

Holtec India's Executive Chairman presented with CEAI's Lifetime Achievement Award



Holtec India's Executive Chairman, Mr. Umesh Shrivastava, has been honoured by the Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI) with its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. In a glittering ceremony held at New Delhi on December 12, the award was presented to Mr. Shrivastava in recognition of his exemplary contribution towards supporting the promotional, collaborative and regulatory role of the association, in the development of the engineering consulting profession.



With academic credentials from the Banaras Hindu University and the Harvard Business School, and pursuant to a decade-long corporate career, Mr. Shrivastava founded Holtec Consulting in 1967. Under his inspired tutelage, Holtec has grown to become one of the best cement advisories in the world, with a footprint spanning almost four thousand consulting assignments in over eighty countries.



HOLTEC CONSULTING PRIVATE LIMITED

Holtec Centre, A Block, Sushant Lok
 Gurgaon, Haryana 122 001, India
 Phone : +91 124 4047900; Fax : +91 124 2385114
 E-mail : info@holtecnet.com
 Web : www.holtecnet.com





[Turn to page 19]
to read about the safe handling of
alternative fuels.

**[Senegal] Dangote Cement forges ahead
with expansion plans**

Dangote Cement has announced its intention of opening a 1.5 million t cement plant in Pout, Senegal. The plant will be constructed to the same specifications as the 6 million tpa Ibese cement plant in Nigeria. China's Sinoma, which served as the main contractor for the Ibese plant, will also work on the new site in Senegal. There are plans to increase the new plant's capacity to 5 million tpa in the future. The plant will create 900 direct and 3000 indirect jobs.

**[India] Lifetime Achievement award for
Holtec India Chairman**

Executive Chairman of Holtec India, Mr Umesh Shrivastava, has been given a lifetime achievement award by the Consulting Engineers Association of India (CEAI). The award was presented in recognition of his contributions to the association, alongside his support for its promotional, collaborative and regulatory roles in the development of the engineering consultancy profession as a whole.



**[USA] PCA predicts growth in
consumption levels**

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) has predicted that US cement consumption will rise by 8.1% this year. The projected figure is higher than that forecast in the PCA's previous report, following the fiscal cliff accord, the improving economic situation and more positive predictions regarding residential construction activity. However, 1Q13 consumption levels are expected to be lower than 1Q12. PCA Chief Economist Ed Sullivan explains: "This potential decline in first quarter growth rates does not signal a weakening in market fundamentals, but rather a hangover from favourable 2012 weather conditions. Stronger gains in cement consumption growth are expected during the second quarter".

Growth of 8.3% is expected in 2014, followed by up to 9.2% in 2015 – 2017. In 2012, cement consumption reached 78.5 million t.

**[Worldwide] FLSmidth receives
a €125 million loan for research and
development**

FLSmidth has secured a 5-year-bullet loan worth €125 million from the European Investment Bank. The loan will fund the company's global cement industry research and development programme in 2013 – 2016. This initiative will concentrate on enhancing energy efficiency, lowering emissions and developing innovative products.

Meanwhile, in Germany, FLSmidth Wadgassen has received the Occupational Health and Safety Management System certification for its health and safety standards. The certification was granted by TÜV SÜD Management Service GmbH and is valid until 2015.

Volume and pricing



Cement prices begin to rise. Additional capacity, despite weaker demand and capacity utilization, is expected in 2013 as more delayed projects come on line.

ADDITIONAL CAPACITY

India's cement industry is expected to install additional capacity, despite weak demand and low capacity utilization. The cement industry is projected to add another 30 to 40 million tons of capacity. It currently has a capacity of 324 million tons per year and operates at 75-80 percent utilization, due to weak cement demand from realty and infrastructure sectors. The capacity addition for 2013 will be more than expected as some of the projects slated for completion in 2012 were delayed and will now go online in 2013.



weaker demand even as the peak construction period started. Sector analysts say the current rise in prices is in line with their expectations as post mid-January dealers had signaled fresh hikes. The northern region has taken the lead, as the price hike is in the range of RS 20-25, while in the west, prices are being quoted RS 15-20 higher for a 50 kg bag of cement.

Meanwhile, the eastern market also saw a rise of RS 10-15 recently. Only the southern region so far has stayed away from a price hike, but dealers in the region hinted that they too would follow suit.

With the recent price hikes, the all India average price, which was hovering around

RS 270 for a cement bag, has surged to around RS 280-285. This is the first major hike after the monsoon.

HEIDELBERG HIKES PRICES

The India based unit of HeidelbergCement hiked cement prices by RS10 on a 50 kg bag in west and central India in mid-January. According to Ashish Guha, CEO and MD, the hike was long overdue given a prolonged slack season. He further said that the company has not yet raised prices in the southern market but a revision cannot be ruled out in the near term as the situation is improving in the region.

The company made the decision to revise prices after sales picked up around 20 percent month-on-month in December after months of sluggish growth.

"On a larger scale, the industry is poised for a moderate growth in the medium term due to a sudden spurt in construction activities on eased policy reforms. The sector, at the beginning of 2013 has even predicted a 12% growth and a significant price correction," Guha said.

FOCUS



LOESCHE FINDS SUCCESS AT MPC

The MPC (Madurai Productivity Council) organized a seminar in Pune in October 2012. The theme of this year's seminar was "Cement industry - Lean and Greenway." The seminar was held in the hotel Le Meridien for roughly sixty participants. The participants were mostly related to cement and allied industries; they ranged from cement plant managers, corporate level managers and consultants to head of Indian operations. There were fifteen different presentations from various OEM's such as Loesche and IKN India and cement manufacturers such as Orient Cement, ACC- Holcim, J.K. Cement India and Madras Cements.

This year, Loesche participated in the MPC Seminar with two papers. The first was presented by Vishal Aggarwal from Loesche India on "Clinker Grinding without water spray and hot gas in Loesche VRM - A Case Study at ACC Ltd." Loesche received the "Best Paper Award" for this presentation. The second Loesche paper was presented by Rohan Sharma from Loesche, Germany, on "Generating of High Specific Surface Areas on Loesche Mills."

A site visit to M/s Polysius India manufacturing unit on the second day, together with the seminar, made MPC a quality seminar with good technical papers and a platform to interact with many people from various levels in the cement industry.

People

Holtec's Chairman is honored with lifetime achievement award. Loesche India welcomes new managing director. Udaipur Cement Works installs an additional board member.



P.C. Abraham

New Delhi on December 12, the award was presented to Shrivastava in recognition of his exemplary contributions towards supporting the promotional, collaborative and regulatory role of the association in the development of the engineering consulting profession.

NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR

P.C. Abraham took over responsibility as Managing Director of Loesche India on October 1, 2012. In his new position as Managing Director, Abraham is responsible for the management of Loesche India. Abraham joined Loesche India in 1995 and had been working as Executive Director of the Technical Department. Under his leadership, Loesche India established a successful and competent Technical Field Service Department. Further, he was responsible for significant growth in the company's after sales business.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Udaipur Cement Works installed Shri Ganpat Singh as an Additional Director on the Board of Directors of the company in November 2012. Singh holds an engineering degree and has more than 43 years of experience in the cement industry.

ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR APPOINTED

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