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POLLUTION CONTROL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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Republic of India

Expert Report*

Prepared for the Government of India
by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization
acting as executing agency for the United Nations Development Programme

Based on the work of J.G. Wain
Consultant in Environmental
Impact Assessment

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ABSTRACT

This assignment was arranged so that assistance could be given with the preparation for the International Conference on Environmental Impact Analysis for Developing Countries, held in New Delhi on the 28th November - 2 December 1988. It involved the scrutiny of technical abstracts of papers submitted for presentation at the Conference.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In view of the considerable number of abstracts submitted it may be necessary to make arrangements whereby two or even three lectures can be given simultaneously, if proceedings are to be completed within the scheduled five-day period.

2. It has been possible, bearing in mind the published scope of the Conference, to arrange the papers into the following groups:-

EIA aspects of Thermal Power Stations
EIA - Case Studies, Legal Aspects, Methods
EIA - Training and Education
Air Pollution/Noise Studies
Research Studies

and these groups could form a convenient format for the Conference timetable.

3. The inclusion of papers from research institutions in India which provide information and measurements covering the effects of emissions is proposed. It is suggested that even though these papers may not be directly concerned with the development of methods for environmental impact assessment their inclusion could be useful to government departments involved with the preparation of emission guidelines or standards.

INTRODUCTION

Following my acceptance of the invitation, from the Head, PCRI to serve on the Panel of Experts, (for the International Conference on Environmental Impact Analysis for developing countries, New Delhi November 1988), three packages were received for scrutiny and comment.

Unfortunately one of these packages (containing 15 abstracts) arrived on the opening day of the Conference. This was the second package to be dispatched by PCRI and as the other two arrived within 5 - 10 days of being posted, the long transit time (3.5 months) is not easily accounted for. One possibility is that the package was inadvertently diverted to surface mail transmission. On receipt of this package Mr A K Gupta was informed (by telephone) and a telex of a summary of the scrutiny sent to the Head, PCRI at the Hyatt Regency Conference Centre.

In all, some 101 abstracts were received for scrutiny.

SCRUTINY

As the majority of abstracts were received in August 1988 the scrutiny took into consideration the objectives and required topics which had been mentioned in the 'Final Call for Papers' circulated earlier. It also complied with the request to adjudicate the abstracts under the following headings:-

1. Recommended for presentation.
2. Recommended for presentation subject to amendment.
3. Not suitable because results are inclusive.
4. Not suitable because paper not in line with any of the objectives of the Conference.
5. Not suitable for the reasons given.

On completion of the adjudication it was possible to arrange the recommended papers into groups as follows:-

EIA aspects of Thermal Power Stations

As it had already been planned to hold a special session under the above heading the following papers could be conveniently presented at this meeting:-

Paper Number - 04, 05, 10, 29, 32, 37, 42, 53, 54, 80, 101, 103, 106, 110, 111, 123, 137, 148, 156, 163, 196, 204 (twenty two papers)

EIA - Case Studies, Legal Aspects, Methods of Assessment

The following papers could be included under this heading:-

Paper Number - 18, 20, 21, 25, 30, 39, 62, 77, 78, 82, 96, 100, 115, 117, 127, 145, 155, 176, 201 (nineteen papers)

EIA - Training and Education

These papers described training etc already being undertaken or suggested ways in which improvements could be made.

Paper Number - 19, 36, 69, 85, 88, 131, 134, 172, 177 (nine papers)

Air Pollution/Noise Studies

These papers provided experience of different techniques used in air/noise monitoring.

Paper Numbers - 07, 09, 35, 58, 86, 90, 97, 109, 114, 130, 171 (eleven papers)

Research Studies

There were a number of papers which reported the results of work carried out in research institutions, universities and other government laboratories. Whilst acknowledging that the topics covered in these papers were not directly concerned with the development of methods of EIA etc it was considered that they provided measurements relating to local conditions, which would be of interest to people concerned with formulating emission standards etc. It was, therefore, suggested that they could be presented at a special session (to run simultaneously with the main Conference). Papers included could be:-

Paper Number - 06, 22, 45, 46, 63, 64, 65, 70, 102, 116, 124, 128, 135, 185, 189, 203 (sixteen papers)

Unsuitable Papers

Reasons were given for not selecting a paper for presentation but in the main this was because the topics did not fit the aims of the Conference.

Paper Number - 17, 34, 89, 113, 138, 140, 141, 149, 150, 157,
158, 161, 165, 174, 178, 181, 184, 187, 191,
192, 194, 199

Note 173 (abstract incomplete),
202 (no abstract attached)
(twenty-four papers)