



May 2011

NEDEA NEWSLETTER

2011 NEDEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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IN THIS ISSUE

Chairman’s Message	1
NED University News	1
Share with Us – PTI Awards for Rashid	2
NedeA Professional Seminar Report	2
5 Minutes with Khalid Uqaili	4
NEDEA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes #5	6
Advertisements	7
NEDEA Calendar of Events 2011	8

CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE



The new NEDEA Board has conducted its first event, a Professional Seminar, on April 17, 2011. Forty professionals attended the seminar and the feedbacks were very positive. Our program has generated some job search opportunities for membership. One of our speakers, Rafath Ali, from ABIS Technologies (a local recruiter firm) is in the process of helping two members to get the job. Another speaker, Shabbir Hassan has received two resumes from the participants, who came from Northwest Indiana to attend the seminar.

As I mentioned last month, NED University Vice Chancellor, Engineer Abul Kalam, will be in Chicago during the weekend of June 25th. We are planning to have a get-together with the Vice Chancellor on June 25th. Detail to follow.

Once again to our members/readers, please send us information that you would like to share with our members hip.

Best wishes
Rashid Ahmed

NED UNIVERSITY NEWS

New Master Degree Program – Master of Engineering Management in Transportation Infrastructure Management

NED University has announced admission to its newly designed Master of Engineering Management (MEM) program in Transportation Infrastructure Management. The idea behind this program is to link the concepts of management with the deriving engineering fields to produce professionals that are better capable of managing the engineering projects than the conventional business managers. This Masters Degree program is focused towards the management of transportation systems and their sustainable operation.

The MEM program is currently the most patronized Masters program at NED, attracting large number of applicants every year. Started in 2004, the MEM program is now offered in seven specialization areas including; Construction Management, Industrial Management, Quality Management, Energy Management, Environmental Management, Water Resources Management, and Transportation Infrastructure Management.

(Ref: http://www.neduet.edu.pk/Registrar/prospectus/pg_prospectus.pdf)



SHARE WITH US

Please send us the information that you would like to share with us. Examples are your vacation, wedding in your family, graduation of your children, job promotion, achievements, etc.

Post-Tensioning Institute (PTI) Awards for Rashid Ahmed



Rashid Ahmed received two awards from the Post-Tensioning Institute (PTI) at the PTI Annual Conference in Kansas City on May 3, 2011. The first is the "PTI Fellow Award" for his outstanding long-term contributions to the PTI and the industry. The second is the "James Cagley Medal Award" for the most active Technical Committee Chair in recognition of his outstanding contributions as Chairman of the PTI Building Design Committee.

While this is an honor for Rashid, it is also a positive reflection on NED University.

NEDEA PROFESSIONAL SEMINAR, APRIL 17, 2011, REPORT

NEDEA Professional Seminar was held at Holiday Inn, 17W350, 22nd Street, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, on April 17, 2011. This seminar was attended by 40 professionals.

The seminar started with the registration, breakfast and networking session at 10:00 am. Syed Naeemuddin and Bilal Ahmad were at the registration desk to welcome the attendees. Anees Ahmad was responsible for A/V system and controlling the PowerPoint presentations. Khawaja Nizamuddin was the official photographer for the event.



Syed Shahid Ali was the master of ceremony. He welcomed all the speakers and guests. Khairulbashar Siddiqui recited a few verses from the Holy Quran, and performed a *dua* for Tanweer Mallick's mother, who passed away on April 11, 2011, in Karachi, Pakistan.



Session 1: Presentation on "Cook County Strategic Efforts"
Presenters: Tariq Malhance, Chief Financial Officer of Cook County
Ms Lourdes Coss, Purchasing Agent Cook County



Tariq Malhance discussed about the financial budgets, taxes, budget deficit, and upcoming changes in the taxes. He mentioned that the Cook County is one of the biggest organizations in the country with an annual budget of \$3 billion.

Ms. Lourdes Coss discussed about the business opportunities and procurement procedures with Cook County. She talked about the threshold of small, midsize and large projects. She emphasized the attendees to register their firm with the county procurement office to receive email alerts on new projects. The website for the registration is www.cookcountygov.com/purchasing.



Malhance and Coss responded to several questions during the Q/A session.

