

**Proceedings of the
SDEF 15th Apex Body Meet**

**Date : 12-14 May 2016
Venue : Bangabandhu International Conference Center
Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**Inaugural Session
Chief Guest
Architect Yeafesh Osman
Hon'ble Minister
Ministry of Science and Technology, GoB**



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**SAARC Diploma Engineers Forum (SDEF)
15th Apex Body Meet
12-13 May 2016 held in Dhaka, Bangladesh
Proceedings of the Meet**

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of SDEF 15th Apex Body Meet was held on 12 May 2016 at 2.30 pm at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC), Sher-e-Banglanagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Presided over by Engr. Kameshwar Prasad Singh, Chairman of SDEF and President, Diploma Engineers Association Nepal (DEAN). The meeting was attended by delegates from Nepal, Sri Lanka and host Bangladesh. The delegates were attended under the leadership of Co-Chairman of respective countries. More than thousand member engineers of host country were also present in the inaugural session.

The inaugural session was grace by His Excellency Architect Yeafesh Osman, Hon'ble Minister for Science and Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh as Chief Guest.

The meet started with the formal inauguration by the Hon'ble Chief Guest.

Engr. Md. Shamsur Rahman, Secretary General of SDEF delivered the welcome and introductory speech. He offered thanks to the delegate's, distinguished guest and member engineers for their presence in the event. He specially expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Guest for his kind presence and grace the event.

Engr. Md. Shamsur Rahman said that the 7th Convention and 14th Apex Body Meet of SDEF was held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 7-10 October 2015. The convention was inaugurated by His Excellency Parmanada Jha, Hon'ble Vice President, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal at "Rastriya Shavha Griha". The SDEF convention adopted. "**The Kathmandu Declaration-2015**" reiterating the sprit of application and innovations in the field of Science and Technology for the welfare of the peoples in the SAARC region and considers the joint efforts of member countries for the application as indispensable for economic growth. The Kathmandu Declaration-2015 reviewed the achievement of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) especially in the area of Poverty, Primary Education, Gender Equality and reduction of Child Mortality, Maternal Mortality, Major diseases and Environment Sustainability.

He said that establishment of technology center in one country with sub-centre in all SAARC countries and upgradation of SDEF from recognized status to Apex Body Status were also adopted in the declaration.

He said that it is the time of review the progress of implementation of the Kathmandu Declaration-2015 and he on behalf of the SDEF Apex Body request the Hon'ble Chief Guest for his wholehearted support and co-operation for implementation of "Kathmandu Declaration-2015".

The Secretary General said that the SDEF completed its 18 years of journey with following objectives: i) Service to citizens; ii) Exchange of information; iii) Exchange of technical experience; iv) Developing greater bondage between diploma engineers; v) Organize seminars, workshops and conferences; vi) Coordination in research and development work in the area of appropriate technology and poverty alleviation.

He said that with the adaptation of Dhaka Declaration 1998, SDEF has successfully performing the activities continually by adopting the Karachi Declaration 2000, Kathmandu Declaration 2000, Colombo Declaration 2001, Karachi Declaration 2004, Kathmandu Declaration 2005, Delhi Declaration 2008, Dhaka Declaration 2010, Colombo Declaration 2011, Chandigarh Declaration 2013 and Kathmandu Declaration 2015. The SDEF in its 18 years of journey holds as good as 14(fourteen) Apex Body Meeting and very a good number of international seminar, symposium & workshop on important issues related to science, engineering and technologies.

Referring the new global agenda to end poverty by 2030 and pursue a sustainable future has been unanimously adopted by the 193 member states of the united nations on 25 September 2015. Mr. Shamsur Rahman that the plan of action for people, planet and prosperity and to strengthen universal peace for larger freedom, the head of state & government approve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to be implementation by the next 15 years i.e. the year 2030. We the Diploma Engineers of the region has a great responsibility in this respect. Our urge to all government, Govt. agencies, NGOs, Civil Society, Sensible Citizen of this region to work wholeheartedly for implementation of the SDGs for a better world. Our urges to all SDEF leaders present here today to continue the initiates so that the SDEF may utilize its endeavor for implementation of the SDGs as its sacred responsibility for the people of this region.

Welcoming the participant from the member organization he requested to utilize their efforts to make success of the Apex Body meeting being held in the beautiful city Dhaka.

He once again we express our heartiest gratitude and thanks to the Chief Guest and the government for extending support, help and co-operation to organize this Apex Body Meet.

Engr. S.T. Jagath Arawwawala, Co-chairman, Sri Lanka spoke on the occasion. He said the SDEF from its inception in 1996 able to create a network of professional

engineer of the region and through the network professional experience, knowledge, as usual assistance and self-development of the professional has been enhanced for the benefit of the people of this region. The Diploma Engineers of the region are able to implement the development program of their respective countries. The professional of South Asia is resourceful like resources of the region. Recalling the discussion with SAARC Secretary General, he said that upgradation of status of SDEF is obvious for the better work through to SDEF and hope that all SAARC countries will cooperate in this respect. He said that gathering of the experts and intellectual of SAARC region will be able to enhance experience among the participants and also significantly contribute to the enhancement of the people to people contact as well as to enhance brotherly relation among the people SAARC countries.

