



32nd Symposium: “Introduction of New Technologies and the Role of Consulting Engineers”

scheduled on Saturday, June 29, 2024

Presidential Address

Respected Speakers,
My dear fellow Engineers,
Honourable Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen!

SALAMUN ALA MANIT-TABA’AL-HUDA

The Pakistan Academy of Engineering recognises that there is no formally constituted institution in the country looking after technology assessment and transfer of emerging technologies. There used to be a poorly managed organisation in the mid-seventies looking after technology transfer.

However, we have no information as to why it was disbanded. The question now is whether an organisation is necessary to promote and facilitate transfer of new technologies for the benefit of the country.

The only living organisations dealing with the application of technologies to realise the development projects are the firms of consulting engineers registered with the Pakistan Engineering Council. At this point of time this is the only media expected to promote use of new technologies, Undoubtedly, there are barriers. Consulting Engineers are not fully independent to upgrade the technologies involved in their projects. Adoption of new technologies has to primarily emerge in the stipulations made by the owners of the projects, Government & private. Collaboration with foreign consulting firms has been a successful mode of technology transfer in the past. However, the urgency of deriving benefit from the viable new technologies it would be necessary to remodel the regulatory space.

The Pakistan Engineering Council in its “Conduct and Practice of Consulting Engineers” Bye-Laws very clearly regulates that **“A Consulting Engineer shall continue to acquire the latest Knowledge of discipline through continuing**

professional development as prescribed by the Council. Furthermore, in case of transfer of technology agreements, foreign consultants shall apply to the Council a copy of the approval obtained from the employer. However, we regret to note that there appears to be no monitoring. The consulting engineers may testify in this respect.

We have a hefty list of 847 registered consulting engineers. Should we expect that the vital cause of technology transfer will be faithfully pursued by them.

We hope our respected and knowledgeable consulting engineers will come up with practically enforceable measures designed to act as an effective media for technology transfer.

Thank you, Ladies & Gentlemen.