THE TECHNICAL ARBITRATOR

Head Quarters - Chennai - September 2015

News Bulletin of the Indian Institution of Technical Arbitrators (IITArb)

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✶ Names repeated

International Conference on Role of Arbitration in Engineering Contracts held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 7-8 November 2014

The inaugural function was held in the Plenary Hall of Vigyan Bhawan, with the Chief Guest. Hon'ble Mr.Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, Supreme Court of India. Mr.Shankar Aggrawal, Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India was the Guest of Honour. The function was attended by large number of invitees from various Departments/ Organizations. The Chief Guest delivered his Inaugural Address, and a Souvenir was also released on this occasion.

In all thirty three papers were received including five papers from foreign authors. The authors included eminent lawyers from Supreme Court of India as well as from Delhi High court and practising engineers, having vast experience in the field of arbitration pertaining to engineering contracts.

The following departments participated in the conference as co-organizers and Sponsors/ Co-Sponsors. Central Public Works Department, Delhi Development Authority, Public Works Department, Delhi, Indian Building Congress, Engineering Projects India Ltd, Airport Authority of India, Delhi Jal Board, Indian Railways, Military Engineering Services, Borders Roads Organizations.

Delegates from various organizations from all over the country as well as foreign delegates participated in the conference. About 350 delegates including complementary delegates were registered for the conference.

The conference began with a Key Note Address delivered by Mr.P.K.Malhotra, Law Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & justice, Govt. of India. The address covered the proposed amendments to “Arbitration and Conciliation Act-1996”. The address was very informative and educative.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL BODY MEETING UNDER BYE-LAW 20

An Extraordinary General Body Meeting of the Corporate Members of the Institution will be held on 12th September 2015 at 6.00 pm at the premises of Institution of Valuers Office. Situated at Suit No.4, Door No.5/180, TNHB Commercial Complex, Luz Corner, Mylapore, Chennai-600004 to consider the recommendations of the Council relating to amendment of Bye-Laws.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

Tenth Annual General Body Meeting of IITArb will be held on 12th September 2015 Saturday at 7.00 pm at the premises of Institution of Valuers Office, situated at Suit No.4, Door No.5/180, TNHB Commercial Complex, Luz Corner, Mylapore, Chennai-600 004. All Corporate Members are requested to attend the meeting.

Mr.P.K.Malhotra said that Globalization ignited the process of integration and convergences of economic, financial, cultural and political systems across the world by adopting a holistic approach. It leads to the exchange of goods and services across the border. The engineering contracts are highly technical and special nature but there is no separate law regulating them. All the provisions of the contract act are applicable to these contracts. Tens of thousands of engineering contract are being entered all over the country everyday relating to infrastructure works without the necessary clarity leading to avoidable disputes and considerable strain on the exchequer. With use of computers and user friendly editing procedure, it is hoped that contract forms appropriate to the works could be prepared to avoid redundancy, confusion, vagueness and inconsistency and to increase efficiency, expedition, reduction of disputes and saving of fund.

Hon'ble Mr.Justice Swatanter Kumar while delivering the valedictory address spoke that Arbitration in engineering contracts is a techno-legal issue. Hence, it is important that the arbitrators have an understanding of technical details of the dispute and legal knowledge of the law of contract and arbitration. An error in law in conduct of the arbitration proceedings is making the award challengeable. This would again defeat or offend the concept of expeditious disposal as the issue would have to be addressed in a court which is a time consuming process.

Following amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, are recommended in addition to Law Commission Report:

1. Amendment to "Public Policy of India' under the head "Fundamental Policy of Indian Law"

   -w.r.to judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Oil and Natural gas Corporation Ltd. Vs. Westerm Geco International Ltd. dated 04.09.2014.

   -It should be "Most Fundamental Policy of Indian Law" with explanations to give finality to Arbitral Awards & limit judicial review of arbitral awards like in appeal under Public Policy of India.
2. Incorporating provision of specialized Arbitration & preference to Technical Arbitrators in construction disputes under section 11(6) of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996,
3. Amendment to section 19 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to give power of Arbitrator to call for records in evidence from the parties without resorting to s.27
4. Substituting " reasonable opportunity" in place of "full opportunity" in s.18 of the Act as per the English law to avoid unnecessary delay.
5. Listing the mandatory & derogatable provisions of Arbitration Act as per English Act to avoid conflict with institutional Rules.
6. Amendment to the Contract Act, 1872 by incorporating various judicial precedents in construction contracts eg. Time is essence with suitable changes as required giving certainty of interpretation of Law and making it relevant to commercial realities.
7. It is strongly recommended to legislate special construction law considering specific requirements of construction sector like bonafide third party rights and unfair clauses of contract etc.

