



News Letter of the KSEB Engineers' Association, Alappuzha Unit **October 2013**
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From Chairman's Desk

Kudankulam Project Comes True

In our power sector, nuclear power became vital because of the various hurdles to realize new hydel or thermal projects. On October 22nd 2013 at 2:45 am the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP) unit with a capacity of 1000MW was synchronized with the southern grid with an initial power production of 75MW. It gradually increased to 165MW on 27.10 2013. This day is also remarkable in view of the fact that our Prime Minister visited Moscow and signed an MOU for two more units having capacity of 1000MW each.

The allocated share of 132 MW for KSEB from 1st unit will help us to overcome the capacity bottleneck to some extent and is highly appreciable.

For transmitting the power in a competent way it requires 400 KV EHT line from Edamon to Kochi. Right of way (ROW) issues are the major challenges for the PGCIL and the project is in stalemate. Government level discussions with the affected persons are progressing. We appeal to take earnest effort to restart the work immediately and plug the power shortage of our state.

Er. Geroge Mathew

India begins electricity export to Bangladesh

Indo-Bangla cooperation in the power sector today entered a new phase, with the two countries breaking ground for a 1,320-MW coal-fired power plant and inaugurating a joint transmission line that will export 500 MW from India. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh joined the inauguration of the cross-country transmission line and the laying of the foundation stone for the Maitri Thermal Power Project through video conferencing, while his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina was present at a sub-station in western Bheramara, about 240 km from here.

"Today's inauguration represents an important milestone in connecting our two countries and the broader region through a growing wave of cross-border energy links and trade," Singh said. These initiatives will strengthen the bonds of friendship between India and Bangladesh and add a rich dimension to bilateral relations, he said. Hasina, who was joined by India's New and Renewable Energy Minister Farooq Abdullah at the sub-station, said, "Such cooperation would pave the way to embark on more ambitious projects to the benefit of both the countries." The inter-grid connectivity is part of an immediate solution which would go a long way to alleviate the power deficit in Bangladesh." The formal opening of the joint transmission line came a week after India launched a test transmission of electricity under an agreement to export 250 MW to its energy-starved neighbor. The inauguration began with the supply of 175 MW from India to Bangladesh's National Grid and officials said the agreed quantum would start coming from next month. Bangladesh will import 250 MW from the Indian government's "unallocated quota" and another 250 MW will be supplied by an Indian private firm. The groundbreaking for Bangladesh's biggest-ever joint venture coal-run power project came against the backdrop of protests by environmentalists, who fear that the project near the Sundarbans, also shared by India, would endanger the world's largest mangrove forest

Courtesy: PTI

FAMILY TRIP

Family trip to Poringal, Thumboor Muzhi and Athirappally held on 12 OCT 2013 -59 people participated



The foremost challenge is for the Indian power sector to actualise reforms in the distribution segment.

Office Bearers

Chairman: Er. George Mathew

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Treasurer: Er. K.J. Abdul Vahid

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Er. Rajesh K.R

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Er. Sambath C.R

Need to Strengthen Distribution Sector

Distribution continues to be the weakest link in the Indian power sector, with customer not being at the centre stage of the delivery process and the fiscal viability. Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses continue to be one of the highest across the globe.

It is estimated that the losses, as a percentage of the nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP), are likely to reach 1.2 per cent by March 2014.

It is thus imperative to address issues that may jeopardise the growth of an already ailing power sector which, in turn, continues to be one of the key infrastructural challenges coming in the way of achieving a higher rate of GDP growth.

The emphasis of almost all state governments is currently on capacity addition in the generation sector. Capacity addition will not bear fruit unless distribution reforms are taken forward on a war footing.

Any increase in generation capacity is more than offset by inefficiencies and wastage at each stage — production, transmission, distribution and delivery. This is a matter of great concern as the buyers of merchandise have to be solvent and efficient failing which the fiscal health of all associates in the value chain is impacted and this leads to a vicious and unviable circle of uncertainty.

Thus, the foremost challenge is for the Indian power sector to actualise reforms in the distribution segment. Similarly, ensuring that all areas have access to 24x7 electricity supply has been eluding India for long. The promise of electricity for all by 2012 has fallen flat with such an achievement still miles away.

The combined cash losses of state-owned distribution companies are expanding by nearly Rs 1 trillion a year, of which 35 per cent is due to T&D losses and the remaining because the tariffs have not kept pace with the rising cost of supply.

Courtesy: Business line

E-Thoughts

As part of the 46th Engineers' Day celebrations KSEB Engineers' Association, Alappuzha Unit launched E-THOUGHTS - 'Engineering Idea Contest' for the engineering student community on the theme FRUGAL ENGINEERING. The contest aims at popularising the importance of Engineers' day and encourages young talents to apply their imagination and critical thinking in the area of Frugal Engineering. The last date to receive entries was on 10.10.2013. We received 13 entries from various engineering colleges in Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta districts. The entries were sent to the judging panel and the result will be announced soon.

In the Sholayar ranges

Grace Mariam James

D/o Smt. Suni Elsa Philip

The very first, day we heard from mom about the family tour arranged by the Engineers Association we were thrilled and enthusiastically waiting for the day to appear. Actually this tour was a relief to us because for last one year our car started only for trips to the hospitals and medical sanatoriums.

