

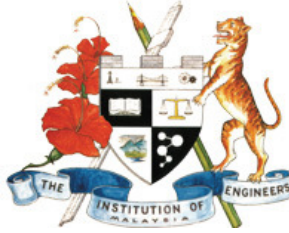
VISION
100k



**53rd
PRESIDENTIAL
ADDRESS**

The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia

Ir. Vincent Chen Kim Kieong
Session 2012-2013



THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, MALAYSIA
53rd PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS - “VISION 100k”

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PAST PRESIDENTS, DEPUTY PRESIDENT, COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MY FELLOW ENGINEERS.

It seems like only yesterday that I spoke with you in this auditorium, at IEM's 52nd Annual General Meeting last year. May I take this opportunity to record my gratitude to the IEM Council for re-electing me to the office of the President of the IEM for the 2012-2013 Session. I am humbled by the trust placed upon me and shall strive to carry out this important responsibility with utmost care, integrity and diligence.

I am indeed grateful to the Executive Committee, Council and IEM Members for the support given to me over the past twelve months. It was truly my pleasure to serve the IEM this past year. During this period I have had the opportunity to meet with IEM members both at headquarters and at the respective branches. At every instance, I was overwhelmed with your unceasing support, assistance and encouragement. For this, I heartily thank each and every one of you.

MY FELLOW ENGINEERS,

In my Presidential address last year, I stated that IEM is well established in the areas of Learned Society activities and International affairs. I believed then that it is important for IEM to focus on enhancing its Professional Institution role, to be at the forefront in influencing Engineering policies in the Nation's Infrastructural Development, in Manufacturing and in Engineering Education, and to have a strong media presence underpinned by a bank of research data. That is what IEM should strive for and which became my mission – to prepare the groundwork in positioning IEM as a premier Professional Institution to bring the greatest benefit possible to Engineers, to the Profession and to the Country.

Let us now revisit some of the issues and directions raised in my Presidential Address.

(1) Equity of Consultancy Practices

Last year, I had deliberated at length on the issue of opening up of the equity of Professional Consultancy Practices to non-professionals. We have stood our ground on the IEM stand that the equity of Consultancy Practices should only be held by Professional Engineers and for Multi Discipline Practices; the provision in the Engineers Act on equity should remain status quo.

IEM had remained vocal through our dialogues, meetings and writings in advocating to the Government, the Industry Players, Stakeholders, local and foreign engineering fraternity members as well as the Public our view that the equity of Consultancy Practices should not be opened up to non-professionals. We have been fortunate that our fellow professional institutions in the building industry, PAM, the Architects and ISM, the Surveyors, share our view on this matter. Together, we have made a joint stand expressing our common professional opinion to the authorities and we will continue to stand firm in this vital issue that affects the building profession.

(2) Code of Ethics for Engineering Lecturers

There had been widespread concerns about the standard of our engineering graduates and of the quality of the teaching which had allowed the standard of our engineering graduates to deteriorate. This had prompted me to call for the drafting of an IEM Code of Ethics for engineers in the teaching profession. This is because the existing Code of Ethics is more suited for Engineers in the Consulting, Contracting and Manufacturing Sectors.

I am happy to say that the Engineering Education Technical Division had drafted a *“Code of Ethics for Engineers in the Teaching Profession”* which was presented and discussed at a half day forum held on 10th April 2012. It is my ardent wish to see this *“Code of Ethics”* become a beacon of inspiration for the engineering academic fraternity and to help bring back the dedication that is vital to restore the quality of our engineering graduates that had been the pride of our nation in the past.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

(3) Engineers in the Public Sector

We are all fully aware that Engineers do not have a career pathway to reach the very top posts in our Public Sector. It is heartening to note though, that the last year had seen IEM voicing its concerns on this matter in the Press and to the various

authorities. A Public Sector Engineers Special Interest Group had also been formed to spearhead efforts to improve the lot of engineers not only in the civil service per se but also in the uniformed services and statutory bodies. I believe that as the largest single employer in the country, it is imperative for the government to maximize the potential of its human resources by opening up a career path for talented professionals including engineers to reach the top. It would only stand to benefit from a much wider pool of expertise instead of being confined solely to those in the Administrative and Diplomatic Service.

(4) Professional Institution Functions

As a Professional Institution, IEM should be the authoritative source of expert opinion on engineering matters and to be at the forefront in dealing with issues and policies related to engineering. I am pleased to report that IEM is now more outward looking. We are keeping tab on the many engineering issues that happen every day. We engage regularly with the press as well as with the authorities to make our professional opinion known.

Over the last one year, we have issued 17 press statements including “Letters to the Editor” and resulting in well over 80 news items published in both the mainstream and alternative media as well as aired over radio and television. We now see IEM quoted in the press which testifies to the increasing awareness and influence that the Institution has with the public.

