

**TCDPAP Conference
Day 3 - March 13, 2009**

Closing Ceremony

Address by Dr. John Boyd

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Honorable Minister of Science and Technology, Mr. Secretary, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

At this time in a conference, it is always wise to ask ourselves what was our expectations when we came here and was that expectations met by the substance of the conference? FIDIC as the international representative of the business of consulting is always very interested in the role the consultants should play in the society. During our opening session, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Physical Planning and Works, and the Finance Minister all said the same thing. They all said that the requirement from consulting industry was to produce leadership in helping to develop economy and that was put in a way that is really a challenge to us. I think, to come up with that leadership, we should try to evaluate this conference that we had as to whether it actually a contribution to that leadership. Now the engineering approach of course is to take a difficult subject and break it into series of component pieces, deal with each of the pieces and hope that at the end of the day you have actually solved the problem. So what would you need to do in order to deliver this leadership that was called for. Well, you need to assemble knowledge on what the situation was, you need to develop an understanding of what that knowledge meant, you need to identify resources you need for alliances and finally you need to carry out the work. So let us take those topics as part of our evaluation of this conference:

1) First assemble the knowledge. Well we had excellent country reports that sort of provided a great deal of information. Wwe have had a good deal of specific information about Nepal and the situation in this country. I can't speak for you but I know a lot more now than I did when I came to this conference. So I would suggest that in terms of item number one, assembling knowledge, we can put a big check mark against that objective.

2) Second is to develop understanding, and knowledge without understanding is useless and again if you look at the country reports and Nepal opportunities reports that we provided, that was a good deal of discussion is to why things were happening as well as what were happening. So the information necessary determines some of that data into understanding was there and certainly the theme reports gave example of how specific problems had been addressed in various parts of the world. So again, I feel, that I have a much better understanding than I had when I arrived couple of days ago. So let's put another check mark there.

3) Third is to identify resources, and certainly Nepal opportunities presentations

provided information on the physical, the social, the technical resources and even on the occasions verged on the political realities of Nepal which I thought was very interesting. The theme papers identified resources that have been used to solve specific problems elsewhere. That perhaps could be copied when it comes to dealing with Nepal's situation. And certainly there were multinational and regional resources that were also identified and finally the country reports talked about specific area of expertise that have been developed in particular countries and might be called upon in this solution for leadership. So, third point gets a check mark as well.

4) The Fourth is forming alliances. We had lots of opportunities to meet and greet and there has probably been several thousand business cards exchanged over the course of last couple of days. Not only did we find out who we talked to but we also learned something about what to talk about and if you as an individual have not benefited from this opportunity to meet and greet and find out more and form some alliances and develop some business then shame on you. I think the conference deserves a check mark on that one as well.

5) The last and the hardest bit. We got all the pieces. Assemble now we have to execute the project. I think we are really looking at a way to respond to the spirit of the Prime Minister's challenge and I think to do that we have to step out of our comfort zone as engineers. Leadership does not just mean the technical knowledge to execute projects, it also implies financial assembly of resources, and it implies a social understanding of what will work and what will not. It implies a political understanding of what is required to make the project happen. A couple of years ago I got very interested in the lives of some of the earlier and very influential engineers that developed the canal systems in the pre-industrial revolution age that developed the railways, that developed the first mobile sources for factories and so on and so forth. So when I read through the various biographies there was pattern that emerged. Those giant engineers identified the society's needs, devised solutions to those needs, raised the necessary money to execute the projects, arranged for parliamentary passage of the necessary laws, constructed the facilities and then ran them. And I would suggest you that for us to respond to the Prime Minister's challenge we need to step out of our comfort zone and become like some of those great engineers in the past. So this conference that provided checks in four, out of five of the boxes, that I identified at the beginning of the presentation. Checking off the last one is up to you.