



# Blueprint for Partnership

## The IPA-IAPMO Plumbing Education Program (Part - 3)



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*This is Part Three in a series of articles about the process being undertaken to produce effective plumbing training, education, and certification based on the Uniform Plumbing Code – India. The program will be implemented throughout India via a partnership between the IPA, IAPMO, and the IIP (Indian Institute of Plumbing).*

*The goal of this series of articles is to describe the essential steps that need to be taken to produce a program of such magnitude. We believe that sharing our preparedness for achieving success and meeting high expectations is necessary to gain the confidence of all who will be served by the program.*

On the morning of March 31, our flight landed in the Garden City of Bangalore, India. We were scheduled to meet with the Advisory Committee of plumbing professionals, who had helped in developing the UPC-I. Our intention was to discuss the strategy and plans associated with the IPA-IAPMO Plumbing Education Program. Though exhausted from nearly 24 hours of constant travel, we were invigorated to be in such a beautiful place, looking forward to the prospect of a direct conversation with our partners and shareholders.

On the morning of April 1, we came to ESSENCO House to meet with Mr. Sudhakaran Nair, Mr. B.S.A. Narayan, Mr. P. Ramachandran, Ms. T. Manjula, Mr. H.R. Ranganath, and Mr. M N R Rao. During this meeting, we revisited and refined the target groups and curricular emphasis for the program. The program will now have 3 categories of study targeting a corresponding audience group:

1. Engineers will be targeted to participate in a one-year, post-graduate specialization program that will focus on code-based plumbing system design.
2. Contractors, managers, and supervisors will be targeted to participate in a one-year program that will focus on the installation supervision of code-based plumbing systems.
3. Aspiring plumbers will be targeted to participate in a two-year program that will focus on the installation and maintenance of code-based plumbing systems. After completion of the first year of training, participants will be qualified as Plumbers. After completion of the second year, they will be qualified as Master Plumbers.



*Committee Members (from L to R) - Ms T Manula, Mr. P Ramchandran, Ms Kathleen Mibelich, Mr. Sudbakaran Nair, Mr. H R Ranganath, Mr. Sherard Jones and Mr. B S A Narayan.*



*M.E.I. Polytechnic, V. Hemalatha, Principal*



*S.J. Polytechnic, D. V. Srinivasa Murthy, HoD - Environmental Engineering*



*Bangalore University, U.V.C.E., B.R. Niranjana, Professor & Chairman, Civil Engineering*



*R.V. College, Mr. Shivakumar. B. L., HoD - Civil Engineering*

As an integral part of the program implementation strategy, we have identified universities, colleges, polytechnics, and industrial training institutes with which to partner. During our trip, we visited several institutions and individuals:

The response to the IPA-IAPMO program was consistently favorable. We will move forward in the pursuit of these partnerships and others by preparing detailed proposals outlining our objectives, expectations, strategies, and curriculum.

Based on the success of the meeting, we will move forward to create a comprehensive curriculum for each program of study. The committee agreed to four certifications in addition to the academic certificate curricula. The certification program will be autonomous from the academic program, and will be voluntary in nature. The certification program will allow individuals the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of the Uniform Plumbing Code – India, regardless of formal education or participation in the specialised academic programs of study.

We are moving forward with developing the following four certifications:

1. Certified Plumbing Systems Engineer - C.P.S.E.
2. Certified Plumbing Supervisors - C.P.S.
3. Certified Plumber - C.P.
4. Certified Master Plumber - C.M.P.

We also had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Lata Krishna Rao, Chairperson for the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board on April 3. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce our program and its goals. Ms. Rao agreed that there was indeed a need for education and training to a common standard of performance and encouraged our efforts.



Our final meeting was with the Institution of Engineers in India. We had the opportunity to again introduce our program and its goals, as well as to report on our activities for the week. As had been with all of our interactions, the meeting was favourable, with the group showing great interest in the program and offering support. **IP**