and use of stones for various applications. He emphasized on the importance of value addition, need to reduce wastage during mining and processing, continuous upgradation of technology and building brand equity of Indian stones in global market.



Mr. Narpat Singh Rajvi, Industries Minister, Rajasthan delivering his inaugural address

Mr. Laxmi Narayan Dave, Minister for Mines, Government of Rajasthan highlighted the mineral wealth of the state in general and that of dimensional stones in particular. Mr. Dave emphasized the need to focus on modernizing mining to make it more competitive.

Mr. Hafeez Contractor emphasized on judicious use of natural resources including stones. He further advocated for using stones in veneer form which would not only save stone resources but also help in easy installation in high rise buildings for cladding and other applications.



A cross section of delegates and other dignitaries during the conference

The two day forum provided a platform to internationally renowned experts in the stone industry to deliberate with trade and industry on the best global practices and technologies for dimensional stone quarrying, processing and finishing; marble waste disposal and utilization; testing standardization and quality certification; use of stone in installation/cladding in modern buildings etc.

The event received overwhelming response from stone trade as well as architects and builder fraternity with over 116 delegates comprising Chief Executives of stone sector companies, technology suppliers, policy makers, architects & civil engineers, stone sector experts/ consultants and leading Indian builders like Landmark Group of Bangalore, L & T, Tata Housing etc. Over 33 renowned speakers comprising architects, technology suppliers from India and Italy, scientists and researchers, consultants and technical experts deliberated on various pertinent issues. The business meet held concurrently was attended by 5 overseas business delegates from Italy, United Kingdom and Canada.

In the Stone Masters conclave, leading lights of international stone industry namely Mr. Giovanni Lanceni, Italy, Mr. Devraj, Mr. Luca Bonnati, Italy, Dr. S S Rathore, Mr. A.K.Agarwal, Mr. S.C. Jain, Mr. S.C. Agrawal, Dr. A.K. Mishra, Mr. Amit Rai, Mr. R.P. Vijayvergiya and other leading experts deliberated on global best practices & technologies in stone quarrying and processing, new European norms for testing and its adaptability in India, disposal and utilization of stone waste etc. Majority

of the speakers emphasized on need for continuous technological upgradation for sustainable development of stone industry in India. On this issue, the delegates requested technology suppliers for development of cost effective machinery/ technology, specific to various types of stones.



Mr. Giovanni Lanceni, Director, Bideseimpianti, Italy presenting on latest technological innovations in quarrying and processing machinery

During the Stone users conclave, internationally renowned architects namely Ar. Hafeez Contractor, Ar. Vijay Sohoni, Ar. Nitin Killawala, Ar. B.H.Rathi, Ar. Jai Gopal, Ar. Ravindra Bhan, Ar. Oscar & Ponni

Concessao, Ar. Shankar Kanade, Ar. K. Jaisim, Ar. Benni Kuriakose, Ar. Dean D' Cruz, Ar. B. Shashi Bhooshan, Ar. Pushkar Kanvinde, Ar. Daraius Choksi, Ar. Shikha Jain, Mr. Manish Chandak and Mr. Anoop Bartaria etc. highlighted various applications of stone in their work through audio-visual presentations and deliberated on issues pertaining to usage of stones as architectural element. Preservation, restoration and global best practices of using stones in modern buildings were the major deliberation points.

While deliberating on use of stones in their projects, majority of the architects talked about limitations/ difficulties being faced by them in using stones and raised various issues pertaining to product quality, extensive training of manpower, lack of availability of skilled workforce like masons, stone laying experts, polishing experts etc., lack of builder/ user friendly products like pre finished/ pre engineered products as per detailed designing inputs by architects, branding of stones, veneer form of stones/ thin section for easy application, use of stone with other products like steel and glass, increased use of locally available material and expertise specially in rural areas, recycling/ reprocessing of waste stone architectural elements and their reuse .

Majority of the architects showed their fascination for using stones in various projects and highlighted the tremendous potential, provided they get material as per required specification, quality and quantity.



Ar. Hafeez Contractor in close interaction with delegates

SALIENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Following salient recommendations/ observations emerged for sustainable development of stone industry in the country.

- Need for continuous dialogue between all stakeholders of the industry through such forums in future.
- Short duration training programmes/ courses at quarry sites with the help of technology providers.
- Concerted efforts in brand building of Indian stones.

- Need for technological upgradation in mining and processing of stones for preservation of natural resources.
- Organization of workshops/ seminars for gainful utilization of stone waste.
- Development of human resources specific to construction industry through support of National Institute for Advanced Studies in Architecture (NIASA)/ Council of Architecture and also through stone producers.
- Development of stone specific, cost effective technologies and machinery.
- Continuous interaction between Masters and Users for pre finished/ pre engineered products/ other user friendly products as per requirement of designers/ architects/ builders.
