

Green Buildings Need of the Hour

The World Green Building Week is celebrated annually to draw attention to the importance of creating healthier, more sustainable buildings and communities. The theme for the 2012 event was “Green Buildings for Great Communities”. To mark this occasion, the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) of CII planned events to underline the need and importance of green buildings for a sustainable tomorrow.

The IGBC Mumbai Chapter organised a session on values of sustainability, which saw participation from leading stakeholders of the Indian construction industry.

Gurmit Singh Arora, Vice Chairman – IGBC Mumbai Chapter, said the IGBC, with the support of

stakeholders, was playing a catalytic role in spearheading the green building movement in the country. As of date, over 1,745 green building projects (amounting to over 1.21 billion sq. ft of green building footprint) are registered with IGBC. He added that IGBC Green Building Rating Systems on Homes, Factory Buildings, SEZ, Townships and LEED India 2011 are all based on the five elements of nature (Panchabhutas) and are a perfect blend of ancient architectural practices and modern technological innovations.

V. Suresh, Chairman, IGBC Advocacy Committee and Principal Executive Officer, HIRCO, said construction costs of a green building would be 5–8 percent higher for a Platinum-rated building than a conventional building but the incremental cost gets paid back within 3–4 years with substantial

reduction in operational costs. Green buildings make good business sense, he added.

S. Raghupathy, Executive Director, CII-Godrej GBC, said the IGBC’s vision is to enable “sustainable built environment for all and facilitate India’s progress as a global leader in sustainable built environments by 2025”.

The other speakers included Mala Singh, Convenor—Green Governance, IGBC Mumbai Chapter & Director – PEC Green Designs Pvt. Ltd.; Jahangir Yar Khan, Member – IGBC Mumbai Chapter Core Committee & Joint President, Sree Ram Urban Infrastructure Ltd.; Ar. Sandeep Shikre, Member – IGBC Mumbai Chapter Core Committee & President and CEO, Sandeep Shikre Associates; and Priya Vakil, Member – IGBC Mumbai Chapter Core Committee & Director – EdEn. □

