



**VINOD DHAYAL CEng FIHE**  
**Structures Engineer, Mott MacDonald**



Vinod is engaged in the joint venture work of the Mott MacDonald – Balfour Beatty Partnership contract for the maintenance of Highways Agency structures in its Area 4 (Kent, Surrey, East Sussex and West Sussex). Area 4 encompasses the motorways and key trunk roads in Kent, Sussex and small parts of Surrey and Hampshire, including the M23, M20, and M2 and many major trunk roads such as A27, A26, A23, A21 and A2.

The structures are many – more than 800 - and varied, including bridges, culverts, and viaducts with many different types of construction, and using a variety of materials.

Vinod joined the Structures Design Team of 11, in November 2008; it is his first established post in the UK. Previously he was on a 6 week with WSP project for TfL, and before that had overall responsibility for an approximate US\$10 million civil engineering project in Tobago, constructing new roads with associated drainage, culvert and retaining walls, airport runway works, bridges and Gas Station construction. He also worked in Guyana on Major Highway and rural roads, and began his career studying Civil engineering in India, where his first projects were.

Vinod finds his current post provides a very wide range of knowledge and experience because of the variety of engineering requirements presented by the 800 plus structures involved. The team is continuously active, and new situations frequently arise.

Discussing the importance of professional qualifications, he says that on his arrival in England, although he was Chartered in India, he was convinced that only CEng would enable him to have a realistic opportunity to advance his career into senior management. Consequently Vinod contacted a number of professional institutions and decided that the IHE was best suited to his needs “by virtue of the rapid and helpful responses to various queries and requests for guidance” he had.

An important aspect of his work is the relationship of his team with the different stake holders, and this is something he finds very much more a part of civil engineering work in England than it had been for him previously. In addition, he observes that concern for the safety of the workforce is greater, and he is particularly enthusiastic about the BBMMJV target of “Zero harm by 2012”, “a very difficult but worthwhile goal, and one for which we have a great deal of expert advice available.”

Looking ahead, Vinod is glad that he has acquired a wealth of experience in both highways and structures work, which gives him a broad base on which to plan his future, which he sees to be ultimately in Senior Management.

Vinod encourages people new to the profession, who want to succeed, "to foster the attitude of always wanting to learn more, and to be willing to travel to new challenges and to work with different sorts of people".