Other measures suggested for making Arbitration more effective:

1. Need to frame proper Arbitration Clause, particularly in Govt. and Public Sector Undertaking, specifying qualification as Technical Professional, Detailing Procedure of arbitration and fees of Arbitrator.
2. Setting up infrastructure for Research, Education and Training in Arbitration for Construction Arbitrators & Engineers.
3. Strengthening Regulatory Mechanism for professional service by Arbitrators and Counsels through Institutional Arbitration.
4. Encouraging pro-active arbitration by adopting innovative methods and technology with flexible procedure.

Intimate your change of address to IITArb E-Mail for receiving the News Bulletin without interuption

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Er.O.P.Goel

This Bulletin is being published on the eve of the last Governing Council of my tenure as President and the Annual General Meeting.

The IITArb has continued to be active. One example of the same is the proactive action taken on the proposed bill "On the Public Contracts (Resolution of Disputes) Bill 2015". Comments on this bill were formulated and sent to PMO. Copies were also sent to the various concerned Central Ministers as also heads of Government organizations. Corresponding sister organizations dealing with Arbitration were also informed about the situation with a request to take up the matter in a similar manner with the authorities concerned so that the Government review the whole situation and do not bring out an ineffective legislation in a hurry which, in long run, would be found to be counter productive.

Elections of the office bearers and the Governing Council were successfully held during May/June and the whole process was well organized under the stewardship of Shri M. Velu, Past President.

Elections to the various Executive Committees of various Centres are being held and the new Office bearers will be in position soon.

I am happy to welcome the new office bearers who will be taking over at the next AGM on 12th September, 2015. It will be my honour and privilege to handover my charge to Shri P. R. Seshadri, who has been elected as President with a thumping majority. As is known to all members, his contribution to the institution has been outstanding and very effective and positive. He had been handling the whole show earlier as Secretary General and later as Sr. Vice President (HQ).

I am sure the Institution will progress by leaps and bounds during his tenure as President.

I wish all the new office bearers particularly the incoming President Shri Seshadri all the best and God Speed.

KNOW THE PRESIDENT (2015-17) Er. P.R.SESHADRI

Postgraduate in Civil Engineering from Anna University, Chennai. Meritoriously served TNEB in various capacities for 37 years. More than 50 years professional experience in Hydroelectric Projects Execution, Contract Management and Dispute Resolution. Presently a practicing Arbitrator, Power Project Consultant , Property Valuer and visiting faculty to Engineering Institutions. Member of number of professional bodies. Serving Senior VP(HQ), IITArb. after serving as Secretary General. Past Chairman, IEI, Tamilnadu and Institution of Valuers, Chennai. Recipient of Gold Medal (2006) & Life Time Achievement Award from IOV/New Delhi (2013) and recipient of IEI / Kolkata Alumni Award (2013). Proven track record in raising funds, organizing Seminars and Training programmes . Has plans to acquire own premises for IITArb., organize International Conference and empanel IITArb members in Various State/Central Govt./Public Sector departments and Madras High Court Arbitration Centre.

NEW GOVERNING COUNCIL FOR 2015-17

1.	President: Er.P.R.Seshadri, Chennai	
2.	Senior Vice President (HQ) : Er.K.D.Arcot, Chennai	
3.	Senior Vice President (South) : Er.M.Nandakumar, Chennai	
4.	Senior Vice President (North) : Er.Agrawal K.N, Ghaziabad	
5.	Senior Vice President (East) : Er.G.C.Kabi, Kolkatta	
6.	Senior Vice President (West) : Er.Neerav Parmar, Mumbai	
7.	Secretary General :Er.P.Sivapprakasam, Chennai	
8.	Joint Secretary General: Er.P.Karthikeyan, Chennai	
9.	Treasurer : Er.N.Pichaimurthi,Chennai	
10.	Council Member (South)	
	I) Ar.K.Rajagopalan	iii) Er.Nageswara Rao Velivela
	ii) Er.M.Karthikeyan	iv) Er.N.Hariharan
11.	Council Member (North)	
	i) Er.Krishna Kant	iii) Er.R.L.Kaul
	ii) Er.Nalini Dayal	iv) Er.M.C.T.Pareva
12.	Council Member (West)	
	I) Er.Raghuram Shetty	ii) Er.Srinivas Mantry

