



MESSAGE FROM CEO



The year 2006 is well on its way full of excitement with all business units' reporting results in line with or better than expectations, and on top of that new record high remaining values. **Well Done!**

The most exciting news for the first quarter, is of course Haji Hassan Group becoming the 100% owner of BPC Group. It is still so new that no one really knows what is going to happen in the near or long term future.

"New" Ownership normally always signal changes and normally changes for the good. For any business to always remain on top, a number of issues are essential. Most crucial is the ability to change and adapt to the new market situation.

So, for me change is positive and no one should never ever be afraid of changes or to challenge the existing. By challenging the existing we can only get wiser; this is how new great things are discovered or developed.

For the past several years one of the most interesting and exciting things working in this region of the world is the speed at which Markets constantly change and develop.

For the BPC Group to continue being the Market Leader of our industry in the GCC countries, it requires that not only Top Management has the necessary skills and experience, but also that the Owners of BPC Group fully understand the mechanisms and requirements for pursuing opportunities and staying on TOP.

I therefore, strongly believe that the new change in Ownership Structure only will benefit the future of BPC Group. **Congratulations Haji Hassan Group!**

TOM KJÆR

Chief Executive Officer

I N N O V A T I O N

High production hours/m² in H.C.S production factory and spare capacity in fabrication section initiated to an in house manufacturing of a wire puller / cleaning machine.

The construction team consisting of Fabrication Foreman Robert Pimental, Maintenance Supervisor Perlito Caballa and Electrical Supervisor Francisco Duallo with expert input to the requirement and expectation to the machine from Production Supervisor Federico Fortin. Using stocked spare parts from

various machines and cranes gave a good kick to our goal of reducing the inventory stock of stored spare parts. The outcome result is really good. The machine cleans the surface of the



Newly Invented wire puller / cleaning machine

casting bed, the rails where the casting machine runs on and it pulls the required wires for production. The construction team is now working on the idea of cleaning the outside part of the casting bed at the same time.

The win-win situation was complete when we made the recalculation of the machine, which proved to us that we were inside our budgeted cost, which is a very small part of the cost of a similar machine imported from over seas.

**By Ove S. Pedersen
Production Manager
UPC Qatar**

UPDATE FROM BPC

With the increase of high rise buildings in Bahrain, use of precast panels is getting limited. But these high rise buildings give good opportunities for use of prestressed and precast beams and columns. BPC is now trying to popularize the concept of using precast beams in these buildings and working on such proposals.

BPC has just completed production and erection of beams for Awal Printing Press. The job included 2500sq meters of 150mm Hollow core slabs and 100 number of beams; length of beams up to 15.5 meters.

The initial requirement of the customer was for 200mm thick Hollow core slabs. But BPC designed the beams and slabs in such a way that 150mm slabs could be used in place of 200mm slabs making a lot of saving for customer. Additional strength could be achieved by making the slabs a part of beams by making long grooves in the slabs and connecting them to the beam through reinforcement. The client benefited by this arrangement.



Erected beams in Awal Printing Press

NEW ORDERS: BPC has received an order worth BD614,500 from the Ministry of Education for building of Educational Blocks. This is the third order of the series, 2 other orders were just completed.

BPC is doing very well in the area of Hollowcore slabs. Order books are full and design, production and erection groups are quite busy coping up with the orders. **The following major jobs are on Priority for BPC:**



Erection of Hollowcore slabs on the 4x4 Storey Bldge

4X 4 Storey Building (area 30000 sq meters of 150mm) : BPC is busy in the finishing stage of erection of Hollowcore slabs in these 4 numbers of 4 storey commercial cum residential buildings. Half of the 30000 sq meter slabs have been erected. We expect to complete the job by April end.

Royal University of Women (22686 Sq Meters of 200 & 150mm hollowcore Slabs): Job completed at the end of February 2006.

Public Car Park (39013 sq meter of 200 & 240mm Slabs) : Erection of Hollowcore slabs in the upcoming carpark in the Diplomatic area is half way through. Project is slated to be completed by August 2006.

