

POST SHOW REPORT OF STONA 2016

STONA 2016 – 12TH International Granite and Stone Fair was held at Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) from 3rd to 6th February 2016 at Bengaluru, India.

The fair was conducted in 6 halls (3 in lower level and 3 in upper level) and outdoor for display of granite and Marble blocks, stone artifacts, handicrafts and heavy machineries. The gross area was around 45,000 sq mts and the net area was around 22,000 sq mts.

There were about 540 exhibitors out of which around 175 were overseas participants. There were three country pavilions from China, Turkey and Italy. Individual exhibitors from Ukraine, Iran, Greece, Portugal, Spain etc participated in the fair. The Indian Exhibitors were from all over India.

As in the earlier fairs, this time also the Federation organised shilpgram for promotion of the rural artisans from all over India. Few of the artisan's training school from Karnataka and other places exhibited the skill of the students from their institutions.

The Fair was inaugurated by Mr. Vinay Kulkarni, Hon'ble Minister for Mines & Geology, Government of Karnataka, on 3rd February 2016. Mr. Balvinder Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India presented the Key note address. Welcome address was made by Mr. R. Sekar, President.

Mr. R. Veeramani, Founder President, FIGSI & Chairman, Granite, Natural Stone Product Panel, CAPEXIL and Mr. J.B. Surana, Immediate Past President, FIGSI were present along with the, President FIGSI, Chairman, STONA 2016 and all Vice Presidents, General Secretary and Treasurer of FIGSI.

Seminar on **Natural Stone in Architecture** was organized on 4th Feb 2016 at BIEC and was inaugurated by **Mr. Farook Mahmood**, Chairman & Managing Director, M/s. Silverline Group & President, FIABCI, WCB, Paris. **Smt. Leena Kumar**, Chairperson of Indian institute of Architects, Karnataka Chapter was the Chairperson for the technical session. President Sri. R.Sekar welcomed the delegates for the seminar.

During the seminar a Handbook on "**Effective Marketing of Dimension Stones - 2015**" by Mr. K. Vikram Rastogi, President, Stone Technology Centre Group of Companies was released by Sri. R. Sekar, President, FIGSI.

During the technical session following papers were presented by the speakers.

Mr. Pontjo Widodo & Ms. Shubhra Mutreja M/s. Belt Collins International Pte Ltd. Singapore	Stone in Landscaping
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Ar. Padmashri Gopal Shankar M/s. Habitat Technology Group Thiruvananthapuram	Environmental Friendly Architectural Designs using natural ornamental stones
Ar. Jyothi Gupta, PhD Larsen and Toubro Construction Bengaluru	Ornamental Stones usage in construction of commercial buildings, airports and residences
Dr. Ravindra Nagar Dean, Academic Affairs & Prof. of Structural Engineering Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur & Dr. Pawan Kalla Professor, MNIT	Utilization of waste obtained from ornamental stone quarries and factories

One of the important paper presented was on the utilisation of the granite slurry in manufacture of Concrete mix, Bricks and tiles was presented by Professor Ravindra Nagar Dean, Academic Affairs & Prof. of Structural Engineering Malaviya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur & **Dr. Pawan Kalla** Professor, MNIT from Malaviya institute of Technology, Jaipur. If this is properly used, one of the major concern of the Industry in disposal of the slurry will be solved in a better manner.

Further on the 4th February 2016 evening cultural programme and gala dinner was organised for the Exhibitors and Members of the Federation at Hotel Lilith Ashok which was attended by more than 1600 members Exhibitors who enjoyed the evening.

Seminar on **Geology and Mining** was organized on 5^h Feb 2016 at BIEC and was inaugurated by **Sri. S.S. Pattana Shetty, I.A.S.**, Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Govt. of Karnataka. **Sri. R.H. Sawkar**, Secretary, Geological Society of India, Bengaluru and **Dr. N. Nandini**, Head of the Department of, Environmental Sciences, Bangalore University, Bengaluru, are the Chairpersons for the technical session. The above guests were welcomed by Sri. R.Sekar, President and Sri. P.Gopalakrishnan, Chairman, Seminar Sub Committee.

