

BCH's 'International Symposium on Geotextiles in India' Receives an Overwhelming Response

The International Symposium on Geotextiles in India organized by BCH received an overwhelming response from the industry. The one day symposium held on 17th October 08 at Mumbai, India brought together eminent players of the industry including suppliers of geosynthetic products, machinery and raw materials. The symposium saw participation of many companies from India and abroad who did not want to miss the opportunity of understanding the geotextile market in India. Also in attendance were officials from the Government and contractors as well as consultants involved in designing and laying down specifications for various infrastructure related projects.

The presentations made by the experts brought forth the true scenario of the Indian geotextile industry which proved significant in highlighting the voids of the industry that require immediate attention. The symposium was held in 4 sessions, first 3 focusing on different application areas of geotextiles including Roads & Highways, Dams & Rivers and Landfills & Railways and the last one on evolving trends in the industry. The sessions were packed till the end with fruitful networking happening during the breaks thus proving the vibrancy of this industry.

Mr. Samir Gupta, Managing Director, BCH making the opening presentation of the day gave the market scenario for all application areas for geotextiles in India and said, *"It is time when the industry moves to the next level and what is really needed is a collective effort.* Mr. P.K. Nanda of Intercontinental Consultants & Technocrats talked about the significance of geotextiles in roads & highways derived from his years of experience in this field which was further reinforced by Mr. M. Venkatraman of Garware Wall Ropes who threw light on some significant case studies based on the usage of geosynthetics in roads & highways. Mr. Klaus-Peter Wendt, LIBA Maschinenfabrik GmbH further threw light upon the manufacturing of warp knitted geotextiles and their applications. Mr. V. Bhave, Central Water & Power Research Station through his experience in bank protection works presented on how geotextiles could be effectively used for protecting river banks and controlling erosion.

Dams & Canals being a significant area for geosynthetics, Mr. V. Subramanian, Carpi India Waterproofing Specialists Private Limited presented on the topic 'Leakage treatment with PVC Geomembrane System on the Upstream of the Dam'.

The use of geosynthetics in constructing a landfill was stressed upon by Mr. Arun Aggarwal, Ramky Enviro Engineers who not only laid emphasis on the use of geosynthetics for constructing effective landfills but also threw light upon problems faced & other technical features. Prof. B. V. S. Viswanadham, IIT Mumbai highlighted the use of geosynthetics in environment engineering through his presentation 'Potential of Geosynthetics in Environmental Infrastructure Applications'. Also Mr. Jimmy Thomas, Techfab, focused on 'Usage of Geosynthetics in Railway Applications'.

The concluding session of the symposium had presentations from Mr.U.K. Guru Vittal, Central Road Research Institute; Mr. P.K. Choudhary from IJIRA & Mr. V.K. Patil & Dr. A.N. Desai, Bombay Textile Research Association who brought forth few of the eminent case studies, application of jute geotextiles in mines & the importance of testing geotextiles respectively. Issues and queries of both the manufacturers as well as users were answered with deliberations coming out of years of experience and future vision.

The delegate's comments included words of appraisal like "excellent content", "great organization" and "Good forum". Mr. Sanjeev Jhurani from Welspun India said, "As always, a good show was put up by BCH". Mr. V. Subramaniam, Director, Carpi India appreciated the efforts made by BCH and praised it for its initiative in organizing such events. Dr. P.K. Nanda, Consultant, ICT commented, "The symposium by BCH was a great platform that brought the entire industry together."

The event also had tabletop displays by participating companies who exhibited their brochures and offerings. Some of the names present at the symposium included companies like Reliance Industries Ltd., Terram Geosynthetics, DILO, government organizations such as Central Power & Water Department, along with reputed research organisations such as IIT, Mumbai, Bombay Textile Research Association & Indian Jute Industries' Research Association, to name a few.

Geotextiles are entering the Indian market in a huge way and seeing the potential for application in Indian Infrastructure, these innovative textiles will be the next big thing in building materials. Having excellent speakers who are experts in the field and a mix of audience that form an important part of supply chain, this symposium proved instrumental in identifying the keen interest of national as well as international players in exploring the Indian market as well as to recognize the needs & requirements of different segments forming a part of the geotextile industry.

BCH, organizers of the event promised to continue their efforts by organizing such events and made a special announcement about the next big event of the industry, The International conference on technical textiles and nonwovens, organized by IIT Delhi from November 11-13, 2008 which will have one of the region's most significant gatherings in the field of technical textiles and nonwovens.

For further information

Please contact: Telephone: +91-11- 23328130 / 41520207, Fax: +91- 11- 23316008, E-mail: info@bch.in,
Website: www.bch.in