

Professional scientific sessions for art, architecture and urban planning Thursday evenings

Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers

Date: 02.02.2017

Title: Safety obligations in working places.

Speakers and panel members: Mr. B. Nourollahi, Mr. A. Qolamian and Mr. H. Narqi.

Mr. Nourollahi that was the first speaker of the 75th session reported that the 2016 wasn't a good year because of the accidents and disasters that occurred in the country. The last one was the case of Plasco building collapsed after a fire in January. He said that the group of speakers don't intend who was guilty for the incidents, but they want to review the conditions and obligations that must be respected in working places, in order to reduce the damages and casualties.

Mr. Nourollahi said that when we talk about safety obligations, if they are properly realized, they usually don't have an impressive impact on our everyday life, but when an incident or disaster occurs, the obligations can prevent disastrous consequences.

There are many offices that are responsible for the safety of the working places, approved by local and government lawmakers. Some of them are the municipalities, the cities Islamic Councils, the ministry of cooperation, job and social security, the ministry of roads and urban planning, Tehran civil and renovation main office, Iranian aviation organization, the Iranian railway organization, the Port and Maritime Organization, the ministry of Oil, the Disaster Management Organization, the ministry of Industry, Mining and Commerce, the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, the insurance companies, The traffic police, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Fishing Organization, the Iranian Red Crescent Society, the NGO-s, the Iranian Management and Programming organization, the IRI's customs, the Iranian TV, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Guidance, the Ministry of Sport and Youth, The bus company etc...

Mr. Nourollahi said that many think that in Iran we don't have appropriate and strong laws, but after his studies and researches he believes that the laws are strong enough, the problem is that they are not observed. Concluding his speech he expressed the idea that the safety affairs management in the city must be under the control of a sole office. He added that regarding the matter of safety, on saved life can justify all the efforts.

The second speaker was Mr. A. Qolamian, a firefighting consultant and teacher. He began his speech saying that the buildings are designed and built by architects and engineers, but effectively they are used by common people, that in case of emergency must react to the incident.

Showing the result of an experiment in case of fire, he explained that if the firefighters arrive after three minutes of the beginning of the incident, their intervention can be effective and appropriate, but after that time the problem becomes dangerous. Mr. Qolamian said that

unfortunately %99 of the people call too late the firefighting service, making impossible to act properly.

Meanwhile the presents watched the experiment, he explained when and how the person present in the scene of incident can fight the fire and save himself. The presents knew how in few minutes the incident that could be easily controlled, could become dangerous and disastrous.

To better transfer his experiences Mr. Qolamian talked about the fire extinguishers, saying that many Iranians can spend huge amounts of money to buy a carpet or a car, but they hesitate to buy and maintain the necessary extinguishers.

Talking about the ways to prevent the incidents, he expressed the idea that in the new buildings the designers should consider all aspects that could cause problems in case of an incident. He said the training and education of the people regarding the incidents could be the best way to obtain positive result and minor damages. In many cases it would be better to give the preference to the use of inflammable materials than the enforcement of alarm systems. Mr. Qolamian concluding his speech talked about the 2016 saying that it was a very sad year, especially because of the loss of 16 firefighters that lost their lives in the Plasco building disastrous incident.

The last speaker was Mr. H. Naraqi, who presented the list and nature of the incidents, caused by floods, climate changes ..., occurred during the last 20 years. In Asia during the last 115 years the principle cause of the disasters are the droughts. He explained that usually the incidents are classified in two categories that are called crisis and disasters, the first regards the social incidents and the second the natural events. Presenting a table he explained that there are about 41 types of classified incidents. Mr. Naraqi agreed that to prevent the incidents the most important factors are the training and the spread of the safety rules as a culture in the society. He believes that in Iran many persons talk about the problems, but when is time to act most of them are absent or in the wrong place. Because the memory of Plasco building was fresh, he said that if the people trusted the firefighters in that case the death toll could be zero or minimum. Talking about the training courses he expressed his concern, because the courses are held when many people can't participate to the courses. So to achieve the desirable goals first of all the main route should be redesigned and reorganized.