Dear Chief Editor,

If the BEM has more German-speaking or French-speaking members during the P.Eng./Ir. issue meeting previously in 1984, then I think we the IEM should have won the appeal case long time ago. Phrases like "Financial Engineering", "Social Engineering", "Oceanic Engineering" etc. are good proofs that the word "engineer" is etymologically from the German/French word of "ingenieur". "Engineer" doesn't mean the "machinery engine", but "engineer" is a word borrowed from German/French language "ingenieur" meaning "one to create". Even the Chinese language translation for the term of "engineer" is not that correct as it is borrowed from the English language, and not from the original sources of German/French languages. From here, we can see that the language translation has many communication errors. After some layers of communications, it becomes propagated errors and may cause lots of conflicts.

Below is an excerpt from an URL (http://fie.engrng.pitt.edu/fie97/papers/1463.pdf) about whether the word of "ingenieur" is from the Victorian England or the Continental Europe.

The "mechanical" versus "liberal" schism was nowhere greater than in Victorian England, where ironically the Industrial Revolution first flourished, nurtured largely by high-achieving men who came from classes well outside the liberal arts establishment. A linguistic fluke sharpened the schism in England, where the etymological root for "ingenieur" was "engine," conjuring up images of dirty, smoky, oil-covered engines. In the rest of Europe, however, the equivalent "ingenieur" linked etymologically to "ingenuity," and from the nineteenth century on, possessors of the "Ingenieur" degree on the Continent commonly achieved a very high social and professional status.

ANOTHER SUPPORTING POINT IS AS BELOW:

The word of "engineer" shall not be from "engine".

- As for "train", we have "trainee" and "trainer".
- As for "charge", we have "chargee" and "chargor".
- As for "make", we have "maker".
- As for "assign", we have "assignee" and "assigner".

The strongest counter-proof found so far is the word of "examine", we have "examinee" and "examiner", but there is no word like "examineer".

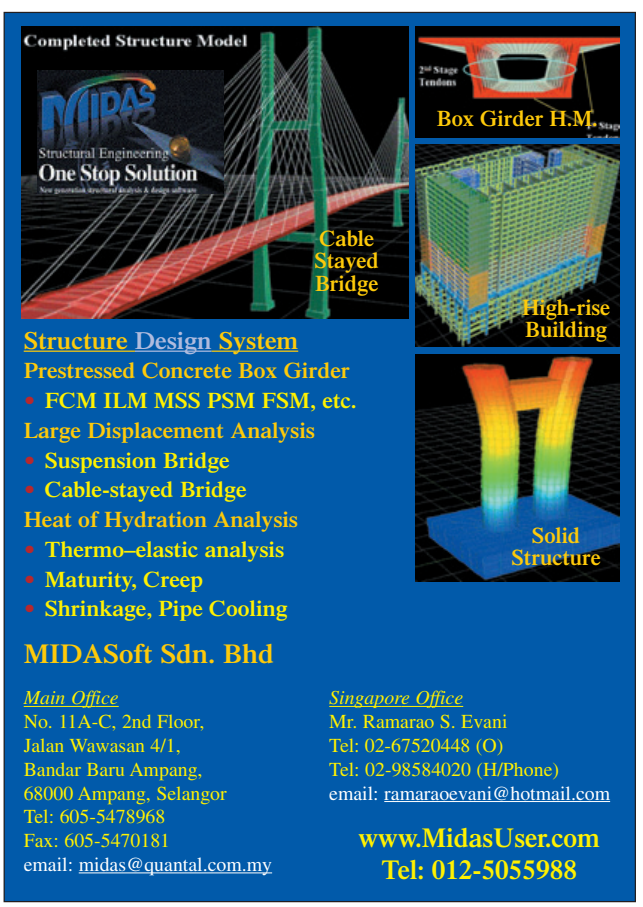
FOR THE WORD OF "ENGINEER":

- In German: Ingenieur
- In French: Ingenieur
- In English: Engineer

In a nutshell, we can see that English language adopts the pronunciation of "ingenieur" and not the spelling.

Thanks. I wish that these points may help IEM to have further solid propositions as the appeals to the governmental BEM.

Mr. Lee Kok Wah (23833G)

THE EDITORIAL BOARD COMMENTS:

The title "Ir." before the names of IEM members (graduate and corporate members) was removed from the IEM Constitution to become an exclusive right of professional engineers registered with the BEM in the amendment to the Registration of Engineers Act in 1987. We invite members who have comments on this matter to write to the Chief Editor. ■