

EDITORIAL

- ANNUAL CONVENTION OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES - CAN WE MAKE THEM MORE FRUITFUL ?

The 26th Annual conference of ISTE was held at Jaipur, the pink city of Rajasthan, on 4-6th Jan. 1997. More than 1000 delegates, men and women attended the conference drawn from all the states. These men and women were practioners in the field of Engineering Education - Teachers, HOD's, Principals, Administrators, Policy makers : from Polytechnics, Engineering Colleges, REC's, I.I.T.'s, Directors of Tech. Education, Vice-Chancellors of Tech. University, top officials from AICTE & MHRD. It is a rare occasion when all practioners involved in the system, at different stage of their career, young and old, even senior citizens who are still active workers, come together for about 2-3 days, and apply their mind to the ongoing developments in the Engineering Education system.

The objectives of such conference are or should be :

1. To provide an opportunity to develop a sense of belonging to the profession.
2. To exchange ideas and share the experiences.
3. Presenting emerging trends in the philosophy of Technical Education and relevant application of the same in educational field.
4. to take review of present practices coupled with conceptualisation of future trends & to consider how to prepare ourself for the same.
5. To accord recognition to quality & excellence to individuals & Institutions, operating in this system and giving away certificates of merits, mementoes & awards etc, etc.
6. To deliberate on a selected topic of current interest and to make recommendations to policy makers so as to provide the feedback for the present practice and input for review of policies and policy changes.
7. Review the work done during last year and plan for future activities of the organisation.

Each Annual convention of ISTE, needs to be analysed in the light of the objectives mentioned above and an attempt should be made as to how far the above mentioned objectives are attained through such conferences. All India Association of Educational Technology (AIAET) and Indian Distance Education Association (IDEA) also hold such Annual conventions.

Each convention should not be an isolated event by itself. It should form a link in the annual progress made by the Engineering Education, indicating problems to be solved, problems being solved and preparation being made to attend to the challenges of the future. All this has to be done at the national level. This task has to be done in a planned and purposeful way and hence it will be advisable and necessary to assign this task of carrying out professional audit of these Annual Conventions to a group of experts of educational consultants, which are slowly emerging on the horizon. This will definitely lead to making such conventions more fruitful. An audit will indicate the professional gains made by individual delegates and collectively by the professional body and its contribution to the growth and development of the profession, society and the nation, from year to year. Time has come now when we need to carry out professional audit of such conferences. So that we get a feed back and make them more and more fruitful.

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Editor.

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