



SWICON 2008

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SWITCH GEAR & CONTROL GEAR
21-22 January, 2008, Mumbai, India

Conference Review

SWICON-2008, the Two day International Conference on switchgear & controlgear which was held on 21st & 22nd January 2008 at Hotel Renaissance, Mumbai attracted about 400 delegates, a record attendance. The theme for SWICON 2008 was "Switchgear For Global Needs".

Authors' Meet

A day before the conference, as is the tradition with all international IEEMA conferences the authors' meet was held on Sunday 20th January evening at the Hotel Renaissance. The authors' meet is the icebreaker and helps in closer co-ordination between authors & session chairmen. The authors' meet was attended by about 75 persons and was conducted by the organizing and technical committee chairmen, Mr S B Gupte & Mr H T Tungare respectively. The organizing secretary, Mr. Anil Nagarani welcomed the



Authors and Session chairmen at the authors' meet



Mr Nagarani, Org Secretary welcoming authors; co-authors and session chairmen

guests and set the tone for the meet. The Meeting was also graced by the presence of Shri Rakesh Nath who made a brief appearance and met all present.

DAY 1 - Inaugural Session

SWICON 2008 Organising Committee chairman, Mr S B Gupte delivered the Welcome Address. Also present was President IEEMA, Mr S C Bhargava, who addressed the audience and briefed them on IEEMA and its flagship event, ELECRAMA 2008.



Chief Guest Mr Rakesh Nath and other dignitaries lighting lamp of knowledge



Dignitaries on dais

The dignitaries on the dais lit the inaugural Lamp which symbolizes spreading the Light of Knowledge.

World renowned personalities in the Switchgear industry like Mr. Denis Dufournet delivered the Keynote



Rakesh Nath draping the shawl on Mr Mata Prasad while receiving his lifetime achievement award



Mr Mata Prasad displaying lifetime achievement award citation

Address on "IEC & IEEE Standards for High Voltage Switchgear & Controlgear : Present Situation and Future Evolution" & Dr. Carl-Ejnar Solver delivered his Keynote Address on "Trends in High Voltage AIS Switchgear & Impact on Substation Solutions" .

Shri Rakesh Nath, Chairperson, CEA, inaugurated The Conference and delivered his inaugural address, which was very authoritative and showed his deep knowledge about the switchgear & electrical industry and its future prospects. The occasion was also momentous as Shri Mata Prasad; a doyen of the Switchgear industry, with over 50 years of experience was felicitated with "Life Time Achievement Award" by the Switchgear Division of IEEMA. Mr Mata Prasad was presented with a Memento-Citation, which carried a brief of his life's work and achievements.

For the first time the entire inaugural function was professionally compered by a professional comper who in this case was Ms. Manasi.

Technical Sessions

Session 1

The inaugural session of the Conference was followed by the first joint session of the day, The

Users' Feedback where Nine papers were presented, Mr V K Kulkarni, Siemens Ltd, acted as the MOC for the session while Mr D Raina, Tata Power Ltd acted as the session chairman the large number of papers were handled very efficiently by the team.



Mr D Raina, Tata Power conducting 1st session, users' feedback

Session 2

The post lunch session was based on the topic Testing & standards and eight papers were presented, the session was ably conducted by Mr Gautam Shetye, Siemens Ltd who was the MOC, while Veteran Mr B N Kishore, KEMA, the Session Chairman controlled the session schedule admirably.



Mr B N Kishore, Consultant, KEMA conducting session

Session 3

The Last session of the day i.e. the post tea session was on EHV switchgear a new segment for the SWICON conference, the 6 papers in the session itself indicated that India was on the cutting Edge of technology with papers discussing equipment up to 1200 KV. Mr S Ramaswamy, Past President IEEMA and Ex-Siemens Ltd has been associated with SWICON conferences since their inception 20 year ago, maintained the difficult schedule as the actual conference time was reduced by about 30 minutes



Mr S Ramaswamy, Past President, IEEMA conducting session

due to hotel exigencies. The MOC for this session was Mr. Manabendra Chakrabarti, BCH Ltd. In all 23 papers were presented on day one of SWICON 2008 conference.