Session 2: Panel Discussion and Q/A on "From Resume to Interview - Art of Selling" & "Getting Leads for Jobs and Search Techniques"

**Presenters: Mohammad Shabbir Hassan, Vice President URS Corporation
Rafath Ali, ABIS Technologies, Inc. (a local recruiting firm)**



Shabbir Hassan presented "Resume to Interview - Art of Selling." Shabbir talked about the job search and emphasized on the importance of networking. First few lines on the resume are important and key words need to be highlighted. Dressing for interview should be professional but neutral. During the interview, use conventional icebreaker small talk to make yourself comfortable. Keep a good eye contact all the time. He pointed out not to bad mouth your current or previous employers during the interview. Prepare for commonly asked questions, such as "briefly tell us about yourself," and to practice these commonly asked questions. He said that many firms emphasizing more on communication and people skill. Negotiating salary is a tricky issue and needs to be handled diligently, keeping in mind other packages, such as vacation, sign-up bonuses, etc. Sending a thank you note after the interview reinforced that you are interested in the position.



Rafath Ali presented "Eight Phone Interview Tips"

1. Use a land line – no reception issue
2. Keep materials handy – resume, other relevant material
3. Steer clear of distractions
4. Speak slowly and clearly
5. Remember, you can't be seen
6. No eating, drinking, or chewing gum
7. Prepare questions ahead of time
8. Be prepare for extended interviews

Rafath also discussed online job search and demonstrated the "www.Indeed.com" which he recommended for job search.



After the presentations, Shabbir and Rafath responded to audience's questions.

Rashid Ahmed presented the certificates and gift to all the speakers.



The audience was asked to fill evaluation forms for both sessions and the seminar ended at 1:30 pm.

The seminar attendees were greatly pleased with the well coordinated events and hopefully will benefit from this seminar.



5 MINUTES WITH KHALID UQAILI



Q. Tell us about yourself and your family.

A. Born in Karachi studied at Happy Home School, DJ, NED, Asian Inst. of Tech., Thailand and Strathclyde Grad Bus School, Scotland. Moved to Canada (1993) and later to Chicago. Married with two daughters (23 and 16)

Q. Why Engineering?

A. There was no confusion. I always wanted to be an engineer and specifically liked Mechanical engineering.

Q. Which year did you graduate and what was your major?

1978 - B. E. Mechanical Engineering, NED

1981 – M. Eng., Systems Engineering – Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand.

1991 – MBA, Strathclyde Grad Business School, Glasgow, Scotland.

1999 - P. Eng. – Alberta, Canada.

Q. Tell us about your professional life?

A. Started career with USAID/IRRI Machinery Program as Asst. Design Engineer designing low cost Agricultural machinery. Helped build Pakistan's first private sector cement plant in Nooriabad, (80 km north of Karachi), followed by another private sector commercial refrigeration equipment plant in Korangi, Karachi. After completing MBA joined Engro (formerly Exxon Fertilizer) urea expansion project in Dharki, Sindh. Since moving to North America in 1993, worked in the refrigeration & retail food & beverage industry, developing new products & engineering solutions for fast food/beverage accounts like Coca Cola, Pepsi and McDonald.

Q. If you had to choose another occupation, what would it be?

A. Quantum Physicist

Q. Who was your favorite teacher at NED?

A. Math wizard Qidwai Sahib

Q. Please recount some of your unforgettable memories while at NED?

A. Working in the coal dust laden and smoky forge shop during summer months and the Industrial Tour.

Q. What are some of your proudest achievements in life?

A. Being lead mechanical/project engineer on some of the most challenging (technically and logistically) projects in Pakistan. The satisfaction comes from the fact that these projects provided much needed employment opportunities in the least developed areas of Pakistan.

Q. What do you like best about NEDEA?

A. A rather informal forum of engineers reminding the carefree days at NED

Q. What do you like to do in your spare time?

A. Prefer not to do anything on weekends but ends up doing aerobics, yoga, listening to Arabic/English and Urdu music, socializing/fundraising.

Q. Describe your perfect day?

A. Taking a road trip to Mississauga, Ontario, Canada and looking forward to face the ever interesting questions asked at the border. This is equivalent to a mini trip back home and the best part is that one can actually control many aspects of the journey!

