Symposia, Conferences, Exhibitions, Auctions

Summer Camp 2008 @ IIT Kanpur
Civil Engineering - Bedrock of Modern Infrastructure; June 04 - July 01, 2008

The 2008 Civil Engineering Summer Camp was held from June 04 to July 01, 2008, at Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. IIT Kanpur and M/s Tandon Consultants Private Limited (TCPL), New Delhi have been jointly hosting this camp annually since 2001 for the second year undergraduate Civil Engineering students from across the country. The objective of the camp is to re-create the romance of Civil Engineering profession and motivate the participants to excel in this fascinating field of human endeavour. Also the objective is to provide the students with an excellent opportunity to develop their personality and get a more meaningful exposure to Civil Engineering by interacting with leading professionals from the Industry and Institutions.

The 8th Summer Camp was kick started with the letter in January 2008 to the Principal and Head of the Department, Civil Engineering of the 435 colleges all over India. The colleges were requested to forward applications of two best candidates of their college. About 250 applications were received from 140 colleges of which 67 students were selected on the basis of academic and curricular performance. Not more than one student was selected from any college including IIT Kanpur.

Finally, 58 students (25 girls and 33 boys) participated in the camp. The participants were divided into 4 clusters viz. Darwin, Kelvin, Raman and Faraday.

Camp 2008 welcomed 24 distinguished speakers from the Industry and 9 faculty of IIT Kanpur who addressed the students and opened a window in their particular areas of expertise in the Civil Engineering profession. In addition the participants also contested keenly in 11 Civil Engineering Games which were held cluster wise. Also various sports activities such as football, basket ball, cricket, table tennis, badminton, etc, were conducted during the evenings and competitions were held cluster wise.

A unique feature added this year was that a participant from each cluster was made the Camp leader for one week and the group leaders were rotated on daily basis, thus giving each participant an equal opportunity to develop leadership skills.

Personality Development has been an integral part of the Camp since its inception. This year too, Ms. Rashmi Datt of Dialog, Gurgaon, conducted the Workshop on June 13 and 14, 2008. It is an eye-opener for the students since the program guides them in reinforcing the positive aspects of their personality, and the only regret expressed by one and all was that it was for only 2 days.

A field visit to Delhi was organized from June 17-21, 2008. During the field visit the students visited the construction site of Grade Separator at Mukarba Chowk, the construction of Commonwealth Games projects, the construction being undertaken by DMRC in NOIDA area, the GTB Memorial being constructed by DTDC, etc. The students also visited Delhi Haat, recently constructed by DTDC at Pitampura and saw the Reverse Osmosis plant and Sewage Treatment Plant in operation. Visits to the Lotus Temple and the Akshardham Temple, unique examples of Construction Engineering, were also organized.

Another unique feature of the camp this year was a lecture by nutritionist Ms. Shipra Mathur of Personal Point, Kanpur. Her presentation provided the students with a wealth of information on the right mix of nutritious diet and regular workouts that are essential to combat a sedentary life style. On June 30, 2008, the students showcased their talent through skits, songs and dances riveting the audience with their time management, innovative ideas and high standards.

Camp 2008 has been supported by a number of prestigious Civil Engineering organizations, committed to their profession; some in the form of financial contributions and some by volunteering their time, travelling all the way to IIT Kanpur to interact with the students for this unique venture. IIT Delhi provided invaluable help in arranging accommodation in its campus to the students and volunteers of Camp 2008 during their field visit to Delhi.

In conclusion, the success of Camp 2008 is a testimony to the commitment of the Civil Engineering profession to making an all-out, continuing effort to ensure that the budding engineers of tomorrow do imbibe the romance, sense of accomplishment and fulfillment, dedication and perseverance that is inherent in the profession and use the same to build for posterity.

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