



e-Newsletter, Issue 8, December 2011

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ASCE - India Section

wishes its Members and their Families

A Happy and Prosperous New Year 2012

1.0 ASCE-IS Eastern Region's Field Trip

ASCE-IS Eastern Region organized its first field trip to Asia's first water treatment plant to supply potable water from a surface water source (River Hooghly), jointly with Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), UK, India-Eastern Region. The plant is operated and maintained by Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC).

The trip got started with a bus collecting the participants from various places on its way to ASCE-IS's Salt Lake office. Dr. A K Kar, President, ASCE-IS and Mr. B Mukherjee, Regional Director, ASCE-IS ER joined the group for the trip. Some of the participants arrived at BC 96 Salt Lake directly and the others went to the plant directly. It took some good time for the bus to reach the plant on the northern fringe of Kolkata. Lunch packets were picked up on the way.

On arrival at the plant, the team was introduced to Mr. Debasish Mukherjee, the concerned KMC Engineer, who was there to conduct the tour for the group. Lunch was served to the group before the start of the actual field trip. Then, Mr. Mukherjee showed the team around for the next 2 hours and a half starting with the intake points, raw water pumping stations, primary settling tanks, slow sand filtration plants, and finally disinfection units. He was very thorough in describing the salient technical details of various plant units and related aspects of their development over the past centuries since its inception.

The plant was commissioned in the year 1868 with a capacity of 6 Million Gallon per Day (MGD). Gradually, it grew into a large plant comprising of 100 MGD slow sand filtration plant and other types of advanced filtration unit. Total current output from the plant is 260 MGD (1,183 MLD), which is mostly supplied to the citizens of Northern Kolkata and a few neighbouring municipal areas. The location of this Palta Water Treatment plant is about 30 km from Kolkata City centre (central business district). Such a location was selected at that time chiefly because the scouring and silting effect of River Hooghly was minimal at this point. Clear water from this location is transmitted to Tallah pumping station, about 22 km away, through 6 number old and new pumping stations.

The trip ended at about 5 pm and the group thanked Mr. Mukherjee for his time and effort before departing from the facility.

Field Trip Group at Palta Water Works



Membership Advancement

If you are currently an Affiliate or Associate Member of ASCE

ASCE-IS encourages you to upgrade your membership and become a full Member

Please contact us at asce.is.email@gmail.com or member@asce.org for guidance

Special recognition goes to Dr. M K Singh, and Mr. Anuj Kumar. Dr. Singh is an Associate Professor and Faculty-In-charge (T&P), Department of Applied Mathematics, Indian School of Mines who made it from Dhanbad to visit this plant. Mr. Anuj Kumar came all the way from New Delhi to Kolkata just to attend this trip. Several others made it from other districts in West Bengal.

The trip received financial support from ICE, UK, India-Eastern Region (represented by Dr. Debabrata Kar, ICE Country Representative, Eastern India) and some other local sponsors. Non-members were charged Rs. 150 as registration fees. A field note was given to all the attendees with technical information about the trip so that they could follow it better.

A feedback form was first circulated and later collected from the attendees. The field trip received

very positive feedback from the participants with almost everybody agreeing on the unique nature of this Civil Engineering Landmark. A few comments and remarks were also received which will help the organizers plan the next one better.

Participants of the trip included students from Bengal Engineering and Science University (BESU), students and faculties of University of Kalyani, Presidency University, and practicing Civil Engineers of reputed Consulting Firms operating in Kolkata. A few members of ICE in Kolkata attended the field trip.

ASCE-IS Eastern Region would like to extend its gratitude to Mr. Bibhas Maity, Director General (Water) and Mr. N B Basu, Principal Chief Engineer, Kolkata Municipal Corporation for their help and support to let us organize this trip at their plant.



Is committed to reach out to its India Section Members

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By post to "President, ASCE-IS, BC 96 Salt Lake City, Sector I, Kolkata 700 064"