Q. What is something about you that might surprise most people?

A. Nothing. At the end of the day, I am just another badesi/perpetual migrant who moved west in the quest to find better quality of life.

Q. Favorite food

A. Seekh fry with garlic naan.

Q. What is your favorite word?

A. Quantum

Q. What is your least favorite word?

A. Let me list more than one: Whatever, OMG, LOL, meh.....

Q. What advice can you give to our readers?

A. I am still learning and can only list some of recent observations. There are many advisors /critiques out there.

Observation #1: Success in one's life is dependent on three things: IQ; Family background/environment when growing up and Self discipline. The only thing in your control is self discipline.

Observation #2: The most valuable thing to have is a good reputation, and it's neither hard nor expensive to acquire one: Be fair. Be honest. Be trustworthy. Be generous. Respect others.

Observation #3: When in doubt follow the "Caveman (woman) Principles" i.e. humans will always prefer both Hi Tech and Hi Touch things but when there is a conflict between the two Hi Touch will always be preferred (e.g. video conferencing is widely available now but we still need face to face meetings; Tourism is the fastest growing industry despite wide availability of virtual tourism; we still print emails rather than trusting electrons on the screen).

Observation #4: Almost everything in life can be explained by the 2nd law of thermodynamics: "Total Entropy always increases" i.e. chaos always increases e.g. rusting, decaying, aging are universal features of life. No one can escape the 2nd law. Simply put: Everything is doomed to wither and die.

NEDEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES #5

DATE OF MEETING: March 20, 2011
DATE OF ISSUANCE: May 6, 2011
LOCATION OF MEETING: Desi Grill, 912 East Roosevelt Road, Lombard, IL

MINUTES BY: Rashid Ahmed

PARTICIPANTS:

NAME	TITLE	PHONE	E-MAIL
Rashid Ahmed	Chairman	847-710-4389	rashid_ahmed1983@yahoo.com
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Syed Shahid Ali	Director of Professional Development	630-753-0483	Skainc_2k1@msn.com
Anis Paya	Guest		anispayaa@aol.com

1. Call to order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 11:10 am by Rashid Ahmed.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes #4

- a. Minutes of the meeting #4 reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Bilal seconded by Anees and the motion passed.

3. Professional Development

- a. Shahid mentioned that speakers for April 17 seminar are finalized. He distributed the agenda of the seminar.
- b. Shahid will bring the laptop, projector, and extension cord.
- c. Rashid mentioned that the hotel meeting room reservation is finalized and he has the contract.
- d. The Board members will wear tie and jacket at the seminar.
- e. Shahid will request Nizam to take the pictures during the seminar.
- f. Rashid will remind Nafis to bring the NEDEA banner.
- g. Everybody agreed to be at the hotel at 9:30 am.

4. Finance

- a. Rashid mentioned that Bank is charging \$5 per month as service fee. It will be waived if we change the monthly statement from a hard copy to an electronic copy. Bilal will follow up on this with the bank.
- b. Rashid prepared an expense report for 2011. In order to meet the expenses, more revenue needs to be generated. The Board will provide their input in the next meeting.
- c. Anis Paya signed the bank document to add Bilal and Rashid.

5. Web Site

- a. Anees mentioned that he is finishing up the RFP for the website requirements, which he will forward to the Board for review and comments. He said that we have 4 web developers who are interested in bidding for our website.

6. Next Meeting

- a. The date for the next meeting will be decided after the April 17 seminar.

7. Meeting Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

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NEDEA - CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2011

Tentative Date	Description	Location	Time
Sunday 4/17/2011	Professional Seminar	Holiday Inn 17W350 22nd Street Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181	10:00 am to 1:30 pm
Saturday 6/25/2011	Meeting with NED VC Engineer Abul Kalam	TBD	TBD
Saturday 7/23/2011	Annual Picnic	Herrick Lake Forest Preserve Wheaton	1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Saturday 8/20/2011	Iftar	TBD	7:00 pm – 9:30 pm
Saturday 9/10/2011	Cricket Game	TBD	11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Sunday 10/2/2011	Professional Seminar	TBD	10:30 am to 1:30 am
10/7/2011 to 10/9/2011	NED Alumni Convention	New Jersey	All day event
Friday 11/11/2011	Annual Dinner	TBD	7:00 pm – 12:00 am