

Vote of Thanks
By
Mr. N.A. VISWANATHAN
Secretary General
Cement Manufacturers' Association

Our Chief Guest Mr. J.M. Mauskar, Member, PM's Council on Climate Change and Former Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change; Mr. Shatrughna Singh, Addl. Secretary, DIPP; Mr. Gregory Harvey, Counsellor Commercial & Trade Commissioner, Australian High Commission; Dr. S. Chouksey, Vice-President, CMA; Dr. Jigar V. Shah, Executive Director, Institute for Industrial Productivity (IIP), Washington; Distinguished National and Overseas Delegates, Invitees, Exhibitors, Members of the Press, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my honour and privilege to conclude the Inaugural Session of the 2nd CMA-IIP International Conference on Enhanced Usage of Alternate Fuels and Raw Materials by proposing a hearty Vote of Thanks to each one of you.

At the outset, I would like to express, on behalf of Cement Manufacturers' Association, Institute for Industrial Productivity and on my personal behalf, our profound gratitude to the Chief Guest for graciously accepting our request and sparing his valuable time, to address the gathering, and for highlighting the issues that we need to deliberate on during the Conference. His inspiring and encouraging words are a pointer to the importance India attaches to the increased usage of Alternate Fuels and Raw Materials (AFR) and Waste Heat Recovery (WHR) and our keenness to realise this objective as a part of our commitment to contain emission levels and protect the environment. Mr. Mauskar, we are truly honoured to have you with us today.

We are equally encouraged by the presence of Mr. Shatrughna Singh, Addl. Secretary, DIPP, amongst us today. DIPP as the Administrative Department has always been positive and understanding of the problems of the Industry whenever we have approached them, be it the need for the Railway rakes or supply constraints of coal or issues related to environmental regulations. Mr. Singh, we would like to express our deep sense of gratitude for

your encouraging words. We are confident that the cement industry would continue to receive your Ministry's and your valued support and guidance in addressing the major concerns of the Industry. Just to strike a personal note, almost 3 decades back, Mr. Shatrughna Singh and I nearly worked together. But he then escaped me, by a few months because I had been transferred by the time, he joined that organization later. But I caught up with him at long last. Thank you very much Mr. Shatrughna Singh.

A special word of thanks to Mr. J.M. Mauskar and Mr. Shatrughna Singh, also for releasing our Special Publication on "Indian Cement Industry: Enhanced Alternate Fuels and Raw Materials Usage – a way ahead".

Post the visit of our Hon'ble Prime Minister to Australia, our trade and commercial relations with Australia have gained greater traction, vigour and vibrancy. There have also been exchanges of trade delegations between the two countries. It is therefore, only apt that this Conference which deals with the requirement of energy for the Cement Industry, has had the benefit of the perspective of Mr. Gregory Harvey, Counsellor Commercial & Trade Commissioner, Australian High Commission. Mr. Gregory Harvey, we are extremely thankful to you for your Address.

Dr. Jigar V. Shah of IIP is actually one of us and it is his initial idea and that of his colleagues that has flowered into an enduring association between CMA and IIP. Dr. Shah, thank you very much for your Welcome Address.

To Dr. S. Chouksey, Vice President of our Association, we owe a special debt of gratitude for his constant support and encouragement to CMA in all its activities. Being Delhi-based is both at once an advantage for us and disadvantage for Dr. Chouksey, for, we always turn to him at the slightest problem and Dr. Chouksey also ever so graciously responds with alacrity and engages with us seriously in trying to find solutions to cement-related issues. Dr. Chouksey, we have in you a true friend and a well-wisher. Thanks, indeed, for everything including for your Special Address.

We take this opportunity to extend our most sincere thanks to all the senior functionaries of the Government and all our honoured guests and invitees, who have come from different destinations.

Our deep appreciation also goes to all Chairmen, Co-chairmen, Panelists, Speakers from overseas as well as from different parts of India who through sharing of their expertise and perspectives would be enriching the proceedings of the Technical Sessions in the course of today and tomorrow.

I also wish to place on record our thanks to our sponsors and exhibitors for their support.

An event of this dimension cannot happen overnight. It requires meticulous planning and execution and an eye for detail. It is difficult to mention the name of everyone but I would certainly like to specially acknowledge the contribution of some of our dear colleagues, Mr. S.K. Wali, Mr. L. Rajasekar, Dr. B. Sengupta, Mr. Sanjay Jain and Mr. Somnath Bhattacharjee in helping identify resource personnel and working out other details of the Conference. If I have not made mention of any other names, it is not for want of acknowledgement. But it is only for want of time.

All our officers and staff have really worked hard and given their best to organise this Conference and minutely gone through and taken care of the nitty-gritty and the logistics of the arrangements. All the officers and the staff of CMA deserve special mention for their involvement and for willingly sharing the burden of organising such an event with enthusiasm and dedication.

Finally, we are thankful to both Print and Electronic Media for their interest in covering the Event and the Management and staff of the Hotel Le Meridien for making all the arrangements they have provided us for the Conference.

Ladies and gentlemen, once again I thank you for being with us this morning – it has been a great pleasure.

May I now request Shri Mauskar and Shri Shatrughna Singh to kindly proceed to the Hall across and formally inaugurate the Technical Exhibition

which has been mounted as a part of this Conference. I would also request the other dignitaries and delegates to join them and thereafter at Tea.

We will re-assemble around 12 Noon for the Technical Sessions.

Thank you very much.