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 Reno, Nevada, U S A
from 12 -17 February, 2007

The Government of India deputed Dr.Chandrapal IAS, Hon'ble Secretary to Govt. of India (Ministry of SSI & ARI), 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 Reno, Nevada, U S A from 12-17 February 2007. The report on the participation of the Board is furnished hereunder.

12 th February, 2007

Course attended	:	PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES FOR CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS
Time	:	8.30am to 4.30pm
Presenters	:	RUSTY SCHMIDT AND MARK FELTON.
Participants	:	There were 35 participants having experience in various fields like Bioengineering, Chemistry, Decision makers, Environmentalists etc.

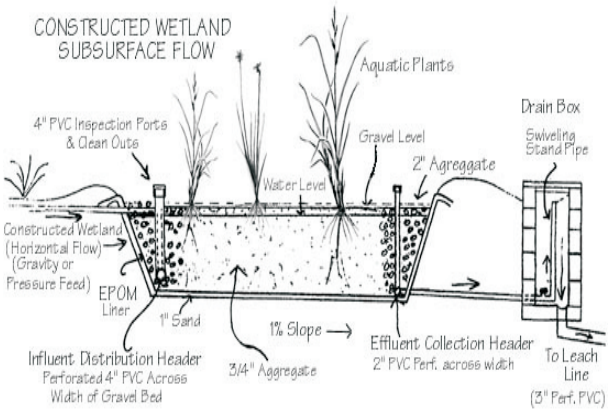
NATURAL WETLANDS - *The kidneys of mother earth.*

The course was designed to inform the participants on the benefits of Ramser sites that are natural wet lands where the water is purified through the natural process of filtration. Such wet lands are also known as kidneys of mother earth as they purify the contaminated water bodies by the process of filtration by capillary action and with the help of anaerobic and aerobic bacteria. The local plants also play very important role as their roots keep on pumping oxygen into the water bodies to reduce the Biological Oxygen Demand [BOD] besides evaporating water into the atmosphere through the leaves. The local fauna plays very dominant role in recycling process of water.

CONSTRUCTED WET LANDS

Due to alarming situation of contamination of water bodies especially in the developing countries, serious attention has been drawn by the environmentalists to protect the natural wet

lands and to generate new wet lands known as constructed wet lands. Such wet lands are constructed by mimicking the natural process of filtration in which the small sizes of gravels are arranged so that water flows little below the surface so as to intimately react with the anaerobic and aerobic bacteria. Above the gravels are planted various plants especially having affinity towards low pH. A few such plants are Cattail, Canna Indica etc. that could send their slender roots in to the wet land system so as to pump oxygen and facilitate the process of evaporation into the atmosphere.



CASE HISTORIES

The presenters had mentioned about their experiences of constructing wet lands for the biomedical wastes that are posing serious problems because of their highly complicated composition.

INDIAN EXPERIENCE

Constructed Wetland at CCRI Kalavoor, Alappuzha, Kerala.

It was pointed out by the Indian Delegation that they had the experience of constructing such a wet land system for the purification and recycling of effluents from a dye house in the coir industry which is treating 10,000 litres of effluent per day. It was also pointed out by the Indian Delegation that it would be worthwhile to make use of natural coir geotxtiles that have got the capacity of exchanging heavy metals which would be obviously present in the biomedical wastes.

POSTER PRESENTATION

A poster presentation by Shri. A. C. Jose and U. S. Sarma was displayed at the main entrance of the exhibit hall to highlight the Indian experience on application of coir geotextiles showing its versatility and future applications in the fields of Basal reinforcement, Wick drains, Landfill side slopes, Controlled permeability formwork, Interlayers to asphaltic overlays and Remediation of contaminated land.

MEDIA COVERAGE

One of the prominent TV News channel [ESCN.tv] covering the IECA event had interviewed Dr. Chandrapal, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of SSI and ARI, Govt. of India, regarding the applicability of coir geotextiles in its various fields of applications. The Secretary informed that the Coir Board has done considerable amount of work in the field of application of coir geotextiles that are eco-friendly and biodegradable.