STATE CENTRE ACTIVITIES

TAMILNADU STATE CENTRE

AGM was held on 31 July 2015 at IITArb, Head Quarters Premises. 22 members attended the meeting. Er.P.Sivapprakasam, Chairman welcomed the members and briefed the activities of the centre for 2014-15. Totally 3 EC Meetings were held. Each month on 3rd Friday, Lecture / Arbitrators Forum meetings were conducted. Members showed a lot of interest and interacted fruitfully. Members shared their arbitration experience. A Training Programme on Arbitration Practice was organized on 8 Sundays from 10 August to 28 September 2014 at Chennai. Detail information was given about this Programme in September 2014 Bulletin. Election was conducted for the New Committee 2015-17. Er.K.Ganesan advisor for L&T Contract Division was elected unanimously as Chairman, Er.P.Karthikeyan as Secretary, Er.K.K.Prasad as Joint Secretary and Er.C.Ravi Shankar as Treasurer. The New Chairman addressed the members about future activities. The Tradition of our centre in arranging Lecture Meeting and Committee Meeting was scrupulously followed from August 2015 by the New Team. The total members in Tamilnadu and Pondicherry upto March 2015 were 281.

WEST BENGAL STATE CENTRE

The Indian Institution of Technical Arbitrators, West Bengal organized a workshop on "Arbitration and Recent Legislative Development" on 1st August, 2015 at Ambedkar Hall, Nizam Palace, Kolkata, which was attended by very senior serving and retired officers of CPWD, MES and other organizations along with some consultants and contractors.

Welcoming the participants Er. D.K. Dhar, Chairman, Indian Institution of Technical Arbitrators, West Bengal, made a fervent appeal to all to become members of Indian Institution of Technical Arbitrators, while outlining the advantages of Institutional Arbitration and need of quick and effective dispute resolution in Engineering Contracts as thousands of crores of money are locked at present in disputes. A new membership drive was initiated.

Er. G.C. Kabi, Arbitrator, Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India and Sr. Vice President(Elect.) from East made a presentation on "Overview of Law of Arbitration & Proposed Legislative Changes" which was well received and appreciated by one and all and was followed by an interactive session. Er. Kabi highlighted the pros and cons of different ADR mechanisms with special focus on arbitration and different types of arbitrations world over with the legal framework supporting such arbitrations. He gave a brief summary of the 246th Report of the Law Commission of India on Amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. He further briefed the house on the proposed "Public Contracts (Resolution of Disputes) Bill, 2015" and its repercussions.

The programme was followed by lunch.

Excerpts from Preface of International Conference Proceedings, New Delhi

By Dr.P.C.Markanda

Basic knowledge of different professions is not only essential but also the need of the hour. Knowledge of law does not mean deep and intricate knowledge, but working knowledge. This can be acquired by regularly updating oneself by reading law journals, commentaries by renowned authors, participation in meaningful seminars/conferences, constant interaction with experts etc. The engineers should also actively participate in Arbitration proceedings, so that the interest of the employer is safe-guarded. Before briefing the advocate, handling the arbitration matter, it is imperative that the engineer is abreast of the facts and terms of the contract. While preparing cases for arbitrations, I have commonly experienced that departmental engineers are not in the know of all the facts.

I am also strong votary of the engineers thoroughly going through the contract documents and having the terms thereof on their fingertips. A contractor would shirk approaching such an engineer with an unreasonable demand since he would be aware that he would be confronted with the contractual provisions to defeat his demand. It is always to settle the disputes amicably between the parties during the currency of the contract or, in any case, before finalization of accounts. Wherever it is not possible for resolution of disputes at the initial stages, then resort can be had to other dispute resolution mechanism, like conciliation, mediation, arbitration etc. I have consciously mentioned conciliation and mediation before arbitration since I firmly believe that amicable resolution of disputes is the best way of settling issues.

