

CHENNAI STATE CENTRE

LRC Course

December 5-6, 2010, Chennai

ISLE's maiden attempt to invite the expert faculty from abroad and conduct an educational course for the benefit of the lighting fraternity came true at the first ISLE-LRC course on Lighting Technologies and Applications organised by the Chennai State Centre at Chennai on 6th and 7th of December.

The seminar was conducted at GRT Grand Days, a star hotel. The expert faculty team from USA had Mr. Russell Leslie, Professor and Associate Director of the Lighting Research Centre, Mr Daniel Frering, Assistant Professor and the Manager of Education, Dr. Yiting Zhu, a senior research specialist and technical director of product testing programme.

The participants came from not only Tamil Nadu but also from Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad and other places. The background of the participants included architects, electrical consultants, interior designers, research scholars, faculty from IIT/Kharagpur, luminaire manufacturers, lighting designers. In spite of the incessant rains at Chennai the commencement and the duration of each session was perfectly maintained.

The seminar was inaugurated by a leading electrical consultant with international repute, Mr. Ramesh, Managing Director, Madras Electrical Consultants. Mr. Daniel Frering gave an outline of the topics to be covered. The hard copy of the course materials were handed over to the participants right at the beginning and a soft copy was also provided at the end of the seminar.

The list of topics covered are (a) Lighting Terminology (b) Lighting Technologies (Lamps and ballasts, LEDs, Luminaires and controls) (c) Frontiers in Lighting (Research areas undertaken by LRC) (d) Human factors of Lighting (e) Lighting Calculation (Lumen method and Point Method) (f) Day lighting analysis and calculation (g) Lighting design and application.

Each lecture was followed by an interactive question answer session. The participants were also permitted to intervene and raise questions or clear doubts. The faculty as well as the participants really meant business during the lecture sessions. A notable feature was that the participants wanted each topic to be covered in depth and were prepared to stay even late nights. However, the sessions had to be closed at the appointed time since the halls were to be handed over after 6.00 pm.

In every topic, application of LED or an LED related question was invariably posed. At the valedictory function, the faculty response was provided by Mr. Russell Leslie. He commented that the questions posed by the participants were very perceptive and alert, posed a wide spectrum of questions and they had to sometimes accept openly that their expertise is limited to certain areas and, in fact, LRC has researchers numbering around 35 and every one has a specialty domain. It was also commented that they have faced so many questions for the first time in their experience. They appreciated the interest shown by the participants and indicated that, within the limited time in two days, they could not extend the topics beyond what was planned.

The participant's response was given by a participant from Delhi after a group discussion among themselves. It was acknowledged that most of the participants had come from far off places and ISLE/LRC did not fail their expectations. This is the first lighting course, conducted within India, which had been truly professional. They had however few suggestions (a) the duration of the course should be four days so that some of the important lighting design applications such as stadium lighting etc., could be covered (b) at least some specific projects for design application should have been provided for hands on experience and a wholesome feel to the participants (c) an extension to the present course to cover more topics could be organised during the coming year.