

## **Report on Participation in GeoQuebec Conference & Exhibition and JGT Related Activities in Canada by P K Choudhury from 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> Sept.2015**

Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS) organized a 4-day International Geotechnical Conference-cum-exhibition “GeoQuebec2015” from 20 to 23 September 2015 at Quebec City Convention Centre, Canada.

M/S Hey Jute - a Toronto based company dealing with JDP in Canada foresaw that there could be a possibility of usage of JGT in the country if awareness be created among the geotechnical engineers and approached NJB to participate in the event with a proposal of organizing the exhibition on 50 : 50 cost sharing basis. NJB accepted the proposal and decided to participate. One technical paper on “Effectiveness of JGT for hill slope stabilization in adverse climatic zone” authored by Sh T Sanyal and myself was sent to CGS and was accepted for presentation.

A 5-member team of delegates comprising Dr. Subrato Gupta- JC, Sh Sushil R Gaikwad- Director, Textiles, Sh P K Sahu- CMPO, Sh Kishan Singh Ghughthyal- AD and Sh. P K Choudhury, Principal Technologist visited Quebec to participate in the programme. Sh Ajoy Todi- MD, Ludlow Jute Mills also participated.

### **GeoQuebec Conference –cum- exhibition from 20-23 Sept.:**



Total 943 delegates from around the world participated in the conference where 338 technical papers on geotechnical engg. & geosynthetics were presented. Ours was the only paper on natural geotextile ( JGT) but due to delay in responding to participate, the organizers allotted us a slot for presentation in poster session instead of oral session on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. However, during presentation of our paper lot of interest on JGT was noticed among many participating engineers. No of queries on techno - economic and environmental aspects of JGT raised by the delegates were addressed by me, Jute Commissioner and also M/S Hey Jute.

In the exhibition arena there were 48 booths, most of them exhibited geotechnical equipment and synthetic geotextiles while NJB / Hey Jute booth displayed live samples, technical literatures, photo blowups on application of JGT and also JDPs. More than 400 visitors comprising academicians and practicing engineers visited our stall and some of them had shown keen interest on usage of JGT .Dr. Dipanjan Basu of Civil & Env. Engg, University of Waterloo was highly impressed and decided to undertake study with PVJD and OW JGT. He fixed up a meeting with Mr. Tony Sangiulliano, Sr. Foundation Engineer, Ministry of Transportation, Govt. of Canada on 26<sup>th</sup> Sept in Toronto. Some other important dignitaries like Prof Shan Wei – NF University, China; Prof. Sumi Siddiqua - The University of British Columbia, Canada; Prof Khama Roy- Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada; Er Caroline Harvey- Chief of Public Works, Canada; Dr Mohamed Shahin- Curtin University, Canada; Dr Richard Bathurst- Research Director of Geo Engineering Centre, Royal Military College of Canada; Er Sylvie Gingras- Std. Developer of Canada and many more. Close interactions were made with the visitors to create interest on JGT among them.

As organized by M/S Hey Jute following activities were also undertaken after the conference during the period of stay in Canada :-

**Site inspection at Stanstead, Quebec on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept :**



Mr Ian Jackson- Director of Business Operations, Stanstead College, representatives of M/S Hey Jute accompanied the undersigned during site inspection. Three lake fronts situated at North Hatley, Quebec Eastern Township and George Velle were observed to have growth of unwanted weeds causing water pollution. The local body, based on their previous experience decided to lay OW JGT overlain with sand fill jute bags on lake beds to prevent emergence of weeds and to maintain the natural ambience conducive for the fishes and alike beings. As desired by them specs. of both the varieties of jute products were given to them from our end for their future requirement.

Two unpaved Low Volume Roads ( LVR) situated at Ayer's Cliff and George ville finished with gravels and stone metals were inspected and noticed the occurrence of ruts as well as dispersion of gravels towards shoulders causing undulation on the riding surface and distress in places. Prior to suggesting any solution with the use of JGT they have been requested to study and send us the sub grade soil characteristics, traffic survey, cross section of the road etc.

**Meeting with MPs and Mayor at Magog, Quebec on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept.:**



With the initiation of M/S Hey Jute a meeting was organized at the office of the Members of Parliament at Magog to discuss issues related to use JGT for geotechnical applications in Quebec. The meeting was attended by Mr. Pierre Peid MP, Ms Nathalie Lecours- MP, Mr Philip Dutil-Mayor of Stanstead, Hey Jute and the undersigned. After listening to the detail deliberation on efficacy of JGT Mr Pierre informed that he will initiate to convince the respective Govt. deptts. to use JGT for which he sought our technical support and guidance.

**Meeting with Mr. Tony Sangiulliano, Sr. Foundation Engg., Ministry of Transportation, Govt. of Canada at Toronto on 26<sup>th</sup> Sept.:**



As initiated by Prof. Dipanjan Basu of Waterloo University a meeting was held with Mr Tony who is an eminent geotechnical engineer in the country, at his office on prospect of usages of JGT in Canada. The meeting was attended by JC , Director-Textiles, undersigned and HeyJute. After a detail technical discussion both Prof. Basu and Mr. Tony were quite positive and decided to undertake some research work with PVJD and OW JGT. Based on the findings of the study they would recommend usage of JGT in different projects in the country. It has been decided in the meeting that the modalities of the work would be chalked out by Prof Basu and Mr. Tony which would be communicated to Jute Commissioner for taking further course of action.