

CenTR News

Lack of adequate space at BCL's new office at Gulshan has limited the CenTR's operation to nominating BCL engineers to the well-known professional training institutions elsewhere, preferably in Dhaka. Two of these programs attended by our engineers are given in the following sections.

A seminar on 'Housing, Building Materials and Technology' was held at Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI), Dhaka on the occasion of 'World Habitat Day'. The seminar was centered on low-cost building and sustainable environment. Mr Hasin Jahan, Country Director, and Mr Sirajus Salekin, Senior Project Engineer at Practical Action together with some researchers at HBRI made their presentations on housing related experiences. They showed how a normal tin-shed house can be converted into a low-cost building where the living space was proposed to be raised above the ground by about 220 cm and the available vertical space at the ground may be used as shelter for livestock and for limited agriculture, and the roof for rain water harvesting. Two young engineers, Abdullah Sinha and Kamal Hosain Shikdar from BCL attended the 2-day seminar. A research engineer from HBRI Mr Boni Amin also presented a paper 'Application of Ferro-cement Technology in Retrofitting of RC Frame'. The purpose of the study has been to find out the effect of

ferro-cement on masonry infill walls. A paper on 'In search of Resilience: Exploring Mud House of Dinajpur' published by Fatiha Polin and Shamin Sultana was displayed. This paper is a catalogue of the existing built forms with an endeavour to find a way to stabilize them to act as a contemporary mud building in today's world. Additionally, an architect from North South University, Mr Abdur Rob presented a paper on 'Exploring new methods of construction with sustainable materials in rural Bangladesh'. His paper dealt with the new methods of construction using organic materials in the rural areas.

BCL Engineers Md Giasuddin and Khalilur Rahman attended a 3-day (Saturday's only) 18 hours training on 'Computer Aided Project Management' between 29 Oct to 12 Nov. The presenters at ESCB comprehensively covered the essential aspects of Computer Aided Project Management with an excellent quality of presentation.

While recommending the BCL attendees for the training the trainees were advised that they would be expected to make presentation on the subject before their colleagues at BCL on a convenient schedule after they have received the training.

Information on the training activities in the next quarter is available from the Head of CenTR at:

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ROAD MAINTENANCE IN TAJIKISTAN: CAREC 6

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A study of the Road Maintenance System and Asset Management was taken up on Ayni-Panjakent-Uzbekistan Border Road as a part of the nearly completed rehabilitation of CAREC Corridor 6 project under an ADB grant.

The current road maintenance system in Tajikistan dates back to the Soviet era and, is encoded in the road construction and maintenance technical regulations developed in 1984 and 1989, which system cannot fully meet the needs of road maintenance. There is no database of road condition survey data. HDM is not in use. The Consultants have suggested a Road Sector Institutional Reform to the Ministry. Mr Annoyatshoev Alovuddin, Director, Road Maintenance Department, MOT, informed that the Ministry has signed an agreement with European Union Bank to introduce road standard and road sector institutional reform. It is expected that HDM-4 would be introduced following institutional strengthening of the Ministry.

Key factors contributing to poor road maintenance in Tajikistan are: