

Article # 16

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Post energy manager/energy auditor exam thoughts

The first phase of the National Certification Examination for energy managers and energy auditors is over. It took many months, many people, a lot of nerves and much stress to set the stage for the exam. Over 2,000 candidates took the exam in 23 centers all over the country. Thanks to Director General of BEE for guidance and special thanks to Mr. K. K. Chakarvarti, Energy Economist from BEE, who has been the heart, the soul, the mover and shaker behind this exam. My congratulations to NPC Chennai for tremendous efforts in preparing the exam books and overall exam administration. Last but not the least, thanks to the staff of NPC Chennai and TERI Bangalore who spent months preparing the sample question bank.

The verdict to what extent this exam was fair, challenging, a piece of cake, or just too difficult will be out soon. In any case it was the first time to stage such an exam, taken by mostly practitioners in India. The exam will not decide who will be a good or bad energy manager or energy auditor in the future. It only reveals who had the guts and determination to test his knowledge.

My simplistic definition of a good energy manager is a person who constantly looks for opportunities to reduce energy costs by increasing energy efficiency in his/her firm and fights for an annual budget to implement. Moreover a good energy manager will also in the future submit accurate and validated data to BEE or State entities about measures done, to have others participate and judge this information. Whether an energy manager knows how to calculate excess air, or is familiar with the affinity laws applying to an air fan, I could care less.

However, excellence in any job and profession is based on a desire for life long learning and enthusiasm for the subject. The real work and determination starts therefore after the exam. Pass or non pass!

The real work and determination for the staff of www.energymanagertraining.com will also start after the exam, because we now know by name at least 2000 enthusiasts for the subject who went through the trouble and effort to sit in the exam.

Where do we go from there?

A first step will be to organise all those who are seriously interested in staying in the profession under the umbrella of the Association of Indian Energy Managers (AIEM). The "aim" is to make AIEM a strong and powerful organisation that cares about their members, provides them with guidance, training, help and

information to do a good job. We are therefore at the beginning of a national movement. Watch this website for more to come on this subject.

With respect to energy auditor's my simplistic definition of an excellent certified energy auditor is the ability to get adequately paid for professional service rendered to a designated energy consumer and to assist energy managers. Of course they are also welcome to join AIEEM, because energy auditors are part of the team efforts and have a clearly defined mandate under the Energy Conservation Act as well.