

## QCI's Ready Mix Concrete Plant Certification Scheme impresses Hyderabad construction industry professionals

With the Government recently announcing that Amravati will be the new state capital of Andhra Pradesh, the image of a world-class and 'people's capital' flashes in the mind of the several professionals in the construction industry. The city will be spread over 54,000 acres and in 10 years will have the state secretariat, high court and legislative assembly, among other things. Singapore government agencies have prepared the master plans for the three-layered capital -- seed capital, capital city and capital region.

Modern constructions such as this will rely heavily on concrete as the material of construction. The quality of concrete will have to be world class and Ready Mixed Concrete (RMC) is a natural choice.

Realizing the importance of quality RMC in building the new capital and other constructions in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states, the Quality Council of India (QCI) convened a roundtable meeting of civil engineering

professionals on 16th December 2015 in Hyderabad. The topic of discussion was Ready Mix Concrete Plant Certification Scheme (RMCPSC). A mixed group of about 30 Engineers, Architects, Specifiers and Consultants and users - both Government and Non-Government - participated in the technical presentations that dealt with the

"It is better to buy concrete from a QCI certified plant, rather than from a plant that is not even sure if its systems are of capable producing quality concrete" – a participant at the QCI's Hyderabad RoundTable

various aspects of assuring quality of concrete to the consumers.

Mr. R.D.Khatri of QCI spoke about the initiation of the scheme and how QCI is playing an important role in certifying RMC plants across India. Mr. Ravi Shankar, President, Ready Mixed Concrete



Manufacturers' Association (RMCMA) supporting the event, explained how the

association was formed and its role in promoting quality concrete in India. Mr. Vijay Kulkarni, Technical Advisor, QCI presented the salient features of QCI quality scheme. He explained the initial development of the quality scheme at RMCMA and its journey to the upgraded QCI version. He also discussed about similar practices followed in select developed countries.

Participants raised several questions during the Question and Answer session. While Dr. N.V. Ramana Rao, Prof of Civil Engineering at the JNTUH, inquired about the exact responsibility of QCI, Er. Eshvaraiah Chief Engineer, Telangana State Housing Corporation was keen to learn about the total number of plants certified so far. Mr. Udaya Shankar Doni of Architect Shankar Consultants inquired whether it is a product certification or a process certification. Er. Basharat Ali, Tameer Consulting while expressing concern about the limited number of the auditors in the two states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, suggested that the qualifications required for becoming an auditor should be relaxed to overcome this challenge. Dr. M. Chandrasekhar, Chief Consultant, MC Design House was of the opinion that the codes should incorporate the requirement of RMC certified plants. Dr. P. Srinivas Rao, Professor, Civil Engineering, JNTUH said the scheme must be made known to all. Mr. Sreedhar, Aprna Enterprises Limited inquired about the period of validity of audits. He felt that 6 months between audits is too long a period.

Appreciating the scheme, Mr. K. Bikshapathi, Engineer-in-Chief (R&B) Administration & Quality Control, Director General [FAC], NAC, wanted it to reach more specifiers. He also promised to take

up with his department for further process so that specifications incorporate the requirement of RMC certification scheme.

Mr. Bhagat Singh, Superintending Engineer, CPWD suggested that his head office at New Delhi should be approached to incorporate the scheme in specifications. Er. P. Suryaprakash, MD, Satyavani Projects and Consultants Pvt Ltd, said the scheme is good and need more awareness program amongst specifiers and contractors. Er. K. Rajkumar, Partner, Darmatru Consultants Pvt Ltd, assured his support to get it implemented in his projects. He also extended his help to reach out Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and other Government Departments.

With the QCI team answering these and other questions and clearing the doubts of the participants, the Scheme found wide acceptance among the participants. Finally, Mr. S.P. Anchuri, Technical Advisor, RMCMA proposed the vote of thanks. The meeting was followed by dinner.

Amravati or similar other major projects, not just in the two states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, but anywhere in the country need quality assurance in construction. The QCI scheme shows good quality concrete will go a long way in ensuring the durability of any structure - big or small.