The First day of the conference culminated in a Gala evening of fun and music rendered by the Famous Music Trio Shankar, Eshan, Loy followed by cocktails and dinner.

DAY 2

The second day of the conference i.e Tuesday 22nd January had two parallel sessions and two common sessions. In all, 38 technical papers were read.

The first of the parallel sessions was the session on High Voltage i.e. IV-A which was chaired by Dr. J.J. Patel, ABB Ltd. and eight papers dealing with High Voltage Switchgear & Controlgear were presented in this session. Mr. Saumitra Khajanchi, Areva T&D acted as the MOC for this session. The no. of papers received for the High Voltage for SWICON-2008 were 21 and Ultra High Voltage which clearly shows the technology trend and the demand for High Voltage Switchgear for transmission segment. Accordingly, the HV sessions were divided into Ultra High Voltage and two sessions for High Voltage.

The other parallel session IV-B was on Low Voltage was chaired by Mr. Dilip Trivedi, Elmex Controls. In this session eight technical papers were presented. The MoC for this session was Mr. Manabendra Chakrabarti, BCH Ltd.

Post Tea the second parallel session V-A on High Voltage was chaired by Mr. N.S. Sodha, PGCIL, who brought lot of experience to the conference. Mr. Gautam Shetye, Siemens Ltd. acted as the MOC and this was ably conducted by seven papers.

Medium Voltage - V-B was a parallel session chaired



Mr N S Sodha asking a question in concluding session

by Dr. Fredinand Platter, ABB. Dr. Platter maintained the time line, which Mr. Saumitra Khajanchi acted as the MoC for the session. Six technical papers under Medium Voltage has shown a downtrend in relation to the no. of papers read in SWICON-2004. Since only six papers on Medium Voltage were found suitable for presentation in SWICON-2008, which also probably point to the plateau of technology in Medium Voltage segment with laser innovation being reported.

SWICON-2008 departed from the normal practice of sending technical bound volume to the delegates in advance and instead bound volume of synopses presented at the time conference. The soft copies of technical bound volume in the form of CDs and Pen Drive were presented to the delegates, while handing over to the delegate kit. This was generally well accepted. However, it was felt that the papers to be presented in whatever form, need to be inform to the delegates at least 15 days in advance for them to come prepare with their questions.

Session VI on Control, Protection & Communication was post lunch and 9 technical papers were presented during this session. Dr. K. Rajamani, Reliance Energy Ltd. chaired this session and his experience in the field showed through. Mr. H.T. Mistry, Larsen & Toubro Ltd., ably played the MoC for this session.



Dr K Rajamani, Session chairman for control, protection and communication conducting the session



Dr M Ramamoorthy conducting concluding session

Last Session VII was the Common Session chaired by Dr. Ramamoorthy and Ms. Manasi acted as a MoC.

Post Tea, the last session of the Conference i.e. Concluding session was chaired by Dr. M. Ramamoorthy, Ex. Director - ERDA. Dr. Ramamoorthy has vast experience in the field of Testing and R&D in a wide variety of electrical equipment. He was able to make the concluding session very interesting and in fact a large no. of questions were asked by the various experts in this session.

Mr. S.B. Gupte expressed the Organising Committees appreciation by handing over the memento to Dr. Ramamoorthy.



Mr S B Gupte, Chairman, Organising Committee handing over memento to Dr. M. Ramamoorthy

Mr. Hemant Tungare delivered the vote of thanks conveying the appreciation of SWICON-2008 Organising / Technical Committee to all the authors / co-authors / session chairmen / MOC / comperes and various other service providers.

Summary

Nine Session Chairmen with five MoCs worked extremely hard to maintain the difficult timelines, arising out of the large number of papers which

itself was a record. The authors / co-authors cooperated brilliantly with the Session chairmen to help maintain the difficult schedule. The presentation formats were based on the CIGRE Model, wherein only 8-10 minutes given for power point presentation of the paper.

SWICON-2008 was a grand success and has set a benchmark for future conferences both in terms of number of papers presented and delegate attendance.



Dr Smeets one of the authors addressing delegates in HV Session 5A



Mr H T Tungare, Chairman Technical Committee proposing vote of thanks



The audience listening in rapt attention