



MetroRail Conference - November 16, 2010 ITC Windsor, Bangalore

The city of Bengaluru hosted for the first time a thought-provoking conference on Metro Rail. Organised by ASAPP CONFERENCES, the day-long conference deliberated on the theme of "Latest Innovations, Strategies and Opportunities in building a world class metro-rail in India." Attended by luminaries in the metro-rail industry, the banquet hall in the city's prestigious hotel was packed to its fullest capacity revealing the interest and the significance of the metro -rail in the country. Over 150 delegates deliberated to ensure that the Indian public transport user has a rich experience not just in commuting between destinations but avail travel with luxury, leisure and a modern aesthetic lifestyle. Experts shared their experiences of various countries like Shanghai and Hong Kong on the occasion to give a detailed insight into what's in store for the metro-rail future in India.

In his welcome address, Pratap Vijay Padode, Editor-in-Chief & Managing Director, ASAPP Media Information Group said, "Our mission is to create a platform of developing ideas and ideas to build a new and dynamic India. He elaborated that construction was a bad word some years ago but by instituting awards and conferences ASAPP Media had embarked upon building in values of transparency and setting up quality benchmark for the industry. He said urbanisation "is a magnet" and by 2040 it is believed that 40 per cent of the population would be living in urban cities. He pointed out to the several challenges and debates in rapid transport and said it was essential to provide better connectivity as that further result into better business.

The cutting edge over other conferences was the presence of the Guest of Honour – Dr. E. Sreedharan, Managing Director, Delhi Metro. Though there have been several other conferences held on the subject none were successful to ensure his presence. Thus Dr Sreedharan's exclusive presence on the occasion gave the conference tremendous credibility and added repute. In his Keynote Address, he applauded the organisers for the "timely" organisation of the conference on the crucial subject of metro-rail. He said it was significant that the conference became a "rallying point for metromen in the country." He pointed out that 6 cities have started construction of metro rail and 6 cities have metro rail plans on the anvil. Sreedharan pointed out to the tremendous growth and rapid urbanisation in India. He said by 2021 this unprecedented growth would result in one fifth of the population to live in cities and key towns. He believed that various state governments should support the metro -rail projects in their respective states.

Understanding government policies in urban transport solutions and specifically in metro rail

B.I. Singal, Director General, Institute of Urban Transport highlighted the NUTP Report of 2006.

In a powerful and dynamic presentation on Urban transportation policy issues (urban re-design through metro rail, inter-modal integration, Hyderabad elevated metro as a PPP project) NVS Reddy, Managing Director, Hyderabad Metro Rail threw light on Far Eastern countries experiences and dweRisk mitigation strategies for successful PSPlved on aesthetics and urban redesign concepts and affirmed that the metro rail in Hyderabad would not be "just a structure." Integrated multimodal transit system was the key, he stated.

On the query from another IAS officer S Krishna of the relevance of PPP mode in metro rail, Reddy was firm and categorical in his reply and said that government officers shouldn't dwelve into business areas but involve in framing regulatory measures and he whole heartedly supported the PPP model. He said it was the need of the hour and India required to move ahead.

On the debate on new technologies and applications in Indian Cases for Cost Effective Stainless Steel Solutions for Metros

Sandeep Maheshwari, Head –Quality Assurance, JSL Stainless gave an insight into the issues related to stainless steel.



Risk mitigation strategies for successful private sector participation was discussed by Subramaniam, Sr. Vice President, L&T-IDPL. He narrated the experiences of building the flyovers and roads adjoining the Bangalore airports.

The areas of Modern Signalling & Telecommunication were aptly covered by V. Raghunathan, Advisor (Tech), Ansaldo STS Transportation Systems India Private Limited. Design and aesthetics were spoken in greater detail and Application of Stainless Steel in metro rolling stock and amenities was touched upon by M.L. Gowda, Jindal Architecture.

The subject of Replicability and reliability through effective and safe operation was equally discussed with concern.

O&M: The public and private expertise and experiences were shared by Frederic Noel, Managing Director, Veolia Transport RATP.

Respected and reputed government officer R.C. Sharma, Officer on special duty –Land & Operations, Jaipur MetroRail threw light on Project management approach to Jaipur Metro Rail Project.

Under the sub-theme on Benchmarks and learning experiences, the challenges in planning for metros were discussed by N. K. Kumar, CGM –project finance, Chennai Metro Rail Limited. As to How Kolkata Metro learnt to address congestion

Dr. S.K. Das, Chief Operations, Kolkata Metro Rail dwelled in great details.

The conference emerged as a successful exercise. Sreedharan's presence was the icing on the cake. SAPP CONFERENCES reiterated and reestablished itself as a successful platform to set up quality benchmarking and an effective business connect. It is reported that ASAPP CONFERENCES is all set to enter the capital city - Delhi with yet another thought-provoking conference on Airports and Aviation sector on December 1, 2010.