



REPORT ON THE PARTICIPATION OF

COIR BOARD

IN THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF



International **Erosion Control** Association



PARTICIPATION OF COIR BOARD IN



International **Erosion Control** Association

Annual Conference & Expo held at Orlando, Florida, U S A from 20-23 February, 2011

The Government of India had deputed Shri. V. S. Vijayaraghavan (Ex. M.P.) Chairman, Coir Board and Dr. U. S. Sarma, Director RDTE, Coir Board, for attending the IECA Annual Conference & Expo held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, Orlando, Florida U S A from 20-23 February 2011.



The report on the participation of the Board is furnished hereunder.

19th February, 2011

6.00PM

REGISTRATION



20th February, 2011

09.00AM-03.00PM

IECA Board of Director's Meeting

Mr. Michael R. Chase, President of Board of Directors had extended a warm Welcome to the Chairman, Coir Board and requested him to take his honourable seat among the Board of Directors, which was a rare gesture to any foreign leader of delegation. The

President had spoken in his welcome address that that he was indeed happy to note that the Chairman, Coir Board found time to come to USA along with the delegation and they are eager to hear his views on this international conference.

The Chairman, Coir Board had addressed the Board of Directors about the purpose of attending the EC11. He had

informed that the Coir Board attaches great importance to this annual international mega event and has been consistently participating by presenting papers and exhibiting the coir products as a corporate member of the IECA. He was happy to mention that the USA is the largest buyer of coir products. He had also mentioned that the Indian Chapter of IECA is performing well. He had mentioned that although this year the Coir Board is making a presentation on the use of coir geotextiles for revegetation of Chambal ravines, the emphasis is to highlight the other uses of coir geotextiles, like usage in construction of roads where it acts as a reinforcing agent and separator, besides helping in filtration and drainage. He had also informed that the Govt. of India has embarked on construction of 400kmslength of roads using coir geotextiles. 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 and get the specifications approved from Bureau of Indian Standards [BIS] for woven and non-woven coir geotextiles for applications in the areas of soil erosion control and roads. He had emphasized that the coir products are economic in its applications and those are eco-friendly and biodegradable in a reasonable period of application. He had invited the Board of Directors to attend the presentation of Coir Board on 22nd February, 2011.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Russel Adsit, immediate past President of IECA, who had expressed his gratefulness to the Chairman, Coir Board for addressing the Board of Directors and was looking forward to a closer association with the Coir Board in the near future.



Warm welcome by President, IECA



Chairman addressing the IECA Board



21st February, 2011

COIR BOARD'S EXHIBITION BOOTH No. 421

Other exhibitors of coir products were as follows:

1. **Ms. Rani George, IAS**
Special Secretary (Coir) to Govt. of Kerala &
Dr. Anil K. R.,
Director
National Coir Research & Management
Institute
Near Doordarshan Kendra
Kudappanakkunnu
Thiruvananthapuram-695 015.
Tel/Fax. - 0471 2730788
[e-mail: ncrmikerala@gmail.com](mailto:ncrmikerala@gmail.com)



2. Mr. Calista Santha
M/s.RoLanka International, Inc.
155 Andrew Dr. Stockbridge,
GA 30281
e-mail:



3. Mr. Siby Pothen
M/s. Nedia Enterprises, Inc,
22187 Vantage Points Place
Ashburn, VA 20148 USA
e-mail: spothen@nedia.com



22nd February, 2011
09.40AM to 10.40AM

Presentation on "Prospects and problems of use of coir geotextiles for soil conservation work in forest area", by V. S. Vijayaraghavan and Dr. U. S. Sarma (copy enclosed)

This paper reports the application of coir geotextiles against soil erosion along with grass, anchored by bamboo stakes to protect a gentle slope of an embankment to enrich water in a catchment in forest area. The technique is eco-friendly and economic which can be used to tackle the problem of soil erosion in ravines that are devoid of vegetation.



Chairman, Coir Board addressing the session



Dr. U.S.Sarma addressing the session

At the outset the Chairman, Coir Board had given an introduction of the coir geotextiles useful for the soil erosion control. He had mentioned that the newer uses of coir geotextiles are bound to make impact in the field of soil bio-engineering taking advantage of its eco-friendliness and biodegradability. He had also mentioned that the paper will be presented to highlight newer uses of coir geotextiles besides work done on the protection of ravines. Followed by this Dr. U.S. Sarma had made a Power Point presentation. Copy of the paper and Power Point presentation is enclosed (Annexure).

01.30PM

Inaugural function of IECA EXPO

The IECA EXPO was inaugurated by Mr. Philip Handley, the senior most Board Member of IECA by cutting the tape in the presence of all the 9 Board Members.

Chairman, Coir Board was invited by the President of the Board of Directors as an Honored Guest for attending the function.



Philip Handley cutting the tape

01.30PM-09.00PM

There was huge rush at the Coir Board booth where a large number of enquiries were placed for knowing the list of exporters of the coir geotextiles especially for application in roads construction. A large number of visitors to the booth were first time attendees of the International EXPO.



23rd February 2011
09.00AM-02.00PM: 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 and construction of roads. A list of entries in the visitor's book is enclosed.



Chairman in NCRMI booth



NCRMI Poster

The Special Secretary (Coir) to Govt. of Kerala informed that they have also got a number of enquiries pertaining to the coir geotextiles. They had presented a poster on the venue pertaining to the, "Eco-friendly river bank protection technologies using coir geotextiles".



CONCLUSION

It was indeed a privileged opportunity to present the paper by the Coir Board in this International Conference which was relevant to the use of coir geotextiles in the re-vegetation of ravines and in construction of roads. A lot of interest was generated by interacting with a large section of international buyers, contractors and decision makers by the Coir Board by participating in this international EXPO.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with deep gratitude and humbleness we express our thanks to Shri. Virbhadra Singh ji, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India for his kind permission to present paper and attend this International Conference and EXPO.

We are highly obliged to Shri. Uday Kumar Varma, IAS, Secretary to Govt. of India for his keen interest and encouragements to present the paper in this International Conference.

Thanks are due to Shri. Sesh Kumar Pulipaka, IAAS, Joint Secretary to Govt. of India who has been kind enough to contribute with his ideas during the preparation of the paper.



Dr. U. S. Sarma
Director, RDTE
Coir Board

V. S. Vijayaraghavan
Chairman
Coir Board