

Engineers of SAARC countries to attend international meeting here

by Dilanthi Jayamanne

The Institute of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka (IIESL) said that they were concerned for the development of the country's technology and economy yesterday. A press conference was held by the IIESL to announce the fourth Apex Body Meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) Diploma Engineers Forum (SDEF) which will be held on the 17th and 18th of next month.

President of the IIESL, D.S. Senarath said that they wished to create an awareness of this international meeting at which all seven member countries of SAARC will participate.

The theme of the Apex Body meeting will be; "Obligations of the Incorporated Engineers towards the society in poverty alleviation in his or her own country."

Explaining IIESL said that they had

an obligation to contribute their share towards poverty alleviation in the region.

"The Forum opens doors for exchanging views, experiences and transfer of technologies," Past President, Anton Peiris said.

He said that the SAARC Forum had realised that it was better to figure out the solutions to pollution, human resources, drainage and many more problems faced by the poverty stricken population of the SAARC region rather than importing technologies and ideas from the West.

"Deep deliberations have been held on subjects of technical education, human resources, water conservation, mineral resources and power, water resources, agriculture and forestry, and low cost, appropriate technology," the IIESL said. "Findings have been taken to many political and administrative bodies in constituent countries.

Research and innovation achieved in a member country is shared among the others in the region through this Forum."

"For a country's development it is considered that the Chartered Engineer to Incorporated Engineer ratio should be 1:4 or even more. This is proof in itself that developing countries such as ours require the category of Incorporated Engineers," Peiris said.

The Past President of the IIESL pointed out that the SAARC charter which concentrated on the development of its member countries had not been given its due recognition. "We believe that the future of the country does not solely lie on raw materials, it also depends on the amount of manpower."

The IIESL has 2,000 members at present which forms apart of the 1.2 billion Diploma Engineers in the SAARC region.