

'Cities need to address landfill issues seriously'

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A two-day international conference on emerging and sustainable technologies for infrastructure systems (ESTIS 2016) began here on Friday at the Amrita University campus.

Leading academicians, scientists, and researchers in civil engineering have assembled under one roof to present and discuss the latest innovations, trends and concerns in infrastructure systems, and the key infrastructure challenges faced by developing countries and their possible solutions.

More than 150 experts in civil engineering are participating, including T.G. Sitharam, professor at Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, Dr Siau Chen



Chian, assistant professor at National University of Singapore, and Allen Bateman, professor, UPC Barcelona Tech, Spain.

Speaking on land reclamation, Dr Siau Chen Chian said, "Underground infrastructure such as subways, roadways and water tunnels is gaining popularity to free up ground space for economic and social activities. A huge amount of

Academicians, scientists and researchers are attending the two-day international conference on emerging and sustainable technologies for infrastructure systems at Amrita University. —DC

unwanted excavated soil gets generated which requires disposal landfill sites. This can lead to a situation where precious land elsewhere gets occupied with this waste."

One solution is to convert this excavated soil into useable fill material by using a low dosage of eco-friendly cement to stabilize the soil and enhance its engineering properties. This method

can intelligently solve two issues facing overcrowded cities, namely reduction in the disposal landfill space needed, and creation of new land, he added.

Over 150 research papers have been received at the conference from reputed institutions in India as well as in US, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia and Kuwait.

India needs an investment of US \$ 465 billion over the next five years to develop infrastructure, with 70 per cent of it going to power, roads and urban infrastructure. Two critical technologies – reinforced earth and geo-synthetics – have become very popular abroad, but are yet to find widespread use in India, especially in construction works of the Government, said T.G. Sitharam.