IN MY SHOES

By: Sdri. Elaine Koh, Graduate and Student Section

The first time it got to me that I was an oddity was when I reported to a construction company for my industrial trainning. Taking a tour around the site, I felt a wave of isolation when I realised that the only other thing resembling a female within the radius of 1km was the semi-naked woman cluthing a blood-red Ferrari on the wall. And how about the Project Manager who told me that I belonged in a design office and not on site. Fine, I muttered under my breath. I'll show you. And I've been at it for 5 years.

Along the way, I've picked up some lessons. I've learned that there's a fine line between being stupid and trying to prove you can do something just because you can. I've learned that it takes all sorts of people in this world, and if you're not careful, they will stomp on you, put you down and if you let them, crush that little bit of dignity and enthusiasm you have with either false promises or fear. Yes, even within this fraternity of professionals.

But as jaded as I've become, I'm humbled when I see the effort my counterparts in G&S are putting in to make the lives of the underpriviledged a little better. Cheng (our G&S Community Service Director whose heart outweighs mine in gold a million times over) with his team of elves recently brought children from Persatuan Kebajikan Warga Tua dan Kanak-kanak Wilayah Persekutuan (our "Rumah Angkat") out on a day trip to the National Science Centre (see this month's G&S feature article). No mean feat as anyone who has babysat a kid will tell you. And true to our underlying theme, works on repairing the home is underway. Echoing my maiden article, we welcome volunteers!

As for the other portfolio directors in G&S, they have also been busy, like CJ Chong (our Professional Development director) who tirelessly works behind the scene to ensure that courses and visits organised by G&S is well-attended and runs like clock-work. Or Trudy (our External Affairs director) for organising our branch visit to Penang, Ngeow (our Student Affairs director) for promoting G&S IEM to students in universities and Karthi (our GS Dotcom director) who ensures your visits to our website is a pleasant experience. ■

For more info on our hip and happening young enginners, visit http://www.iem.org.my/external/g&s/ or mail us at iemgs@yahoo.com

PROVERB OF THE DAY

Naawuni yi kabigi a gbali,
o ni wuhi a ni yen kpahi shem.
(Dagbani)

If God breaks your leg,
He will teach you how to limp.
(English Translation)

It is not unusual for people to suffer misfortunes in terms of sickness, accidents or other mishaps. We say that sickness or troubles do not respect any person or any state of life, man or woman, young or old, rich or poor. We will all suffer many difficulties in our lives. A farmer may work hard all during the rainy season in his rice farm. The rains may also be plentiful. The rice geminates and produces abundantly. Then a few days before he is to harvest the rice someone burns some brush in a nearby farm and the fire gets out of control and burns most of his rice field. The farmer does not despair. He harvests the remaining rice and knows that God will still provide for him as seen in this Ghanaian proverb of the Dagomba Ethnic Group.