Engr. A K M A Hamid, Co-Chairman, Bangladesh in his speech said that SDEF is proud that our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurate our 1st convention in 1998 in Dhaka and the IDEB and SDEF are getting her blessing till now. He said IDEB is grateful to member organization that they have been continuing the SDEF activities from HQ in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He said that as per declaration of sustainable development goal for implementation by 2030, the SDEF is now planning for implementation of SDGs. He offer thanks and gratitude to Prof. Dr. G. Kulanthaivel, Director General of CPSC, Dr. Valdeew Singh, Director of Nanyang Polytechnic Singapore and the hon'ble Chief Guest for gracing the event.

Architect Yeafesh Osman, Hon'ble Chief Guest in his speech said that the Diploma Engineers of this region are immensely contributing the development of the region uniting themselves under the umbrella of SDEF for the welfare of the people of the region.

He said that SAARC is playing an important role in the Development of social-economic and cultural & living stand of the large population of this region. He said that advanced of civilization fully depends on proper application of science & technology. The Diploma Engineers of this region are collectively working for the spiral of application and innovation in the field of science & technology. He said that the Govt. of Bangladesh under the dynamic leadership of Sheikh Hasina has implementing vision 2021, Digital Bangladesh, transforming Knowledge based and technology based country. He said that the vision of the Govt. includes elevation of poverty, achieve food and energy security, achieve environment sustainability and to create national capability to face the advance effect of climate change are going smoothly. The efforts of Diploma Engineers to achieve the goals are commendable.

He express his satisfaction to know that the SDEF are working on issues like regional power grid system development, potentiality of Hydro power in the region, Climate Change and environment protection, regional communication system development, IT & ICT and utilization of local available raw material for industry and recycling of materials, low cost housing and human resource development, sharing of water between countries & technological transfer among SAARC countries and included in Kathmandu Declaration-2015. He request the SDEF member to utilize the endeavor for proper use of science & technology and transformation of technology. Knowledge and Skill among yourself for the improvement of life style of the people of this region. He express his hope that the SDEF will able to make this region a place of peace & prosperity by dint of collective and science efforts. He express his confidence that the concerted effort of the SDEF will be able to contribute more for the welfare of the people of this region.

Engr. K.P. Singh, Chairman of the session in his speech recall the efforts of the Diploma Engineers Leader to SDEF from 1996 to 1998 and offer gratitude to them for their contribution towards formation of SDEF. He said the SDEF by dint of sincere and continuous effective activities earn recognition as SAARC recognized body status in 2004. He said that as an organ of SAARC the SDEF has achieve its objective like transformation of technology among the SAARC regions, exchanging experience , technical know-how in the field of science and technology and over all people to people contact & friendship among the people of this region for the success of objectives and principle of SAARC. He urge for wholehearted support of Govt. of SAARC in the way of SDEF goals.

He said as per SDEF Kathmandu Declaration a technology center was established at Kathmandu. The center is now undertaking training of the member engineers of Nepal which will be extended for the member engineers of the region.

He said that upgradation of status from SAARC Recognized Body to regional Apex Body Status is essential to promote the activities of SDEF and said that the SDEF make good success and able to deliver advanced science and technology as people engineers to the people of the regions.

He offer thanks to the Chief Guest for his kind presence and inspirable speech in the occasion. The offer his sinecure thanks and gratitude to the IDEB for organizing the 15th Apex Body Meet in Dhaka. He also offer thanks & gratitude to the distinguished guest, delegate & member engineers of IDEB for their kind presence in the event.

The session come to end with vote of thanks to audience.

Working Session

The working session of SDEF Apex Body was held in the SDEF HQ Office room at IDEB Bhaban on 13 May at 7.00pm with Engr. Kameshwar Prasad Singh, Chairman, SDEF in the Chair.

At the outset of the meeting the Chairman welcome the SDEF leaders Present in the meeting and offer thanks to them for their kind presence. He specially offer thanks to the IDEB for hosting the meet with a colorful inaugural session.

Engr. Shamsur Rahman, Secretary General, SDEF describe shortly the activities Performed by HQ after the last Apex Body Meet in Kathmandu. He said that SDEF activities report for the last 10 years has been submitted the SAARC Secretariat as was required for upgradation of the status of the SDEF from recognized body status to regional Apex Body Status. He said that the guide line and procedure received from SAARC Secretariat for granting recognition by SAARC to recognize regional Apex Body has already been sent to all member organization for perusal and preparation of necessary documents for submission to the SAARC Secretariat. He then place the Agenda of the Meeting and urged to SDEF leaders to participate in the discussion. Engr. AKMA Hamid, Co-Chairman, Bangladesh offer thanks to SAARC Secretariat for the initiative for granting recognition of SDEF to regional Apex Body status He said that the SDEF has completed its 20 years of journey (including 2 years to organize) for the welfare of the people of the region through application of science and technology. He said that it is the recognition to the SDEF for valuable work for the people of the region. He also said that upgrading of status of SDEF will inspire to work more to achieve our goals. Engr. S. T. Jagath Arawwawala, Co-Chairman, Sri Lanka said that we should find out ways and means so that all member organization be participate in the Apex Body Meet. He also said that highest priority be given for obtaining SDEF Apex Body status. He urge to chalk out a program for submission of application to the SAARC Secretariat through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and also to visit the SAARC Secretariat at an earliest convenient. He also said that the SDEF HQ should work vigorously for the cause of upgradation and all member organization should work closely in this respect.

