

HIGHLIGHTS

of

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, EGRWSE-2018 AT NIT JALANDHAR

Department of Civil Engineering, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar in collaboration with Department of Civil & Materials Engineering, University of Chicago, Illinois (US) hosted the First International Conference on Environmental Geotechnology, Recycled Waste Materials and Sustainable Engineering (EGRWSE-2018) from 29th – 31st March, 2018. The conference was aimed at sharing latest knowledge on pollution control, resource conservation and livable communities through innovative technologies, ultimately towards smart and sustainable cities.

The conference was inaugurated by **Prof L K Awasthi, Director, NIT Jalandhar. Er.G.S Majithia, Chief Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board** was the Chief Guest of the valedictory function. In the valedictory address, **Dr Arvind K Agnihotri, Professor and Head** department of Civil engineering and also the co-chair & organizing secretary of the conference welcomed the chief guest, dignitaries and keynote speakers and summarized the conference proceedings. He reported that Conference received a great response from the academic and research institutes of India and abroad as 102 full papers were presented during 3 days conference. **Prof Krishna Reddy** from University of Illinois Chicago USA, in his opening lecture discussed about the bioengineering systems that have the potential to be sustainable. Moreover, he encouraged to design sustainable engineering systems for sustainability triple bottom line concept (Environmental, economical and social issues). **Prof Kaimin Shih** from University of Hong Kong introduced the concepts of material characterization techniques and their role in exploring new environmental treatment and recycling opportunities. **Prof Junbom Park** from *Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea* has discussed about the new material developed to install bottom liner system of offshore waste disposal sites to overcome the waste disposal problems. **Dr Susana Gouveia** from University of Vigo, Spain introduced the necessity of valorizing industrial lignin from pulp and paper mills. Lignin, the second most abundant biopolymer on earth. She talked about the options of incorporating these lignin as the only adhesive element for medium density fiberboard. **Dr Ozgur Karaca** from Turkey discussed the

environmental impacts of the mining sites and their problems. She talked about remediation possibilities of using abandoned mining sites and disposal sites. **Prof Claudio Cameselle** from University of Vigo talked about sustainable soil remediation phytoremediation amended with electric current. He discussed the effect of AC/DC electric current in the soil properties, the development of the plant and the remediation of soil contaminated with heavy metals and PAHs. Prof. Agnihotri reported that delegates from different parts of the world like US, South Korea, Turkey, Hong Kong, Spain, Australia, Nigeria and across the country like IIT Bhuvneshwar, IIT Roorkee, NIT Warangal, NIT Allahabad, NIT Hamirpur, NIT Kurukshetra, PEC University, Panjab University, Thapar Institute and many other leading Universities, IITs and NITs participated in the conference.

Dr. Ajay Bansal, the conference convener, thanked all the participants/delegates & the entire team for making the event a great success.

Speaking on the occasion, the **Er.G.S Majithia, Chief Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board** presented the case studies of some of the polluting industries in the past and the role of PPCB as a regulator in controlling air & water pollution in the state of Punjab. A panel discussion was also held in the end to have the comprehensive discussions between the Chief engineer, PPCB, speakers & the participants. During the same Dr. Krishna Reddy pointed out the importance of integrated solid waste management a solution to the existing problems being faced by the country.

Feedback Received from Delegates

Hearty congratulations on organizing a successful conference

Inbox x

Prof. Krishna R. Reddy Apr 6 (4 days ago)

to me

Dear Prof. Agnihotri:

I want to congratulate you on conducting a very successful EGRWSE-2018 conference at NIT Jalandhar.

Hats off to you for conceiving this conference and its theme to address various emerging issues in civil and environmental engineering, especially geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering, environmental engineering, and sustainability. I did not see such a conference organized anywhere in the world. Many interesting and emerging topics were covered in the conference.

The planning of the conference from the beginning was superb. The call for abstracts, review of abstracts, review of draft papers, etc. are tedious tasks, and you have handled them meticulously. Moreover, securing contract with Springer to publish a book with all peer reviewed papers will be a major outcome that will benefit everyone in the profession worldwide. The book will have lasting value on the profession.

Conference program was developed carefully to draw attention of all attendees. I had a chance to talk to many attendees and they all expressed satisfaction and admiration. All presentations were interesting. Your effort to evaluate each presentation by the session chairs is an admirable task. The review template you have created is comprehensive and excellent, and this effort will provide a great feedback to the presenter. To my knowledge, no other conference that I attended did such useful evaluation.

Opening session was well done. Comments by your Director were succinct and very

relevant for the conference. Keynote presentations were also well delivered and have drawn full attention of the attendees. The Panel Discussion with the Chief Engineer of PCBP is the highlight of the conference. He brought the on-ground reality and addressed many initiatives by PCB to address different environmental/waste issues. There was also very active discussion after his presentation, which was quite interesting and exciting. The Chief Engineer also facilitated our visit to Golden Temple for the launching of non-plastic bags for prasad distribution. It was a very interesting and gratifying experience.

I also liked the way certificates were distributed to the session chairs, keynote presenters, and conference attendees. All arrangements including the presentation podiums and refreshments/lunches were made perfectly. Dinner with all participants in the hotel gave an opportunity to socialize among the participants. Thanks for making the keynote speakers stay comfortable and they were all very grateful to you.

I can't think of anything that was not done well. I admire you and the entire organizing committee for the job well done to organize a memorable conference. NIT Jalandhar should be proud of organizing this event. I am sure this event brought good visibility and publicity to your university.

As the conference theme is relevant and timely, we should make this as a conference series. I will explore organizing the second conference with the same theme in our university in Chicago, USA, during late June 2019 and will let you know more details later.

Again, I would like to congratulate you, Dr. Ajay Bansal, all your departmental faculty, and other organizing committee members for making this conference great success. Glad to be part of this memorable conference!

Best regards,
Krishna

From: "박준범" <junbpark@snu.ac.kr>

Date: 3 April 2018 at 11:23:44 IST

To: Arvind K Agnihotri EGRWSE-2018 <egrwse2018@gmail.com>

Subject: Thanks Letter to A.K. Agnihotri

Dear Professor Arvind K. Agnihotri,

Hello, this is Junboun Park. I am safely back home.

I am deeply grateful to Prof. Arvind K. Agnihotri for the successful organization of the EGRWSE2018 NITJ last week.

We had a great chance to exchange our research ideas and build up our friendship through this fruitful events.

It was my first trip to India and to NITJ, but everything was so well organized and happily enjoy every moment without any trouble.

Your detailed preparation was so deeply appreciated and I am happy to join next EGRWSE.

Once again, congratulations of the huge success of the EGRWSE 2018 in NITJ.

Thank you and hope to see you in the near future!!

Yours truely,

Junboun

p.s. attached are some photos I took

박 준 범

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From: "C. Cameselle" <claudio@uvigo.es>
Date: 5 April 2018 at 16:37:40 IST
To: "Arvind K Agnihotri, EGRWSE-2018" <egrwse2018@gmail.com>
Cc: Susana Gouveia <gouveia@uvigo.es>
Subject: Thank you

Both, I and my wife, Susana Gouveia, are very grateful for the way we were received by the entire conference organizing team.

The friendships we have made will always be the best memories we will have from India.

As for the conference, we thank you for your efforts and congratulate you for bringing together so many professors, students and researchers concerned with such important and up-to-date topics as those debated in EGRWSE 2018. It was very enriching.

We would be delighted to welcome you to Spain. The doors of our house will always be open.
If not before, I hope we all meet again in a future EGRWSE conference.

Best regards

Dr.
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