

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

## **Closing Ceremony**

### **Address by Honorable Mr. Ganesh Shah, Minister of Science and Technology and Environment**

Greetings. First of all, I think, it was a great pleasure and honor for me not as a minister but as an engineer to be with the international engineering committee. So I came to you on the last moment when you had discussed everything very professionally, I think. I have heard how sincerely, how actively, how constructively you have discussed the issues and the challenges how globalization is putting in front of consultant engineers. I personally, I am engineer, work in the engineering field but I am basically trade union activist also. So we have been talking about the opportunities and challenges of globalization not today, but I think more than twenty five years. What are the impact of globalization on the employment issues, on the economic issues and I think now when the world is facing the economic crisis, when the world is facing the issue of climate change, what we call the green house effect. I think in this scenario, of global economic crisis and the environmental issues, there are challenges in front of very part of the world. Our friends were talking they have not touched the Himalayas.

The Everest, I think, when I am as a Minister of Environment, Science and Technology sit in my office, and I am very much afraid that our new generation might not see that ice on the Himalayas. May be the ice would have melted. Our glaciers would have burst. So when we are designing, our consultant engineers are doing the job globally. I think every time everything has to be considered from the environmental point of view. Now everything you are talking about, the food crisis, we are talking about hunger, about poverty then the country Nepal which is rich in water resources, but as you say, we have 16 hours load shedding in our country. So that is the parody situation that we are rich in hydropower but we don't have electricity. So it is the challenge for the international community especially for our Nepali engineers who are building and designing the hydropower stations, and transmission lines. So this is one of the major issues the Nepali government is facing today. That's why the government of Nepal is taking a big concern in the consulting community.

As you had told, the Prime Minister was here in the opening ceremony. Our Finance minister who is also an engineer had been here in the opening ceremony. Our minister for Physical Planning and Works had been here in the opening ceremony and I came to you as minister plus friend of the engineering community because in my visiting card I put Engineer Ganesh Shah then I put minister. And in front of us, we have engineer secretary in this closing ceremony.

When I talk of the economic crisis, then we see that water is going to be one of the major issues and how you are going to manage the water resources? That is one of the challenges. Another challenge in our country is regarding infrastructure. As you know, the country has been facing a lot of problems in the infrastructure whether we

are talking about building the new international airports, or talking about fast tracks. So these infrastructures are the tremendous challenges. But I think there is a tremendous opportunities when we are talking about globalization. I see our friends, engineering friends who started the consulting businesses about 30 years before. It was difficult even to get registration. I remember CEMAT, MULTI, EAST, and few other old consultancy companies of Nepal. During those days, people didn't know what the engineering consultancy was for. And after restoration of democracy in 1990, the engineers started raising their voices in organized way. They started working in organized way. They started persuasion with the government in an organized way. That way today they have made big achievements. I feel proud and happy that this community is not alone. This is working with the international community of the consulting engineers. So this is a good opportunity to share the experience you the consulting engineers have in other countries.

With all the issues so I think next year SCAEF will be 20 years and that will be another step going for another check mark. So you see, we will have very good check marks in our consulting community.

As our brother from Pakistan said that we have been able to manage this conference successfully that already shows the competency of Nepali engineers. In Nepal, our generation may be the first generation of engineers. When this organization will be 50 years, there will be another generation.

There are about 22 engineering institutes which are producing hundreds of new dynamic and talented engineers whom they have to guide because these new guys have new knowledge, they are dynamic, energetic and seek employment in this sector too. In politics, in our country, sometimes we say that the ministers do less, advisers do more. In the same way, here the government is investing and the main task is performed by the engineering community. When I talk to my friends, we are talking about the international funds, making of tenders on the international level, designing at international level. I put all these challenges in front of Nepali community.

I mostly say, in Trade Unions we feel strong when we say the word solidarity. In this big hall, the representation of 16 countries, with 9 country papers, is a symbol of big solidarity of the consulting engineers for which you all must feel very proud and must feel strong and not feel weak. Another thing which is, say in meetings like this, 'it is not only the meeting of engineers, but also the meetings of friends also. So, I sometimes say, "the things which can't be done with money sometimes and bullets can be done by friendship". So, the friendship in front of all, I think, is a friendship of strength which will help us in the coming days. I hope you didn't have a very bad stay in Nepal because Nepal is a country of hospitality. Therefore, I hope it was not so bad (laugh). To be frank the engineering community you are seeing here is the most talented guys of their generation in the Nepali community. They are the toppers of their times. Lastly, I thank everyone especially TCDPAP, and FIDIC for giving such a big moral support to our consulting engineering community. I can't say welcome but will say, "have a happy return, till you all see each other in Vietnam". I thank all the international delegates. All the best, [and wish you grand] success.