Annual Party Celebration

BPC held its Annual Family Party on 26th January in Jashanmal Auditorium in Indian School, Isa Town. Number of exciting programmes including children games, ladies musical chairs, tug of war, bowling, darts and elephant tail were arranged.



General Manager Mr. Goran Addressing the gathering



The Gathering



Winning Team of Tug of war



Reaching for the Heights

General Manager Felicitated Employees of 25, 10 & 15 Years Service



Mr. Subash , Foreman Fabrication & Mr. Armugan, Foreman HCS Loading, felicitated for 25 years valuable service

Best Employee from the Factory and Best Staff Member for the year 2005 were declared and presented with Memento and Cash Award.



Mr. Hamid Adnan Ali—Best Staff Member for the year 2005



&
Mr. Tata Reddy—Best factory employee for the year 2005

The 14 Nos. G+2 LABOUR ACCOMMODATION PROJECT



By Narciso P. Pagdilao: Located at Plot 365-963 at the northeast part of Al-Quoz Industrial Area Second, the Labor Accommodation Project consists of 14 units of three-storey buildings with each unit having 124 bedrooms. The project, originally intended to be a conventional type of building with reinforced concrete foundations and superstructure was transformed to a Pre-Cast Concrete Solution under the technical expertise of UPC. Meeting the budget at Dhs 22.5 million, this was delivered in a record time of about eight (8) months. But, not without its pitfalls. Top of this was the issue on Architectural Design. Horizontal grooves and recesses at the panel joints must be integrated, to name some issues. Various options were taken, and after a thorough discussion with the Main Contractor and Consultants, a solution was arrived at; implement the grooves starting from the second level only. Other problems were beyond UPC's control such as cast-in-place foundations were not ready, crane breakdown, delays on concrete screed, and many other normal obstacles in implementing the project cropped up. Production was definitely affected and slowed down, but because of time-proof, skill-tested experience and decisiveness of UPC's men, completion was well within target. Needless to mention, UPC has earned complementary appreciation from the owner's representatives and was recommended for another similar project. Indeed, many thanks to the support and cooperation of everyone concerned. The 14 Nos. Labour Accommodation may not be the ideal project one has envisioned it to be, but this can serve as a UPC show window for the increasing demand of the Labor Accommodation market.



The above 3 pictures taken at various stages of erection at 14nos. G+2 Labour Accommodation for System Construct site

BURJ DUBAI RESIDENCE—Phase 1



By Mario Elmenzo:

The Burj Dubai Residences-Phase 1, project is owned by Emaar Co. and

has awarded the construction of the project to Nasa Multiplex – an Australian based company.

Phase I consists of 6 towers clad with UPC panels with colored concrete exposed aggregates finish. Each tower rises from ground level to various heights, tallest of which is 151 meters from the finish level.

UPC's scope of work includes 6,336 pieces of precast concrete panels with an area of 44,011 sq.m. All the precast concrete products were manufactured and supplied by UPC's Factories in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. The Abu Dhabi plant supplied the precast requirements of four (4) towers and the remaining was from Dubai factory.

Apart from panels, UPC also supplied all the band beams and HCS for this project. Records show that total band beams supplied were 2,265 linear meters and HCS was 25,000m².

Execution was completed ahead of schedule, which earned UPC another three-tower project adjacent to the site.

LAST TOUCH ON MAIDEN PROJECT

We are now in the final stage of finishing our first cladding project.

Our scope was to design, manufacture, supply and erect 21,000m² insulated white exposed cladding panels and 19,000 m² HCS.

It has been an excellent learning process not only for our employees but also for our client QIPCO/ Midmac. For the

majority of our employees this has been their first experience with precast.

The project on the whole all has turned out very positive. The quality of our product and our performance in this project has been accepted in a very positive way, both by our client and also the construction industry here in Qatar. Of course, we found some problems in the beginning, especially in the erection phase but with some expert help from our colleagues in Bahrain it turned out very well. We are very much looking forward to our next projects with much more confident expectations on how we can perform.



Ove S. Pedersen
UPC Qatar

What's New About UPC ABU DHABI

By Engr. Teddy Untalasco: UPC Abu Dhabi is continuing its advancement on the right track. In terms of turnover, we started off on momentum, which was picking up gradually during the past years. Concrete production for the month of January and February were 9005.75 m³ and 8989 m³ respectively. We hope this acceleration will continue in the forthcoming months and years.