The judicial system prevalent in courts is governed by procedure prescribed under various enactments. The litigation becomes highly expensive, time consuming and once a person gets in it, he finds it difficult to extricate himself and gets frustrated and exhausted. It would be appropriate that resolution of engineering disputes be left to the wisdom of the engineers. The genesis of the said rule of law is that courts cannot substitute its views for that of an expert, more so in view of the judge not being possessed of the expertise of a particular technical field. Awards of experts are normally upheld.

IITArb records with grief the passing away of the following members

Er.R.K.Balaraman, Chennai, F-0242, Er.A.A.V.Perumal, Chennai, F-0358
Er.V.R.Vasudevan, Chennai, F-0388

Seminar held at Bangaluru by Karnataka State Centre

The President and the Members of the Council congratulated Mr.K.V.Srinivasan, Chairman, Karnataka State Centre and Mr.K.S.Venkatakrishnan, Secretary and Seminar Convener for organizing the seminar on Legal and Technical Aspects in Arbitration' on 13-14, March 2015 at Sir. M.V. Auditorium, The Institution of Engineers (India), Karnataka State Center, No. 3, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangaluru – 560 001, in an excellent manner within a short period . The seminar was inaugurated by Hon'ble N.G.Dinesh, Deputy Director, Arbitration Centre, Karnataka. There was good participation with more than 75 delegates from across the country. The speakers who were from the Engineering and legal professions made excellent presentation on various topics.

Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2015

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, gave its approval for amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Bill, 2015 taking into consideration the Law Commission's recommendations, and suggestions received from stake holders. The Government of India has decided to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 by introducing the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2015 in the Parliament.

The salient features of the amendments are :

(I) In order to ensure neutrality of arbitrators, it is proposed to amend Section 12 to the effect that when a person is approached in connection with possible appointment of arbitrator, he shall disclose in writing about existence of any relationship or interest of any kind, which is likely to give rise to justifiable doubts. Further, if a person is having specified relationship, he shall be ineligible to be appointed as an arbitrator.

(ii). Insertion of a new provision that the Arbitral Tribunal shall make its award within a period of 12 months. Parties may extend such period up to six months. Thereafter, it can only be extended by the Court, on sufficient cause. The Court while extending the period may also order reduction of fees of arbitrator(s) not exceeding five percent for each month of delay, if the court finds that the proceedings have been delayed for reasons attributable to the arbitral tribunal. If the award is made within a period of six months, arbitrator may get additional fees if the parties may agree.

(iii). It is proposed to insert a provision for fast track procedure for conducting arbitration. Parties to the dispute may agree that their dispute be resolved through fast track procedure. Award in such cases shall be given in six months period.

(iv). Amendment of Section 34 relating to grounds for challenge of an arbitral award, to restrict the term 'Public Policy of India" (as a ground for challenging the award) by explaining that only where making of award was induced or affected by fraud or corruption, or it is in contravention with the fundamental policy of Indian Law or is in conflict with the most basic notions of morality or justice, the award shall be treated as against the Public Policy of India.

(v). A new provision to provide that application to challenge the award is to be disposed of by the Court within one year.

(vi). Amendment to Section 36 to the effect that mere filing of an application for challenging the award would not automatically stay execution of the award. Award can only be stayed where the Court passed any specific order on an application filed by the party.

(vii). A new sub-section in Section 11 to be added to the effect that an application for appointment of an Arbitrator shall be disposed of by the High Court or Supreme Court as expeditiously as possible and an endeavour should be made to dispose of the matter within 60 days.

(viii). A new Section 31A is to be added for providing comprehensive provisions for costs regime. It is applicable both to arbitrators as well as related litigation in Court. It will avoid frivolous and meritless litigation/arbitration.