The Delegates discussed in depths and in length the problem of Mid-Level Engineers and prospect they have in SAARC countries and how dedicate to use and spread of engineering, technical & vocational education & training (TVET) in the SAARC Countries for the welfare of the people of the region. The delegates also discussed in detailed for enhancing relation and co-operation among the member organization of SDEF. The meeting elaborately discussed the progress of

implementation of Kathmandu Declaration-2015 and emphasis needs to formulate action plan to for proper implementation of Kathmandu Declaration-2015 before the Next Conversion.

After through discussion the meeting resolved the following:

1. It is resolved that:
 - a) The committees formed in Kathmandu Convention be reviewed for which the SDEF HQ will send the committee list to the member organization. The member organization after renew & correction return back the same to SDEF HQ within 10 days.
 - b) The concern member organization will hold committee's meeting as early as possible to gear up the committee activities and send minutes to the HQ.
 - c) The activities report of 2015 of the member organization be send to the SDEF HQ by June 2015.
2.
 - a) The SDEF 15th Apex Body Meet whole heartedly offer thanks and gratitude to the SAARC Secretariat for favorable consideration to upgradation the SDEF to Regional Apex Body status by sending guideline & procedure to the SDEF HQ.
 - b) Recalling the discussion with Hon'ble Secretary General at SAARC Secretariat on 6th October 2015 the meeting express gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa for his positive attitude towards SDEF and positive consideration of the issue of upgradation of SDEF.
 - c) The meetings opined that the upgradation of status is the outcome of the actives of the member organization for the implementation of the objectives of SAARC.
3.
 - a) It is opined in the meeting that the condition laid down in the guidelines for granting recognition by SAARC to Regional Apex Bodies (Condition i to vi) are consistent with the SDEF constitution (Article i & ii) as was adopted in the 1st Convention held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 19-22 October 1998.
 - b) The meeting reaffirmed that the present Head Quarters of SDEF located in Dhaka, Bangladesh be the established Head Quarter of SDEF which was established in 1998 and functioning since its inception in 1998 and inaugurated by His Excellency Abdus Samad Azad (Late) the then Foreign Minister of GoB.

- c) It is resolved that Engr. Md. Shafiqul Islam present Liaison Officer of SDEF HQ be redesigned as “Executive Officer” of the SDEF HQ. He will work under the guidance of Secretary General, SDEF and be supported by necessary staff to perform responsibilities of the HQ.
 - d) It is also resolved that the country office located in the Head Quarter of respective member organization will continue function as usual and if necessary one Member-Engineer be designate to work solely in the country office.
4. a) The 15th Apex Body Meet unanimously decided to submit application to the Hon’ble Secretary General through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of Bangladesh as early as possible for recognition by SAARC as Regional Apex Body. The SDEF HQ, Dhaka will prepare the application as per procedure laid down in the procedure for granting recognition by SAARC.
- b) It is also resolved that all the constituent units of SDEF (Member Organization of SDEF) will submit a short history of the organization directly to the Secretary General with copy to SDEF HQ, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The HQ will prepare brief history of all constituent (Preferably at least four) and submit the same with the application.
 - c) It is decided that the copy of application be send to Foreign/ External affairs Ministry of all SAARC Countries for their kind perusal.
5. It is resolved that DEAN, Nepal be requested to expedite the activities of the Technology Centre by organizing meeting of the committee including seminar symposium etc.
6. It is resolved that the member organization be requested to assigned the member engineers to undertake study on the following issued assigned to them & be completed for submission in the next convention.
- a) Renewable Energy & Hydro Power Development – IIESL
 - b) Climate Change & Food Securities – AIFODE
 - c) Engineering Education & Carrier Development – IDEB
7. It is resolved that the next Apex Body Meet be held in New Delhi by 1st weeks of September. The AIFODE be requested to organize the meet.
8. It is resolved that the Chairman, SDEF will appoint one secretary to assist him in the SDEF activities.

9. It is resolved that the member organization of SDEF will communicate their activities every week for which SDEF HQ will make necessary arrangement to talk over Skype on every Friday evening.
10. The 15th Apex Body Meet unanimously offer thanks to IDEB for whole hearted support for materializing the objective of SDEF. The meeting express its satisfaction for proving a well-furnished & well equipped HQ office room with conference hall.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

(Engr. Kameshwar Prasad Singh)
Chairman
Apex Body, SDEF

(Engr. Md. Shamsur Rahman)
Secretary General
Apex Body, SDEF