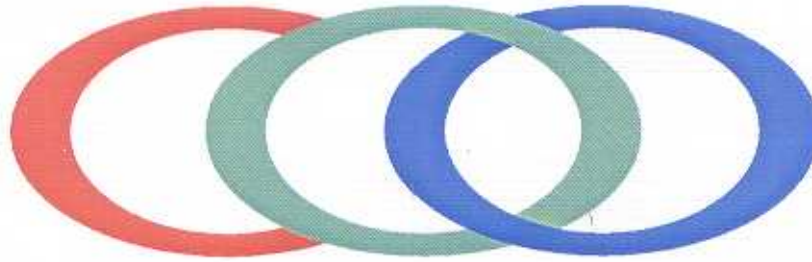


REPORT ON THE PARTICIPATION OF

COIR BOARD

IN THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF



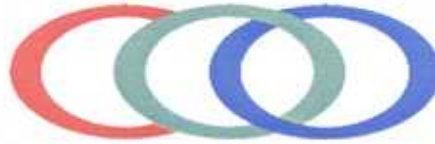
International Erosion Control Association

A banner for the 2008 International Erosion Control Association conference. The background features a landscape with a road, water, and hills under a yellow sky. In the top left, there are two small inset images showing soil erosion control techniques. The text reads: "The World's Largest Soil & Water Event", "February 18-22, 2008", and "Expo: February 19-21". On the right, there is a logo for the "Erosion Control Association" (ECA) with "Orlando, Florida" written above it and "Erosion Control Association" written below it.

The World's Largest Soil & Water Event
February 18-22, 2008
Expo: February 19-21

Orlando, Florida
ECA
Erosion Control Association

PARTICIPATION OF COIR BOARD IN



International Erosion Control Association

Annual Conference & Expo held at Orlando, Florida, U S A
from 18-22 February, 2008

The Government of India had deputed Shri. A. C. Jose (Ex. M.P.) Chairman, Coir Board and Dr. U.S.Sarma, Director RDTE, Coir Board, for attending the IECA Annual Conference & Expo held at Orlando, Florida U S A from 18-22 February 2008. The report on the participation of the Board is furnished hereunder.



18th February, 2008

7.00AM REGISTRATION
7.30AM-8.00AM SPEAKER/MODERATOR MEETING

19th February, 2008

7.30AM-8.00AM SPEAKER/MODERATOR MEETING
09.00AM SETTING UP OF EXHIBITION BOOTHS No. 110 & 11

The following exporters had participated in the exhibition along with Coir Board:-

1. M/s. LISO Coir Tex,
Alleppey, Kerala.
2. M/s. Malabar Coir Mfg. Co.,
Alleppey, Kerala.
3. M/s. Jose Coir Mills,
Alleppey, Kerala.
4. M/s. Charankattu Coir Mfg. Co.
Alleppey, Kerala.
5. M/s. Aspinwall Co. Ltd.,
Alleppey, Kerala.
6. M/s. Sun Universal
Karur, Tamil Nadu
7. M/s. G-Tech Distributors
Aluva, Kerala



Other exhibitors of coir products were as follows:

1. M/s. RoLanka International, Inc.
155 Andrew Dr. Stockbridge, GA 30281
e-mail: rolanka@rolanka.com



2. M/s. Nedia Enterprises, Inc.
22187 Vantage Points Place
Ashburn, VA 20148
e-mail: spothen@nedia.com



3. M/s. Excelhigh, Inc.
67 Millbrook Street,
#418 Worcester, MA 01606 USA
e-mail: excelfibre9@aol.com

A large number of visitors had interacted with the exporters of coir and shown keen interest in the exhibits of coir geotextiles.

20 th February, 2008

07.30AM to 08.00AM
08.00AM to 10.00AM

SPEAKER/MODERATOR MEETING
GENERAL OPENING SESSION

10.30AM

VEGETATIVE ESTABLISHMENT SESSION

10.30AM to 11.00AM

1. Presentation on "Temporary Slope Protection: Cost Versus Effectiveness" by Dr. Eric Woodhouse, CPESC, Valencia, C.A., USA.