(ix). Section 17 is to be amended for empowering the Arbitral tribunal to grant all kinds of interim measures which the Court is empowered to grant, under Section 9 and such order shall be enforceable in the same manner as if it is an order of Court.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

F – 0495	Er.Srinivas Mantry	Navi Mumbai
F – 0496	Er.Raghuram Shetty	Mumbai
F – 0497	Er.V.Nageswara Rao	Hyderabad
F – 0498	Er.K.S.Shibu Kumar	Trivandrum
F – 0499	Er.Amarendra Kumar Sinha	New Delhi
F – 0500	Er.Amar Singh Chauhan	Shimla, HP
F – 0501	Er.Anil Kumar	Kolkata
F – 0502	Er.K.Sarat Kumar	Trivandrum
F – 0503	Er.P.Jeevan Kumar	Chennai
F – 0504	Er.Bangar Raju Pakalapati	Hyderabad
F – 0505	Er.R.Kandaswamy	Tiruchi
F – 0506	Er.P.S.Ravindranath	Bangalore
F – 0507	Er.Tustibrata Chatterjee	Kolkata
F – 0508	Er.K.Sekar	Chennai
F – 0509	Er.R.Richardson Asir	Bangalore
F – 0510	Er.Rajeev Kumar Bhattacharya	Gurgaon
F – 0511	Er.Avinash Chandra Varshney	New Delhi
F – 0512	Er.Lt. Gen. M.C.Badhani	Dehradun
F – 0513	Er.Narinder Kumar Jindal	Solan, HP
F – 0514	Er.Vijay Gupta	Delhi
F – 0515	Er.Durga Shankar Paroha	Raipur
F – 0516	Er.S.Ganesh	Bangalore
F – 0517	Er.Basavaraj Koti	Mysore
F – 0518	Er.M.Ganesha	Bangalore
F – 0519	Er.B.Guru Prasad	Bangalore
F – 0520	Er.Dinesh Kumar	Delhi
F – 0521	Er.A.Ravichandran	Madurai
F – 0522	Er.Ajay Kumar Agrawal	New Delhi
F – 0523	Er.Krishan Kumar Singh	Ghaziabad
F – 0524	Er.K.G.Chandrasekharan	Trivandrum
F – 0525	Er.A.Srikantaswamy	Mysore
F – 0526	Er.P.Ravindran	Chennai
F – 0527	Er.Rakesh Chopra	New Delhi
F – 0528	Er.R.V.V.N.Jagapathi Raju	Visakhapatnam
F – 0529	Er.P.Udaya Sankar Babu	Chennai
F – 0530	Er.A.C.S.Vasan	Hassan District, Karnataka
F – 0531	Er.Kola Anna Reddy	Karim Nagar
F – 0532	Er.D.Bala Gangadhara Reddy	Karim Nagar
F – 0533	Er.Ajit Ulhas Apte	Pune
F – 0534	Er.Anil Kumar Sharma	Noida
F – 0535	Er.P.Velu	Madurai
F – 0536	Er.S.K.Syed Ahamed	Melapalayam, TN
F – 0537	Dr.Punit Sethi	Noida
F – 0538	Er.Ismath Batcha	Chennai
M-154	Er.Gudpe Suresh Gangadharrao	Navi Mumbai
M-155	Er.V.M. Nachimuthu	Chennai
M-156	Er.J.Bhaskaran	Mumbai
M-157	Er.V.Tamilselvam	Karur, TN
M-158	Er.Kulkarni Atul Shrikantrao	Aurangabad
M-159	Er.V.Muthu	Alagappapuram, TN
M-160	Er.D.Lokesha	Bangalore
M-161	Er.D.Jayaprakash	Hosur
M-162	Er.Kamothi Ramesh Chandra Jayantilal	Vasai (West)
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AM-034	Er.Mohd. Rashid Bhati	Mumbai
AM-035	Er.Pritesh Vijay Singh	Mumbai
AM-036	Er.Jaydeep Garud	Thane West
AM-037	Er.Ashok Varma Srivathsavai	Navi Mumbai
AM-038	Er.CH. Hemanth Kumar	Navi Mumbai

Contd. in next page

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

AM-039	Er.Srinivas Boddapati	Navi Mumbai
AM-040	Er.S.Yuvaraj	Namakkal, TN
AM-041	Er.Mandeep Singh	Ludhiana, Punjab
AM-042	Er.Munish Kumar Sehgal	Ludhiana, Punjab
AM-043	Er.Jatinder Malhotra	Ludhiana, Punjab
AM-044	Er.K.Ayyanar	Chennai
AM-045	Er.Jitendra Kumar Upadhyay	Raipur
AM-046	Er.K.Sundarapandian	Chennai
AM-047	Ar.K.Bhama	Chennai
AM-048	Ar.V.Mani Ayyar	Chennai

