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GLENVILLE DA SILVA,
Founder Chairman, IESC
(2014 – 2015)

In 2012, during my Presidency of ICEMA, the Board of ICEMA realizing the industry's dire need for trained & certified operators and service personnel decided to partner with the newly formed National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to float a Skill Council that would not only create an industry led curriculum to train Operators & Service personnel but also be the primary certification body for the Construction Equipment industry Operator and Service Training. Thus, in 2014, the Infrastructure Equipment Skill Council (IESC) was born, with HS Mohan as its first CEO. Over the decade, IESC has grown from strength to strength and has fulfilled a vital role in supporting the growth of Construction Equipment in India. I'm told that to date over 60,000 men & women Operators & Service personnel have been certified by IESC across the country.

I wish the current IESC Chairman Dimitrov and CEO Vijay, Godspeed and good wishes to take IESC into the next decade of its growth.

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VIKRAM SHARMA
Founder Chairman, IESC
(2015-2017)

I was the Chairman of Infrastructure Equipment Skill Council during the period 2015-2017. This was the very initial years of the IESC, and many formative plans and actions were to be drawn up. This was a phase when we as CE Industry was trying to get to understand the expectations of the Government on skilling and employability. The Indian Government had set up the National Skill Development Council (NSDC) as the prime agency to interact with various Industry bodies, and deliver on large numbers of Trained and Skilled labour force, at various levels.

The challenges were many, such as 1) Setting up various private bodies/ centres to train unskilled people 2) Get the Govt to agree to the economics of a training centre equipped with machines, trainers, and infra. These Centres needed funding. 3) Develop National Occupational Standards for many varieties of trainees. We were however able to push through the programme due to the able handling by our CEO Mr HS Mohan, and the various Heads of our ICEMA member companies.

The beginning was slow, in terms of the response of the expected trainees, who despite financial and technical support from IESC and the Govt, were not very forthcoming. But slowly and surely, we spread the programme to various member companies, as well as to the Contractor's labour, to not only sustain but grow the programme. IESC was judged by the concerned Ministry to be one of the top few performers amongst scores of Industries.

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Infrastructure

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ANAND SUNDARESAN
*Chairman, IESC
(2017 – 2019)*

As we celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Infrastructure Equipment Skill Council (IESC), it fills me with immense pride to reflect on the remarkable journey we have undertaken. I was the third chairman of IESC between 2017 – 2019. The past decade has seen IESC evolve into a pivotal entity, significantly contributing to the enhancement of skills within the construction and infrastructure equipment sector. Our efforts have not only elevated the competency of the workforce but have also driven the adoption of global best practices in India.

Before the inception of IESC, there was not much formal training imparted to operators. The manufacturers were providing training specific to their equipment during commissioning of the equipment. There were no standardized syllabus or basic qualification framework. Once IESC was formed, the first task was to identify the equipment for which training has to be provided, prepare qualification criteria for operators, mechanics, prepare syllabus for each equipment, define job role level wise and get the Syllabus approved by NSDC. All these activities were done with the help of representatives from different manufacturers.

Then the next task was to certify the trainers and get the training centers of all the manufacturers certified and accredited so that they can issue certificates to the trained operators and mechanics. Today IESC has course curricula and a scientific training program for more than 90 percent of construction equipment used in India, which is a remarkable achievement. Over a period of time IESC is continuously engaged in partnering with Construction companies, state governments, defense organisation, and other institutions to train their operators and mechanics.

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ARVIND K GARG
*Chairman, IESC
(2019-2021)*

In the ever-evolving landscape of construction and mining, staying abreast of technological advancements is crucial. L&T Construction & Mining Machinery (L&T CMB) recognised this early on and strongly emphasised training, a commitment that dates back to the early 1950s. This foresight has shaped the company's approach to upskilling its workforce and customers, creating a legacy of excellence in service and operational efficiency. In fact, we at Larsen & Toubro believe no construction and mining equipment operator should touch a machine unless trained and certified.

L&T CMB, in collaboration with the Infrastructure Equipment Skill Council (IESC) and dealers, conducts training programmes for operators across various locations. Certified by IESC, these programmes improve operators' proficiency. Established in 2014 under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, IESC leads workforce skilling in the Infrastructure Equipment Sector. Since IESC's inception, L&T CMB has trained over 17,000 operators and mechanics through nearly 900 programmes, earning industry awards for participant numbers. In the past five years, the Customer Training Centre (CTC) has trained over 50,000 candidates through 3,000 programmes, with almost 12,000 trained in the fiscal year 2023-24 alone.

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SANDEEP SINGH
Chairman, IESC
(2021 – 2023)

As we celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Infrastructure Equipment Skill Council (IESC), it fills me with immense pride to reflect on the transformative journey IESC has embarked upon. Over the past decade, IESC has been at the forefront of bridging the skill gap in the construction and infrastructure equipment sector, empowering thousands of individuals with the expertise needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving industry. Both Tata Hitachi and IESC's commitment to excellence has not only uplifted the standards of vocational training but has also significantly contributed to the growth and modernization of India's infrastructure landscape.

Through innovative training programs, strategic industry partnerships, and a relentless focus on quality of training contents, IESC has created a robust ecosystem where skilled machine operators and technicians can flourish, thereby driving efficiency and productivity across the sector.

As we look to the future, I am confident that IESC will continue to play a pivotal role in shaping the skilled workforce that will build the India of tomorrow. Together, Tata Hitachi and IESC will continue to push boundaries, inspire innovation, and uphold the values of integrity and excellence that define our journey. May we continue to achieve great success and make significant contributions to our nation's progress for many years to come.

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DIMITROV KRISHNAN
Chairman, IESC
(2023 – Present)

Over the past decade, IESC has built a robust foundation and framework for the skill ecosystem, positioning itself to meet the increasing demand for skilled manpower in the Construction and Mining Equipment (CE) industry. The efforts by IESC will significantly contribute to the development of a skilled workforce, essential for the sustained advancement of the construction equipment industry. IESC identifies emerging technologies such as telematics, remote connectivity, autonomous driving, and electric/alternate fuel technologies and determine the specific skills needed to support these advancements. In addition to technical skills, we also outline the necessary soft skills, detailing the content, depth of coverage required, and practical training needs.

We provide quality assurance through the accreditation and certification of training delivery bodies and award certifications to trainees. Accreditation covers course content approval, infrastructure requirements, and faculty certification, with certification criteria developed in conjunction with government bodies and agencies.

Looking ahead, IESC has ambitious plans to expand its operations, particularly in terms of training and certifications across geographies and across the entire value chain of the sector. IESC also aims to work with iCEMA to make skill certification mandatory in our industry.

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