13th February, 2007

Course attended	:	SUSTAINABLE NATIVE PLANT ESTABLISHMENT, BIOENGINEERING AND SUCCESS MONITORING METHODS
Time	:	8.30am to 4.30pm
Presenters	:	TOM WILLIAMS, JUDITH HILLIS AND ADRIAN JUNCOSA
Participants	:	There were 25 participants attending the course having specializations in the fields of soil bio-engineering, chemistry, botanists and civil engineering, landscape architects and contractors etc.

NATIVE PLANTS

It was emphasized that it was always better to use the native species of plants for sustainable development of sites. The plants should have good soil binding properties and should be able to thrive against weed competition. The roots should be deep and spreading and should have the community structure to intercept and slow down the precipitation. The plants should also have habitat values like forage or shelter. A thorough analysis of the soil must be made before planting a particular species of plant.

INDIAN EXPERIENCE

The Central Coir Research Institute, Alleppey and the Central Institute of Coir Technology, Bangalore have carried out about 25 experiments-cum-demonstrations in various parts of India on the application of natural coir geotextiles by selecting proper local species of plants like lemon grass, vetiver grass etc. after properly studying the soil properties. The studies have been documented and are available for sharing the experience.

OPENING OF EXPOSITION AT 4.30PM

COIR BOARD STALL AT THE EXPOSITION

The Coir Board had set up a stall at the exposition. The coir exporters from India and US companies dealing with coir in combination with other natural materials like straw were also participating in large numbers.

Shri. A. C. Jose, Chairman, Coir Board had explained the role of coir geotextiles in the field of soil erosion control while being interviewed by ESCN.tv.. He had highlighted the advantages of coir nettings in arresting the soil erosion and uses of other materials like COCOLAWN™. The Chairman has also interacted with a large cross-section of visitors to invite them to attend the Global exposition of Coir to be held from 19-26 October 2007 at Kochi.

LIST OF INDIAN EXPORTERS IN THE EXPO

1. M/s. Techno Exports [Booth 613]
2. M/s. Charankattu Coir-India [Booth 600]
3. Indian Chapter IECA [Booth 602]
4. M/s. Jos Coir Mills [Booth 619]
5. M/s. Johns 'N' Fibres [Booth 133]
6. M/s. Durofibretex [Booth 144]
7. M/S. Indus Coir [Booth 612 & 614]

LIST OF OTHER COMPANIES WHO HAD DISPLAYED COIR GEOTEXTILES

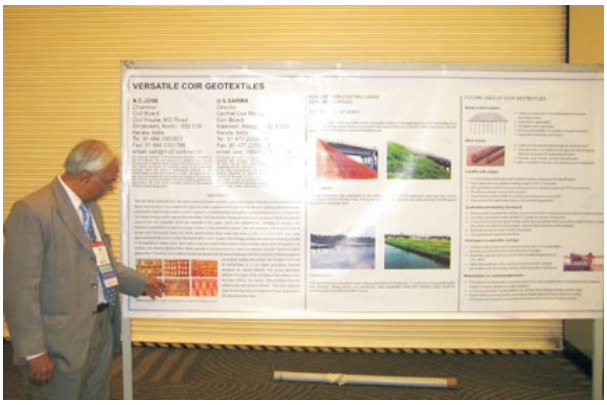
1. Mr. Shan Halamba
   M/s. Ceyhinz Link International, Inc. [Booth No. 636]
   1333 Corporate Dr. Suite 118 Irving TX 75038 USA
   E-mail- shan@ceyhinzlink.com

2. Mr. Lanka Santha
   M/s. Rolanka 155 Andrew Dr. Stockbridge, GA 30281
   E-mail- stevel@rolanka.com

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

4. Mr. K.G. Jayanath
   M/s. Excelhigh [Booth No. 260]
   67 Millbrook Street, #418
   Worcester, MA 01606 USA
   E-mail- excelfibre9@aol.com

14th February, 2007



Poster presentation on
"Versatile Coir Geotextiles"
by A. C. Jose and U. S. Sarma

Time- 11am to 12pm.

Exposition

8.30am to 4.30pm

A number of enquiries were put forth by the visitors at the Coir Board stall on various coir products including coir non wovens, coir polymer composite boards and coir pith. They have noted down their addresses in the visitor's book.