BUILDING FUND DONORS

S.No.	Mem. No.	Name	Place	Amount in Rs.
1	F-0421	Er.K.Ganesan	Chennai	10000
2	F-0102	Er.P.V.Amarnadha Prasad	Hyderabad	15000
3	F-0002	Er.O.P.Goel (4th Contribution)	New Delhi	28000
4	F-0446	Er.Surender Kumar Sharma	New Delhi	11000
5	F-0192	Er.P.C.Govindan	Bangalore	5000
6	F-0313	Er.U.Ch.Satyanarayana	Hyderabad	10000
7	F-0188	Er.K.N.Narayana Iyengar	Bangalore	10000
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11	F-0437	Er.Mohamed Mukarram Ali	Hyderabad	10000
12	F-0392	Er.Om Prakash Gaddhyan	Gurgaon	51000
13	F-0407	Er.K.Divakar	Coimbatore	10000
14	F-0337	Er.Shambhu Dayal Sharma	Chennai	10000
15	F–0168	Er. H.N. Lakshmipathi	Bangalore	5001
16	F–0199	Er. Agrawal.K.N	Ghaziabad	25000
17	M-001-127	Er.Kola Anna Reddy	Karim Nagr, Telengana	5000
18	M-001-126	Er.D.Bala Gangadhara Shastry	Karim Nagr,Telengana	5000

BUILDING FUND

When our President, Er.O.P.Goel made an appeal for Building Fund, many of our members came forward to contribute liberally. To lead us all, he offered 4th time his contribution which exceeded Rs.1,00,000/- totally. You are all requested to show your might very graciously in sending a big amount. This will help us to have our own premises early. At present IITArb is functioning from a rented space. We could have many facilities like library for our members to enrich the knowledge in Arbitration.

LET THE FUND POUR IN FAST AND HUGE TO HAVE OUR BUILDING EARLY

Appointment of Arbitrators by Courts

Madras, Punjab and Haryana High Courts referred IITArb for appointment of Technical Arbitrators to resolve the disputes. We have made representation to various Courts for the Panel of Arbitrators. Time has come to see the importance of Technical Arbitrators, at least one in the Tribunal for Engineering Projects.

Become a Member of This Prestigious Institution

Eligibility: Degree in Engineering / Architecture

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Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad,Cochin & Madurai

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Seminar on Emerging Trends in Arbitration by Madurai Local Centre

The President and Council also placed on record their appreciation of the grand manner Er.L.Balaji, Chairman, Madurai Local Centre and his team had organized the one- day seminar on 'Emerging Trends in Arbitration' in association with Tamil Nadu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Madurai on 21-02-2015 at Mapco Mini Hall, Tamil Nadu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 178-B, Kamarajar Salai, Madurai. The participation was quite encouraging . Tamil Nadu Chamber of Commerce and Industry assured many more such programmes in association with IITArb in the near future.

Lecture Meeting at Hyderabad, AP State Centre

A Guest Lecture was organized by IIT Arb.A.P. State center in Hotel NKMs Grand at Hyderabad on August 22nd 2015, Saturday at 5pm, on topic “Arbitration in SAARC countries”. The guest lecture was delivered by Er.Mohammad M.Ali, a veteran in the field of Arbitration practice in Middle East, Europe and in India.

Er.G.Saibaba, Chairman welcomed the gathering. Dr.Amarnath Prasad, immediate past Chairman of the center in his inaugural address stressed the importance of keeping abreast the arbitration practices in other countries in the perspective of International commercial arbitration.

The speaker Er.M.Ali has presented that presently 21% is the share of trade in SAARC countries and this will increase substantially because of growing trade in this region. He has highlighted various arbitration provisions in SAARC countries making a comparison with provisions of Indian act. The lecture was well educating and informative. The session was well attended with participation from practicing Advocates, Arbitrators, Techno-legal Professional and Executives from construction companies.

Er.M.Sridhar, Hon. Secretary explained the importance of the topic and also future programmes of the centre. Er. N V Prasad, Hon. Treasurer introduced the speaker & vote of thanks were proposed by the Er.E.Subba Rao, Hon. Joint Secretary.

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