Our press statements have covered policy issues such as the Equity of Consulting Practices, the need for a Fundamentals of Engineering exam for engineering graduates, the lack of prospects for engineers in the Public Sector, unaccredited engineering degrees and the unnecessary regulation of IT professionals. We have also been offering our professional opinion on technical issues that have covered topics as diverse as landslides, earthquakes, highways and even the Feed-in-Tariff.

We shall continue the efforts taken so far in improving our public image and to enhance our role as a Professional Institution as there is still a lot that needs to be done to sustain the momentum which has only now started but which must be institutionalised if it is to continue into the future.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Having reviewed the progress over the last session, it is now time to move on to the future.

[A New Special Interest Group](#)

There are more than 2000 members in IEM over the age of 60, with more than 900 in the Klang Valley area itself. Amidst all the activities going on in IEM, we should not forget to pay some attention to our senior engineers who have in their long career, contributed to the profession and in many cases, to the Institution as well. They may have stopped working but many continue to be active and able to make significant contributions to society. IEM should respect and take special care of this group of people and I propose that a Senior Engineers Special Interest Group be formed to serve as a focal point for them to meet, to organise activities of interest to them and where their wealth of experience can be tapped by the Institution in the many areas where volunteers are needed. It will also go a long way to show that we care for our senior engineers in the same way that we care for our elders in society.

[VISION 100k](#)

Today I have a vision that I want to share with all IEM members. It is called VISION 100k, the theme of my Presidential Address.

Vision 100k in simple words is a target for IEM to have within its membership 100,000 accredited engineers, excluding students, within the next 5 years. For your information, this works out to be a 400 percent increase over our current 20,000 engineers in our membership.

Is Vision 100k over ambitious?

Is it really achievable?

Or is it just a pipe dream of this President, taking on more than he can chew?

Please bear with me as I share some pertinent data with all of you.

For starters, with 100,000 engineers in our membership, we will definitely be the largest professional Institution in terms of membership. We will undoubtedly be a force to be reckoned with, having the clout and leverage to lobby the powers that be for the best interest of our engineers and the profession, whilst always keeping public interest uppermost in our mind.

We will make sure that we are consulted on proposed legislations affecting the engineering profession, and we will speak up if engineers are discriminated against.

We will have a huge pool of engineers to represent IEM in external governmental and private sector committees to provide IEM input.

Our opinions on engineering issues will be eagerly sought by all and sundry as we will have the experts within IEM. We will have no problem at all in getting media presence.

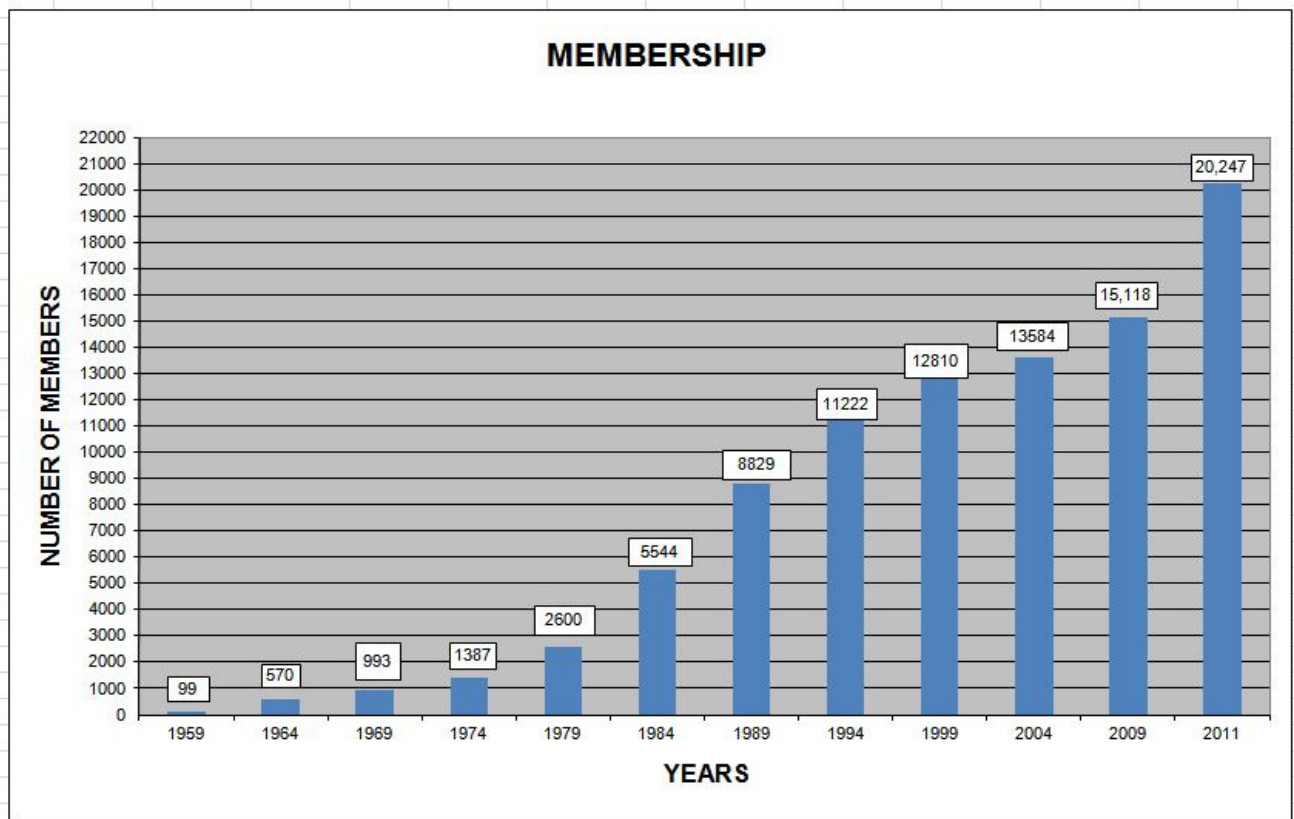
With 100,000 engineers, IEM will have the necessary financial resources to embark on the best programs, CPD, training, and activities for the benefit of our members. There will be sufficient funds to undertake proper research on engineering issues for IEM to get its views across to the public and authorities. Membership fees itself alone will be able to contribute more than RM10 million per year to the IEM coffers.