Visitors also took note of the Global Exposition on Indian Coir to be held from 19-21 October, 2007 at Kochi, Kerala. The posters were displayed prominently by the Indian Exporters in their respective stalls.

15th February, 2007

CHAPTER LEADERS' BREAKFAST

Time 7am to 8am

Shri. A. C. Jose, Hon'ble Chairman, Coir Board was introduced as the Patron of the Indian Chapter by Shri. C. R. Devaraj, President of the Indian Chapter. He had lauded the sincere efforts made by the Hon'ble Chairman in the formation of Indian Chapter.

CERIFICATE OF APPRECIATION


International Erosion Control Association

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

This certificate is awarded to:

DR. US SARMA

Thank you for supporting IECA as a member of the

CHAPTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meg Tully
IECA Director of Operations & Chapter Development

Dr. U. S. Sarma was awarded a certificate of appreciation by the IECA for his contributions in supporting IECA as a member of the Chapter Advisory Committee.

EXPOSITION

Time- 8.30am to 1.30pm.

A large number of visitors were enquiring about the advantages of coir over jute. Coir polymer composite boards also drew attention of a large section of crowd.

FEEDBACK FROM INDIAN EXPORTERS

The feedback forms were given to the Indian exporters for their comments and filled up forms were collected.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Time-5pm

Addressing the Meeting of Board of Directors, Shri. A. C. Jose, Chairman, Coir Board had appreciated the courses attended by the Indian delegation, however, he had emphasized that a few courses on application of natural geotextiles for soil erosion control may also be included from the next year so as to give the natural geotextiles their due importance. He had informed the Board that Coir Board encourages the Indian Exporters to participate in the IECA annual conference and exposition by subsidizing the participation fees. He had lauded the efforts made by ASIA-PACIFIC INSTITUTE OF SOIL BIO-ENGINEERING [APISBEE] that is the first NGO in India to work on soil erosion control. He had requested the Board of Directors to continue with the present fee structure.

Shri. C. R. Devaraj, Managing Director, Charankattu Coir Manufacturing Ltd., had mentioned that this time it was the largest delegation comprising of 8 exporters from India under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chairman, Coir Board. He had further requested the Board of Directors that the fees for participation should continue to be subsidized beyond 2007. He had also informed that the Indian Chapter has launched its web site viz., www.ieca.in and requested it to be linked with web site of IECA. He had suggested organizing a regional conference either in Singapore or Hongkong. He had also suggested organizing a study tour to China to share their experiences in the field of soil erosion control.

Shri. Mohanan Charankattu had made a power point presentation on the various projects undertaken by the APISBEE and acknowledged the assistance provided by the Coir Board in the endeavours of APISBEE.

16th February, 2007

FIELD TOUR TO TRUCKEE RIVER PROJECT AREA

Time- 8am to 12.30pm

Truckee River flows through the middle of Reno town and travels through a distance of 105 miles. This river had in the past caused heavy floods in the Reno town during the years 1907, 1928, 1940, 1950, 1986 as per the photographic records. The recent flood that had created a lot of problems in the town was in the year 1997. Since then a team of hydrologists, civil engineers, and Govt. contractors have drawn up a plan of 800 million US$ that is known as the "Living River Plan", to prevent such floods in future. This is the result of a six-year effort by the community coalition to protect the Truckee Meadows from flooding, restore the Truckee River's ecosystem, and create new recreational opportunities. The plan has been recommended to the US Army Corps of Engineers for authorization and funding by Congress. The plan includes constructing 8 Stream reaches, 1100 cross sections, 30 bridges and culverts, 38 storage areas, 105 lateral Weirs, 3 in-line weirs and 42 Hydraulic connections.

PARTICIPANTS

50 participants had gone to visit the sites where work would start shortly.

CONCLUSION

The annual conference & exposition of the year 2007 arranged by IECA was a highly successful event. The Indian Coir Industry made its presence felt by participation of largest delegation for boosting up the use of natural coir geotextiles in the field of soil erosion control globally. The media has made a prominent coverage for the exhibition of coir geotextiles. The two courses attended by the Coir Board delegation were also very much informative.

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

(A.C.Jose)
Chairman
Coir Board

(Dr. Chandrapal IAS)
Secretary (SSI & ARI)
Govt.of India

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