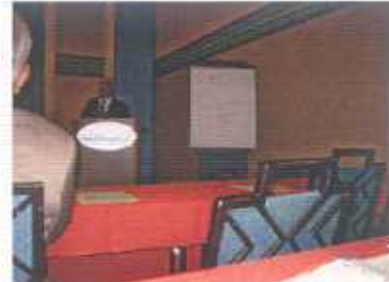
The Santa Clarita Valley in Southern California was the location where nine panels were created to test various soil stabilizing products. The displaced soil was collected four times over the course of the study. Rainfall data from the National Weather Service for that area was used in the calculations of this study. It was inferred that the use of coir geotextiles was economical considering its longevity and effectiveness in controlling soil erosion. Copy of the paper enclosed (Annexure-I).

11.00AM to 11.30AM

2. Presentation on "Application of Coir Geotextile Reinforced Mud Wall in an Area Below Sea Level at Kuttanad, Kerala" by Dr. Uma Sankar Sarma and A.C. Jose, Alleppey, Kerala, India.



This work reports the use of thickly woven coir geotextiles as reinforcement for the mud wall erected to protect a stream bank. The study provides a natural solution to the problem of protecting stream banks against soil erosion to avoid flooding especially in the areas that are below sea level.



At the outset the Chairman, Coir Board had given an introduction of the coir geotextiles useful for the soil erosion control. He had pointed out that in India the technology of mud wall preparation is about 2000 years old which was used for construction of mud houses. He had also highlighted the other research works being carried out at CCRI and CICT including those on coir pith and coir polymer composite boards. Followed by this Dr. U.S. Sarma had made a Power Point presentation. Copy of the paper and Power Point presentation enclosed (Annexure-II).

11.30AM to 12.00PM

3. Presentation on "Slope Face Stabilization Techniques for Reinforced and Confined Embankment Systems" by David Yam, CPESC, Oakland, CA, USA.

Too many dollars and precious construction time are at risk when a slope face fails. In this technical paper, we will review proven treatments and learn how to effectively combine erosion control nettings, geosynthetic stabilizing materials, slope anchors and vegetation in designing effective erosion control treatments for slope face stability. Copy of the paper enclosed (Annexure-III).

12.00PM to 05.00PM EXHIBITION

One of the prominent TV News channel [ESCN.tv] covering the IECA event had interviewed Shri. A.C. Jose, Chairman, Coir Board regarding the applicability of coir geotextiles in its various fields of applications. The Chairman informed that the Coir Board has done considerable amount of work in the field of application of coir geotextiles and it has been possible to formulate specifications for woven coir geotextiles for applications in the areas of soil erosion control and rural roads. He had emphasized that the coir products are economic in its applications as those are eco-friendly and biodegradable in a reasonable period of application.



21st February 2008

09.00AM to 01.30PM EXHIBITION

A large number of visitors had shown keen interest in the coir products with regard to the applications in the areas of soil erosion control. A list of entries in the visitor's book is enclosed.



22nd February 2008

08.00AM to 12.00PM

FIELD TOUR

A field tour was arranged by IECA to visit a constructed wetland named as Green Wood Urban Wetland which has been built to alleviate flooding and to treat storm water run off prior to discharge to drainage wells which flow to



the Floridian Aquifer. This wetland is designed to detain the run off from 2.5 inches of rain fall. The city of Orlando has incorporated an upstream sediment/debris basin, pond aeration, and an irrigation system to increase pollutant removal effectiveness which allows the city to irrigate the park and the adjacent city-owned cemetery with storm water instead of potable water. It is estimated that this constructed wetland saves the city US\$25000/year.

CONCLUSION

It was indeed a rare opportunity to make a presentation before the international audience regarding the use of coir geotextiles for construction of mud wall. It has generated interest among the entrepreneurs, students and U.S. Govt. officials. The exporters who had shared the booths of Coir Board could derive benefit by interactions with a large cross section of potential buyers who were provided the necessary technical input by the representatives of Coir Board. A few exporters who had set up their own booths had also succeeded in canvassing orders.



(Dr. U.S. Sarma)
Director (RDTE)
Coir Board



(A.C. Jose)
Chairman
Coir Board

