

DELHI STATE CENTRE

Annual General Meeting and Technical Session

May 8, 2009, Delhi

The AGM of Delhi State Centre was held at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi on May 8, 2009.

The Chairman of the State Centre, Mr. N. Nagarajan presented the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts which was approved by the members.

After the AGM Mr. Nagarajan introduced the newly elected members of the State Centre Committee and handed over the dais to the new Chairman Mr. A.K. Jain, Secretary, Mr. Sudesh Gupta and Treasurer, Mr. H.R. Vaish.

This was followed by a technical session. The first speaker was Dr. Satish Kumar who heads the USAID ECO-III Project and is also a Scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. A leading international expert in the field of building energy efficiency, he works very closely with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency. His riveting lecture on energy efficient buildings covered the macro picture, the issues relating to energy codes, examples of white roofs and the whole question of benchmarking and labeling. He pointed out that there was great potential for remedial action in as much that 70% of the commercial buildings that will be there in 2030 have yet to be built. His presentation addressed the kind of policies needed and how to translate these into action and implementation as well as the need to avoid repeating the mistakes made by other countries.

His presentation is available at the following link: <http://www.eco3.org/downloads/ISLE-ECBC.pdf>

The second presentation on the Art of Floodlighting by Ms Harvinder Kaur, Strategic Application Manager, Thorn Lighting revealed how exterior lighting could be used for the decoration of urban spaces, both natural or landscaped as well as ancient and contemporary buildings.

Revealing a subject by illumination requires the creation of contrast. The purpose of creating these contrasts is to reveal the beauty of form and structure and to give new interpretation of the surfaces and volumes. The balance of light and shadow creates a form of beauty not always evident during the daytime.

To illustrate her ideas, Ms Harvinder Kaur presented a case study of the lighting of the Antwerp Royal Museum of Fine Arts. This project was undertaken with a view to conserving energy as well as by taking an artistic approach to convey the importance of the building and the artifacts in a light and shadow rendition. Most of the building is only outlined by sufficient light whereas three dimensional effects and the grandeur of the building are brought into strong focus by the lighting of the Corinthian columns. The architect wanted to create a hierarchy of illuminance without overlighting while paying special attention to the focal points. This was a good example of an energy saving floodlit building with its unique architectural features intact.

She highlighted the need to keep in mind the CIE recommendation (in Pub. No. 94: 1993) that Floodlighting must not “drown the subject in the sea of light”. She also emphasised the need to keep the focus on saving the cost of energy rather than the cost of the product.

The presentations were followed by dinner.