With 100,000 engineers, we will be able to secure attractive discounted merchandise rates, excellent travel related deals, better credit card, health and general insurance terms and a host of other favourable offers. We will also be able to secure substantial income from advertisements from all our publications, IEM website, conferences and exhibitions.

I can go on and on, the message is very clear, 100,000 engineers in our membership can make a world of difference!

MY FELLOW ENGINEERS,

As stated earlier, the current membership in IEM stands at around 20,000 engineers. The accompanying chart show the trend of membership in IEM over the last 50 years. Does our membership reflect that the Institution is truly representative of engineers out in the market?



NUMBER OF MEMBERS EXCLUDED STUDENTS, AFFILIATE AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

In his speech on July 2011, the Minister of Education has estimated that the number of engineers in the country at about 140,000. This is projected to reach over 200,000 by 2017, based on an annual output of 15,000 new graduates.

Undoubtedly there is a large pool of experienced and senior engineers, particularly from outside the consultancy industry, such as in the academia, contracting, electronics, manufacturing, facility management, oil & gas, sales and marketing and the like, that is outside the fold of IEM. These engineers are academically qualified, have the necessary training and experience or wide exposure to the engineering profession and who may even wish to join, participate and contribute to IEM and the profession but have neither the interest nor the need to be registered as a Professional Engineer with the Board of Engineers Malaysia.

However, should they choose to join IEM, based on IEM's current membership regulations, their option is either going through the rigorous Professional Interview to become MIEM, which obviously they are not interested to undergo, or to just become a Graduate Member, which is an untenable option because of their senior status. We can now conclude that our membership structure is actually the very stumbling block in our efforts to reach out to these 100,000 senior engineers to be part of IEM.

If nothing is done, this large group of more than 100,000 senior engineers will never join IEM. Hence IEM must find a way to accommodate this group of senior engineers within IEM. It is with this very purpose in mind that I have proposed the creation of a new grade of membership, Companion IEM to fill this lacuna. I am very glad that Excomm and Council gave their blessing and the AGM earlier this morning had approved this new grade of Companion membership.

Beefing up Membership Strength

Back to the earlier questions,

Is Vision 100k over-ambitious?

Is it really achievable?

I am sure you will agree with me that the answer is a resounding yes. We have identified the problem and provided the pathway. All that is needed is ACTION! IEM can now achieve the target but it needs the will and the concerted effort by everyone to reach out to all engineers and to let them know that the Institution is their professional home and membership can help them stay updated, stay in touch and stay involved with the profession.

I therefore call upon all IEM members, both in the Klang Valley and in all the Branches, to help achieve Vision 100K. Please reach out to all your fellow engineers who are not yet a member of IEM and ask them to join the Institution. 100,000 engineers in our membership is no more a pipe dream! Lao Tzu said: “the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step” and we have today taken those first steps in our journey to Vision 100K.

Thank you.

Ir. Vincent Chen Kim Kieong

IEM President

Session 2012/2013

21st April 2012