

The 14th Young Engineers of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisation Conference (14th YEAFEO)

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14th YEAFEO

Date: 24th November – 1st December 2007

Place: Cebu Waterfront City Resort,
Cebu City, Philippines

Participating Countries:

Brunei Darussalam	Singapore
Cambodia	Thailand
Indonesia	Vietnam
Malaysia	Australia (Guest)
Myanmar	Hong Kong (Guest)
Philippines	Japan (Guest)

Background of YEAFEO

The Young Engineers of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisation (YEAFEO) was formed on November 9, 1993 in Singapore, pursuant to Article 6 (c) of the joint communiqué of the Governing Board of AFEO.

The Vision:

To be a dynamic and progressive organisation that leads to the development of young engineers in the ASEAN region.

The Mission:

- To promote understanding, goodwill and cooperation among young engineers;
- To promote and exchange ideas, concerns and experiences; and
- To support the purposes and objectives of the AFEO

Mabuhay (hello in Tagalog), Philippines. After the success of the 13th YEAFEO which was hosted by Malaysia, the 14th YEAFEO unfolded at Cebu City, Philippines.

Led by our head of delegation, Engr. Yau Chau Fong, who is also the chairperson of Graduate & Student Section – The Young Engineers Section of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM G&S-YES), the Malaysian delegation, which consisted of 15 young engineers and students, embarked on a one week trip to attend the 14th YEAFEO in Cebu City, Philippines.

It was the biggest ever YEAFEO delegation from Malaysia. The delegation was made even merrier with the participation of two delegates from the IEM G&S-YES Penang Branch, IEM.



24 November 2007 (Saturday)

The delegation departed for the Philippines on Cebu Pacific Airlines at 1.00 a.m. Everyone was filled with excitement. The journey had begun.



25 November 2007 (Sunday)

After nearly four hours, our plane finally touched down at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Manila, at around 5.00 a.m. Although it was still very early, we felt the hospitality of our Filipino counterparts as Robin Rabin, Rina Guzman, Noelle Santa Cruz and JP from Young Engineers Philippines (YEP) welcomed us at the airport.

After leaving our luggage at the hotel and having our breakfast at one of the local restaurants, we began our tour of Makati City, the most modern city in Metro Manila. Unlike the old city of Manila, Makati City is a well planned city where many reputable companies and hotels set up their office.



At night, we were treated by YEP to dinner. The one-day stopover in Manila did not give us enough time to fully experience the culture of the capital city of the Philippines, but we are satisfied with what we have seen and experienced here thus far.

26 November 2007 (Monday)

We departed from our hotel to the airport for our domestic flight to Cebu. The flight from Manila to Cebu takes approximately one hour. At around 3.00 p.m. in the afternoon, we finally arrived at our desired destination, the Mactan-Cebu International Airport. As soon as we stepped out from the immigration checkpoint, we were warmly greeted by the organising committees who welcomed us.



In the heart of the Philippines archipelago lies Cebu, a prosperous island endowed with natural beauty and a rich heritage. Known as the 'Queen City of the South', although it is not a bustling city like Manila, its tranquil and peaceful atmosphere makes it a great holiday destination. On the way to our hotel, we saw the village style living standards of the people there, very

slow paced and laid back. In addition to its historical prominence (it was the first arrival point of Ferdinand Magellan in the Philippines), Cebu also offers stretches of white sandy beaches and pristine waters, but unfortunately, we did not have a chance to visit any beach due to the heavy conference schedule.

At night, we had our dinner at a local Filipino restaurant which served local Filipino food. Young engineers from Japan, Indonesia and Myanmar were invited to join us as well. Through a series

of conversations, we got to know the delegates from the different countries better and built a strong friendship.

27 November 2007 (Tuesday)

Today marked the beginning of the YEAFEO conference officially. The day kicked off with the YEAFEO Board Meeting, chaired by the host country, the Philippines, represented by Engr. Robin Rabin. The outcome of the YEAFEO 14 Council Board Meeting was as follows:

(a) YEAFEO Website

Malaysia has agreed to regularly update and maintain the website with some funds provided by the YEAFEO board.

(b) ASEAN Young Engineers Register (AER-YE)

Delegates from Malaysia briefed all members on the proposal regarding the Young Engineers in the ASEAN Engineers Register (AER-YE). The proposal has been approved by the AFEO Board Members. The approved proposal includes the objectives, membership requirement and organisation as attached in Appendix A.



The Malaysian delegates



A group shot of all the delegates



An established engineering consultancy firm based in Petaling Jaya and Johor Bahru has **immediate** vacancies for the following posts:

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- Degree in Civil Engineering
- At least 5 years of working experience in engineering design
- Must possess strong analytical and good interpersonal communication skills.

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- Degree in Civil Engineering
- 1 to 5 years of working experience in engineering design
- Able to work independently with minimum supervision

Civil and Structural Designer (PJ Office)

- Minimum 5 years of working experience as Designer

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The Malaysian delegates also explained that the AER-YE registration would be part of the AER registrars and all young engineers (depending on each country's criteria) are eligible to apply without any subscription fees. The members agreed that some issues on privileges, certification, titles to be given and processing fees are to be tabled in the AFEO Board Meeting for their concern. They also unanimously agreed on the free membership registration for the AER-YE.

