

COAL SYMPOSIUM IN ZONGULDAK (TURKEY) - 1962

A coal symposium was convened in Zonguldak, Turkey (Dec. 2-8) under the chairmanship of Mr. Hamza Batuk, Assistant Director General of Coal Exploitation Enterprises, with the participation of member countries. The technical discussions were supplemented by maps, graphs, models, etc. and a number of field trips to Iron and Steel Plant (Karabük), Power Plant (Çatalağzı), Kozlu Mine, Coke Plant, Armutçuk Mine and Washery, Ereğli Steel Works site and Western Lignite Mines. The organizational structure of CENTO was outlined by Dr. Charles Hatton of U. S. Embassy, who also referred to two previous symposia held on minerals and chrome. Mr. William Waylett of the U. S. Operations Mission pointed out the importance of work on coal, now and later, for the industrialization of the CENTO region.

Geology of coal was discussed at length, with references to correlation of coal-bearing formations, need for an international terminology, role of sporological studies in Turkey, disrupted and dislodged state of coal measures in Iran, geologic and other conditions in Amasra-Zonguldak (Turkey) coal basin, change of quality in deposits in Pakistan and variety of types of work on coal carried on in regional countries. Exchange of results on geological and related studies between participant countries was noted very desirable and recommended.

A variety of mining methods (room and pillar, sub-level carving, long wall, cut and fill, etc.) were said to have been adopted in regional countries and individual sites, together with open cast mining (such as in Western Lignites) in some cases using modern equipment whenever possible. It was noted that Iran's coal mining was faced with many problems and over 200 square miles of peat reserves in Pakistan likewise presented special difficulties. Off-shore coal mining in Zonguldak and Kozlu were described along with the feasibility of an attempt at transportation of coal by pipelines instead of other conventional means.

Various beneficiation and utilization methods in member countries were discussed and research efforts underway in the U. S. and elsewhere mentioned, while some individual cases were brought to closer attention.

The members agreed that in the long run, despite competition, coal will generally hold its economic position in the world, with varied policies drawn to suit different member countries.

The problem of training was also discussed pointing out the need for low as well as high level training. All member countries did have some but not always both. It was suggested that the U. K. with such facilities could be turned to in this connection.

The topic of safety regulations in member countries were brought up and described together with those in the U.S.A. and U.K.

Pakistan particularly requested trailing facilities for and miners.

Social insurance of some sort was found to exist in all regional countries, but none covered unemployment. Publication of papers presented at the symposium was deemed to be most useful. Thanks were also expressed to the U.S. for publication of papers submitted in chrome symposium (September 1960).

It was further hoped that similar conferences may be held from time to time to the advantage of all concerned.

Based on discussions, the Symposium submitted a nine-point list of recommendations.