Joining our Abu Dhabi staff this year are Sales Manager Mohammed Hosni (Oman & Qatar) and Sales Engineer Hazem Miskeen. The re-opening of Sales Department at UPC AUH Factory has helped UPC AUH take a step ahead in bringing in new projects. We are happy that the sales team has been able to venture easily into the Emirates precast concrete market (especially Abu Dhabi) and prove their competence by acquiring new contracts for Hollowcore Boundary Wall for 20 villas and 222 villas in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain (contract no. 610070 and 610080).

Abu Dhabi Management would like to hereby congratulate all staff for their excellent performance and to keep up the quality and outstanding name of UPC ABU DHABI.

Hats Off to New Hollowcore Design Engineers

By **Abdul Kader, UPC Dubai:** Design Engineers Najeeb Ur Rahman and Imthiyaz Gudme have performed extremely well.

They were not only fast learners, but also proved to be efficient in working under high work pressure. Their positive attitude is admirable. Najeeb Ur Rahman has shattered the record by submitting 20,000m² of Hollowcore slabs for production in the month of January, 2006. Imthiyaz has submitted 15463.2m² of Hollowcore for production in the month of December 2005. The credit also to the entire hollowcore team of the Design department. Let us all stand United to congratulate Najeeb and Imthiyaz.

Coordination Between Two Factories (By Production Dept. UPC Dubai)

By Production Dept. UPC Dubai: In 2005 there were frequent exchange of visits between Dubai and Abu Dhabi factories and continued in 2006. The purpose of visits was to streamline common production procedures, share knowledge and exchange of technical expertise.

Last meeting was held on March 6, 2006 in Dubai Factory. Three subjects were selected, Samples, mock and panels. Repair technique and finishing and color variations in surface during project period.

Approved sample or mock-up element represents the guide line for required surface finishings. All produced element should be compared to approved samples. If variations are found during production, accepted limited should be defined.

Finishing and repair work is one of the most challenging work in production process.

For example, panels for the 7WX Marina Project with grey exposed surface finishing. It was found difficult to match to approved sample and lots of additional testing work was required to solve the problem.

It was a conclusion, that the acceptability of repair techniques for chippings, or other surface blemishes also should be established on the approved samples. Proposal was made, that the each sample should contain at least two areas which have been chipped out and then patched and repaired. Color, texture and appearance of repaired area should be approved by the Consultant for reference.

Surface color, combination of cement, color pigment and aggregate, these are not absolute and constant, but are affected by light, shadow, density, nearby colours and the surroundings. Reasonable acceptable variation should be considered.

Conclusion of visit: Sharing the knowledge is extremely important in finding solutions for critical questions. Plan is to extend similar visits and meetings across the entire BPC GROUP.



Hollowcore Casting Machine at
UPC Dubai Factory



Casting panels with return at
Dubai factory

A Note of Appreciation

His humbleness invited us to meet him again and again to seek his advice on design matters; his humorous nature made us to stop him when he is in the office, - Mr. Finn Theilgaard, our Chief Engineer.

We had a very favourable time with Mr. Finn Theilgaard as our head of the Sales Department and the Chief Engineer. Due to his sound technical knowledge we could secure lots of valuable orders like Van Oord Quay Walls, Water Villas, DFC Schools, Safer Mall in Sharjah etc.

His stay in Sales Department was short, but the technical advice and knowledge we received from him in precast design is still valid for 10 more years (life time), like UPC's Product Guarantee letters which are normally signed by him. Even though he was burdened with his own department's work after he got transferred to Design Dept, his cooperation to other departments in terms of his time and technical advice is highly appreciable.

Finn, "**We**" still might need you - particularly UPC Dubai Sales, not just because we have to discuss design matters, but yes, we are going to miss you.

We take this opportunity to wish you **All the Success in your new venture**, as you are one of the best examples in UPC for "**HARD WORK ALWAYS PAYS**". Your every visit to UPC Dubai will bring a new smile.

Sales Dept., UPC Dubai

