

Iran Engipedia

First scientific professional session, summer 2019

Venue: Rayzan Conferences Int'l Center

Date: Wednesday 18th September 2019

Speech Title: Iran Engipedia, necessity and application

Speakers: Mr. A. Tavafoqi, Mr. M. Golabchi and Mr. M. Kiani

Mr. M. Kiani

Welcoming the participants to the session, Mr. Kiani expressed his pleasure for the presence and participation to the session. Thanking Mr. Bojnourdi for organizing the edition of Iran Engipedia and Mr. Mahmoudi for organizing the session, he began his speech.

Beginning his speech Mr. Kiani affirmed that the first important thing in such session was that experts in various fields of engineering had the opportunity to meet and know each other, improving the contacts and relationships. The second point that Mr. Kiani asserted on was that such meetings could influence policy and program makings in the future edition of Iran Engipedia. The first question that he posed was the reason and goal of Iran engipedia edition. In his opinion one of the first achievements of the edition of Iran Engipedia was the possibility to edit the history of Iranian engineering. Supposing that the goal could be the above mentioned, he asserted that the result could only be welcomed.

The following matter in his opinion was to fix the content of Iran as a concept that can be geographical, with its historical and political definitions. In this context Mr. Kiani that historical and cultural areas that includes Farsi speaking areas should be considered seriously, for present countries like Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan or also India and the Ottoman empire, that somehow used Farsi in public and official levels. Mr. kiani expressed the idea that if we begin the edition of Iran Engipedia, geographical and political actual divisions must be put away, considering the Iranian engineering heritage in countries that today are not part of the Iranian historical territory; he also affirmed that territories that once were under Iranian political influence like Georgia or Armenia, must be considered during the edition of Iran Engipedia.

Mr. Kiani talked also about the definition of engineer that can be considered as contemporary, because once the real builder-constructor was considered the personality called "Me'mar", that had the knowledge for design, structural calculations.... In his opinion the definitions of engineer and me'mar found their different explanations and meenings after the industrial revolution and in modern times.

Continuing his speech Mr. Kiani talks about the topic and concept of historiography, because it is strictly related to the enterprise of encyclopedia edition. He briefly talked about western historiography, explaining its characteristics and contents. He explained that in the first period the editors focused on the life and works of persons that were involved in design and engineering, meanwhile in 19th century persons are put in a second level and the focus and stress are on movements and styles. Talking about the Iranian reality on this regard, Mr. kiani asserted that in Iran the lack of historiography related to the life and works of architects-engineers is well known, even though different writers, also western travelers tried to fill partially this enormous gap. Mr. kiani believes that the first serious attempts on this regard have been made during the Pahlavi second era, when western experts came to Iran and transferred their knowledge to the Iranian growing society.

Concluding his speech Mr. kiani spoke also about the role and the importance of focusing on architecture and architectural works. He said that during the last years, in various Iranian universities, architectural studies have become a separate study field and in his opinion Iran Engipedia could play a connecting role for different fields and universities. He concluded his speech saying that the most important factor is to consider and develop the relationship between industry and universities. He expressed the hope that such meetings could improve the quality and direction of studies and researches in fields that are related to the field of engineering.