During the technical session following papers were presented by the speakers

Mr. N.S. Gadagkar, Director, RSAS, GSI, Bengaluru	Remote Sensing with special reference to Ornamental Stones
Dr. K. Rajaram, (Retd.) Addl. Director General, GSI	Availability of Ornamental Stones in India
Sri. Sudheendra Kumar, Consultant Geologist, Mysore	Scanning Technique and Identification of Good Ornamental Stones

Sri. A. Rajan Babu, FIE Principal Scientist, Centre for Testing Services & Head, Department of Dimensional Stone Technology, NIRM, KGF	Modern Quarrying and Recovery Percentage
Thiru. M. Vallalar, IAS Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Minerals Limited Chennai	International Trade of Ornamental Granite in Indian scenario
Dr. T.N. Venugopal Joint Director (Retd) Dept. of Mines & Geology Bengaluru	Quarrying of Ornamental Stones in India and Other Countries - a comparison
Sri. S. Krishna Prasad Vice President, FIGSI Bengaluru	Modern Techniques of Quarrying & Processing, R & D, Environmental Protection and Corporate Social Responsibility

Valedictory Function of STONA 2016 Fair was held on 5th Feb 2016 at BIEC. The following dignitaries were present during the ceremony on the dais.

Mr. Raj Kumar Rinwa, Hon'ble Minister for Mines, Forest, Environment (Independent), Government of Rajasthan, Smt. Peethala. Sujatha, Hon'ble Minister for Women Empowerment, Child Welfare and Disabled & Senior Citizens Welfare, Mines & Geology, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Raghava Rao Sidda, Hon'ble Minister for Transport, Roads and Buildings, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Sri. Nirmal Nahata, Respectable Mayor of Jaipur., Dr. Niranjan K. Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Smt. Ratna Prabha, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Commerce & Industry Department, Government of Karnataka, Mr. Richard Flohr, an expert in the field of Granite from Germany.

Along with the above dignitaries, Mr. R. Veeramani, Founder President, FIGSI & Chairman, Granite, Natural Stone Product Panel, CAPEXIL and Mr. J.B. Surana, Immediate Past President, FIGSI were present along with President, FIGSI, Chairman STONA with other Office Bearers.

During the event all the sponsors of STONA were felicitated.

Apart from this for the first time to encourage the Industry in various activities, eleven awards were given as follows:

Categories of Awards	Awardees
EXPORT EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR 2014-15 - for Marble Exports	M/s. Classic Marble Company Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai
EXPORT EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR 2014-15 - for Industrial Granite Products Exports	M/s. Technospark Industrial India Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru
EXPORT EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR 2014-15 - Top Exporter of all Granite	M/s. Madhucon Granites Ltd., Khammam

Products	
EXPORT EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR 2014-15 - for Export of Polished Slabs and Tiles	M/s. Pacific Granites (India) Pvt. Ltd., Hosur
EXPORT EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR 2014-15 - for Monuments Exports	M/s. GTP Granites Ltd., Salem
EXPORT EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR 2014-15 - for Export of Other Stones	M/s. Stone Age Pvt. Ltd.
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AWARD	M/s. Mount Victoria Granites Ltd., Lalitpur, UP
FIGSI-FIMI-MODEL GRANITE QUARRY AWARD - 2014-2015	M/s. Shakti Stone and Marble, Gujarat
	M/s. Anand Granite Exports Pvt. Ltd, Chennai
	M/s. Pokarna Limited, Secunderabad
FIGSI-FIMI-MODEL MARBLE QUARRY AWARD - 2014-2015	M/s. Vipul Marble Company, Gujarat

The federation intends to continue with these awards every year.

Further from the very beginning the industry is facing shortage of qualified geologist since there is no encouragement to the geologist from Stone Sector.

Taking note of this for the first time the Federation instituted cash award along with citation to two students in geology with masters degree as follows:

1. **Naseer Ahmad Parry** - for his achievement in Studies in Geology, M.Sc. applied Geology during the year 2014-15 in Karnataka University, Dharwad.
2. **Mr. Aarif Ahmed** - for his achievement in M.Sc. Geology in Academic year 2014-15 in Mangalore University, Mangalagangothri

This is the beginning and in the days to come, the federation intends to recognise more and more geologist and felicitate them so that the industry will be in position to get more qualified geologist.

On the whole the STONA 2016 was a grand success with the co-operation and support of the entire stone industry of India and the members of the Federation. From the feedback received from the exhibitors, it is understood that the exhibitors were able to generate good business in respect of the a Machinery and in respect of products, good enquiries were received which may culminate into positive business in the coming days.

STONA team and FIGSI thanks all the sponsors, exhibitors, advertisers, service providers etc for their whole hearted support of the event due to which was a Grand success.

Federation takes this opportunity to invite one and all to the next STONA in 2018.