After several days of waiting, the day came which we were anxiously waiting for. Sleeping did not conquer us that day; our eyes were widely opened waiting for the sun to rise. But we were given to wake up earlier, we wake up early in the morning before the birds chirped and the honks of the car were heard. We dressed up suddenly and got ready for the trip. We reached the spot first and waited for all the others to arrive, but others did not bore us everybody came faster and we boarded into the bus and set up for the journey. Even on that mid night we were all thinking of the wonderful moments that we are going to have. Our bus collected different members of our engineer's family from Alappuzha. Forgetting all the surroundings, we begin our "kalaparupadis". First we were asked to introduce ourselves in front of the family. Everybody completed their tasks perfectly accompanied by the witty comments of our witty uncles. Then everybody waited to announce the other programs.

Later on we were given a stage inside our mini bus auditorium to perform songs. The brilliant stars of our engineer's family performed well which made others to peep into our bus. Each and every particle of the air was filled with the wonderful heart touching and pleasure giving songs. After that we heard a growling and grumbling sound which then we realized that it is from our stomach which reminded us of the breakfast. Our bus went quickly to the Kalamassery IB where the breakfasts were arranged. Super soft Idly, chammanthi and sambar filled our heart and stomach. We refreshed from there and set up for the next part of our journey. The scheduled was changed due to the shortage of time. We first went to Thumboormuzhi dam and Butterfly park. The scenic beauty filled our heart with happiness. The beautiful flowers seemed to have smiling to us which made us happier. Me Sara chichi, daughter of Shibu uncle and ma sister went to wash our feet in the cool water even though we were forbidden to do that. Everybody waited for the arrival of three of us and Shibu uncle were asked to collect us. We had a mini race which was so exciting and thrilling. We were given cool drinks to regain our energy.

Then we straightly went to the Peringalkuth IB for our lunch. The meal was fabulous and tasty. We rested there for some time and set off to Athirapally waterfalls. We walked miles to reach there from the entrance, but it was interesting with full of jokes. We washed our feet in the water which gave special energy to our body. The sound of the falling water from that height was so nice which still remains in our ears. We spent most of our time in the bus but were so nice. We enjoyed it most than the off bus trip. We played lot of games in the bus. The most interesting game was "Andhakshari" which was headed by Binu Sankar uncle and Pamila aunty. Till we reached Kayamkulam we enjoyed our trip. Even while returning to our homes we were filled with the memorable moments which we had.

We are very thankful for all the hands which worked together to set up such a journey. Also grateful to all who tried to make it wonderful.



*The best and
most
beautiful
things in the
world cannot
be seen or
even touched
- they must
be felt with
the heart.*

Helen Keller



Inviting relevant articles, news, photographs from our members or their family members for publishing in the forthcoming issues of power scene.

Activities for the month of October 2013

The unit meeting for the month October held on 12.10.2013

A family trip to Athirappally, Thumboor muzhi and Poringal kutthu was conducted on 12.10.2013 .The Tour was very successful and 59 people including children participated in the tour. The responses show that the participants enjoyed the trip very much beyond their expectation.

Er. George Mathew represented the association in the district level meeting held at Alappuzha in remembrance of Late Sri.M.S Ravuther, KEEC leader

Er. Krishna Kumar M represented the association in the Division level meeting held at Mavelikara in remembrance of Late Sri.M.S Ravuther, KEEC leader

OUR POWER SECTOR CROSSES BORDERS

After finding favour with energy resource-rich countries such as Nepal and Bhutan, India's proposal for a common power market in South Asia is now gaining traction with power-deficit countries of the region like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

While Indian power companies have a strong footprint in the hydropower sectors of Bhutan and Nepal, estimated to have generation potential of 30,000 mw 40,000 mw respectively, they have now found footholds in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Pakistan, too, has solicited Indian investment in its power sector.

The NTPC signed agreements with Sri Lankan utility Ceylon Electricity Board to build a 500-mw coal-fired power plant in Tricomalee.

Foreign minister Salman Khurshid was present on this occasion to supervise the signing ceremony from the Indian side. A smooth take-off of NTPC project is expected to give an impetus to Powergrid's plan to lay an under-sea power transmission line between India and Sri Lanka, according to industry experts.

The Indian PSU is already in the process of setting up an even larger power plant of 1,320 mw capacity in Khulna, Bangladesh. It has just started long-term power supply to Bangladesh from its generating stations in India through a specially built 500 kv link transmission line between the two countries.

Meanwhile, NTPC sources confirmed that the PSU has been asked by the MEA to examine the possibility of setting up a power plant in Pakistan.

"The proposal remains very much on the table, though it would not be feasible to implement unless Indo-Pak hostilities thaw," a senior NTPC official said.

Rajesh K Mediratta, director, business development, Indian Energy Exchange, India's leading power exchange, is quite bullish on the prospect of cross-border power trading between Saarc countries.

"Once transmission connectivity is in place, power trading between Saarc countries should be undertaken through Exchanges," Mediratta said.

A power grid linking South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) countries including India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka has the potential to create 1,00,000 MW capacity in the region and help bridge the energy deficit faced by South Asian nations.

Courtesy: FE

Winners of E-THOUGHTS - 'Engineering Idea Contest' will be announced soon

