Professional scientific sessions for art, architecture and urban planning Thursday evenings
Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers
Date: 27.03.2017
Title: The numbers in history, arts and architecture.
Speakers and panel members: Mr. M. M. Mahmoudi, Mr. A. Taheri, Mr. A. Kamiabimask and Mr. F. Parsi.

The first speaker was Mr. M. M. Mahmoudi who presented a series of numbers that had and still have particular meanings and importance. He explained how zero means vain, one presents God, two the first pare number, three has a particular role in almost all the religions and civilizations, from Egyptians to Iranians; four is present in many architectural solutions, five is the presentation of our five senses, six is the sign of strength in architecture, also the sixth sense, seven is the first number that is considered both material and spiritual, nine is sacred number for the masons, ten is the first two digit number that gives us a sense of tranquility, eleven is considered by some people the number of the devil, twelve is considered by most of the religions a sacred number, thirteen is an unfortunate number, fourteen is related to a philosophical essence, fifteen is the reflection of balance, forty is somehow the symbol of completion, hundred is considered by many s strong number and finally the number 666 considered a very mysterious number.

The second speaker was Mr. A. Taheri. He began his speech saying that studying historic events, many interesting things can be observed. Many of these events occurred in the same day.

Men has always tried to find the explanation and relationship that can exist between facts and important happenings. To achieve proper responses we must refer to historical sources. Mr. Taheri posed a question regarding the meaning and essence what we call history. Most of the researchers agree that the science of history that studies what happened to the human society during the centuries of civilization. These studies include social, cultural, political and economical components.

Mr. Taheri said that the science of history has an important position between other spheres. He said the mathematics has an important role and position in the entire process. He explained that numbers had always been interesting during the centuries. In this context the numbers show the secret relation that exists between natural phenomenon, stars and magic believes.

Mr. Taheri reported that the numbers have been always present in the life of humankind, and in many cases this relationship has been somehow instinctive. He poses a question how long it took for the human civilization to pass from an instinctive comprehension to a logical understanding. In his opinion this process has a five thousand years history, occurred in the middle east region.

Mr. Taheri continued his speech talking about different civilizations like Greek, Egyptian, Roman, Indian, Maya and how they approached the matter of numbers. Then he explained how different civilizations wrote the numbers. Mr. Taheri believes that in this historical process the

Islamic scientific world had a very important role as one the most qualified scientific poles. The numbers had and played an important role in the religious believes of the principal religions that still exist.

Mr. Taheri concluded his speech reporting interesting and important examples of how men used the numbers in different situations and eras.

The third speaker was Mr. A. Kamiabimask. He explained that the name of each of us can be transformed in numbers. When we have a look to the use and application of numbers we see that it includes a very large sphere. He believes that step by step we are becoming numbers to be recognized.

Mr. Kamiabimask began to speak from the beginning when men counted through their fingers, and this is probably the reason that our counting scale is based on ten digits. Mr. Kamiabimask talked about the Zoroastrians and how they used the numbers to put order and base on their religion.

Mr. Kamiabimask talked also about other nations and how they used the numbers in base of their culture, necessities and conditions. Talking about the writing of numbers he explained that Romans had the best and simplest way to writ the numbers.

Talking about numbers Mr. Kamiabimask talked about famous numbers like 7 that from the beginning it had a very important position in the Iranian history and civilization. The number 7 has been seriously considered in other cultures and civilizations. The spheres that the number 7 includes are arts, history, architecture and culture.

The last speaker was Mr. Parsi. He said that in his opinion the numbers are part the order of language, the same mechanism created both of them. He explained that in the language a word can have different languages, having also poetic definitions and characteristics. In the case of the numbers the same rule exists, the numbers can be signs of a mathematical meaning, they can also have other meanings for other purposes. We can conclude that in all cultures the numbers have meanings for mathematics and also a position in the language and the evolution of the culture.

Mr. Parsi expressed the idea that the numbers don't have secret contents, but it depends on the manner that we use them. He reported the case of number 12, when we divide the day time in two 12 hours, or the division of the year in 12 months, so there is any aspect of sacred content in the numbers, but the sacred characteristic that we give them.

Mr. Parsi said that most of the definitions made for the numbers have been reported during the last fifty years. Many studies have been realized on this regard, that comprehend different numbers. Giving an example he talked about the number 4 that many think that it expresses the idea of soil, water, wind and fire. In his opinion the reasons to accept that there is a connection between this idea and a rectangular form in architecture don't a solid base to be considered

seriously. The reason is that a rectangular form is more comfortable to be used in architectural plan. He continued his speech talking about other numbers like 5 and 7, saying that they have been used before the Islamic era and in his opinion they are just the result of a design manner.

To explain better his ides Mr. Parsi showed many geometrical sketches and designs where it was possible to see the role that the numbers can play in their creation. He conclude his speech suggesting to accept the elements that act in architecture as they are, without trying to give special explanations to justify their role and the effect that they could have in a structure.