(c) Proposal on the setting up of ESAFEO

Delegates from Malaysia elaborated on the proposal and importance of forming the Engineering Students of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (ESAFEO).

In the afternoon, the session continued with the official country presentation by all countries including non-ASEAN countries. Our country presentation was delivered by Engr. Yau Chau Fong and, once again, the Malaysian delegates took centre stage by producing another splendid multimedia to introduce the IEM G&S-YES's activities.

After the presentation, the head delegate of each country took the opportunity to exchange gifts with the participating countries. This was followed

by an official group photo to mark the end of the 14th YEAFEO Board Meeting.

The day ended with a dinner which was hosted by Governor Gwendolyn Garcia. She is Cebu's first female governor who was elected in 2004 at the Cebu Provincial Capitol Building. The guest of honour was the former President Fidel V Ramos who was later conferred the AFEO Distinguished Fellow.

28 November 2007 (Wednesday)

Although some of the activities started the day before, the opening ceremony was held today. This was followed by the country report presentation and the poster presentations. The theme of this year's conference is 'Engineering, Energy and the Environment: Ensuring Survival For Future Generations'. The objective of the theme is to urge all engineers to use their engineering skills to tackle the burgeoning issues of the environment in the ASEAN region and around the world.



In the afternoon, the YEAFEO delegates were taken via taxis by the Philippines Young Engineers (YEP) for some shopping at SM Mall, Cebu. We were brought to taste as well as to purchase some local souvenirs to be brought back to Malaysia.

At night, the YEP organised a fellowship for all the young delegates at a restaurant. Since all the delegates attended this event, we needed to combine the tables to form one long table. It had the appearance of a global village where everybody shared their views from their countries. What was truly unforgettable and memorable during the dinner was the songs we sang together. Each group of delegates sang their country's folk song while others showed their support by clapping along. This led to the strengthening of the bond between the delegates.

29 November 2007 (Thursday)

Today's program was more casual. We were brought on a technical tour of our own choice ranging from visiting a shipbuilding



facility, the San Miguel Brewery tour or South Countryside discovery. All the delegates joined the same program, which was to visit the shipbuilding facility.

The journey to the facility took about two hours. Most of the travelling time was spent going up and down a mountain where we enjoyed a pretty scenic view of the countryside. Seen from a distance, the Tsuneishi shipyard is an impressive sight. Even more impressive is that the shipyard – a joint venture between Tsuneishi of Japan and Aboitiz of Cebu – is located in Balamban, Cebu, a tiny coastal agricultural town on the western undeveloped side of the island.

The yard is actually an assembly line of ships, capable of building 14 Handymax vessels a year. Each vessel is almost 200 meters long and 32 meters wide and weighs 56,000 tons without cargo – larger than a modern aircraft carrier. We were brought to every stage of the shipbuilding process and an engineer was present to explain to us in detail the activities that were going on there.

Time really flies when we are having fun. The closing dinner was held that night and it was time to bid farewell to the conference. For the dinner, most of the delegates were dressed in their national costumes, reflecting the diverse cultures in the ASEAN region. The dinner ended with the usual country performances. It was a great opportunity to watch the cultural performances of all 10 countries in one avenue. The Malaysia delegation sang the 'Malaysia Truly Asia' song to commemorate the 50th anniversary of our independence.

30 November 2007 (Friday)

Although the conference was over, the trip was far from over. We had half a day to tour Cebu since our flight to Manila was only in the afternoon. From early in the morning, we took a tour around Cebu city with the YEP members to visit the historical sites of Cebu. We also grabbed a final chance to shop for some souvenirs from Cebu before going back to Manila.



Plenty of souvenirs to choose from

Despite the rush to shop for souvenirs, we were finally able to catch our flight back to Manila for a one day stopover. The sky was already dark when we arrived in Manila, but we were able to stroll around Pasey city which was walking distance from our hotel.

1 December 2007 (Saturday)

It was the last day of our trip. Today, we took a ride on the modern MRT system of Manila, experience the special jeepney and visited Fort Santiago and Jose Rizal Park, a national hero of the Philippines.

When evening came, it was finally time for us to leave this bustling city. We had our last dinner with our Filipino friends from the YEP in the airport before saying goodbye to them. Their warm hospitality and friendliness caused us to leave with a heavy heart. However, seeing that it was only half an hour before the boarding time, a last hug and kiss said it all.



Farewell meal at Cebu



Farewell at Cebu Airport



The jeepney is popular in Manila



The Philippines National Hero (Rizal) Museum

Till we meet again in Bangkok for the 15th YEAFEO in November 2008.

The trip has definitely broadened the perception of engineering education and the role that engineers can play in this globalised world. The trip also exposed the delegates to experiences beyond the confines of the classroom or work, and allowed us to better understand the engineering phenomenon and the challenges that ASEAN would face in the pursuit of excellence in this engineering world.

So we urge young engineers who have not joined us to do so for the coming YEAFEO which is very soon. It will be a very memorable journey full of enriching experiences. ■