

Dear sir,

As a profession, we engineers are not readily recognised by the general public when compared to Doctors, Lawyers or Accountants. More often than not, Engineers receive negative focus and we are brought into the limelight when certain buildings or structures or system fails or collapse.

We may be able to uplift our social status by publishing articles in

newspapers for the public to realise our wisdom in the design consideration and concept, and the solutions towards construction challenges in the building of Petronas Twin Towers, KLIA, Penang Bridge, etc. Since I am from Bintulu, I would be interested to read articles on Bakun Dam, Offshore Oil Rig, Kemena Bridge, SMDS, improvements and advancements in the design of MLNG III from II and I. The different Regional

Branch of IEM can assist in gathering information or even write articles by themselves on the various projects implemented in their respective region.

Just a thought. Thanks for your attention.

Yours faithfully,
Ting Hiong Sing

Editor's Comments

We thank Ir. Ting for his letter dated 9 December 2005, which we have published above.

We hope that all IEM Members could note his thoughts and come forward to share their valuable contributions of knowledge, wisdom and experiences amongst all IEM Members to support the life long learning process and human capacity building for the betterment of IEM, the engineering fraternity as well as our country.

Even though there was not much public stand on such perceived negative views, it should not be taken that we are reacting to these misconceptions lying down, as this reflects on all of us, being engineers by profession. Instead we should all work towards promoting a better image of engineers by closing ranks and rallying

around IEM, IEM President and his team (the IEM Council and Executive Committee) and take positive actions towards serving IEM, in whatever capacity one could contribute, no matter how small one might think, as little drops of water make a mighty ocean.

We are confident that all IEM Members, IEM Branches, IEM Standing Committees and Technical Divisions as well as our esteemed IEM Past Presidents will give their full support and positive responses in this matter. It should be noted that all your valuable assistance, contributions and advices will definitely help in improving the image of IEM in particular and the engineering fraternity in general and bring both in tandem towards greater heights and recognition.

(Note: It is the Editor's opinion that if all parties concerned employ qualified

Professional Engineers to manage all their engineering works, these abovementioned unfortunate incidents would definitely be reduced as Professional Engineers have their code of ethics to uphold, as well as many other reasons to safeguard their status and profession.

Good governance is expected from Directors of all companies to ensure that their respective companies comply fully with legal requirements.

Also with improvement in enforcement of the Registration of Engineers Act and its Regulations, identification of those flouting the law and taking timely appropriate actions provided, would definitely send out strong signals that laws are to be respected and complied. The Board of Engineers, Malaysia and IEM could work together symbiotically towards improving this situation for the betterment of the engineering fraternity's image and social standing.)



Imagine 2020

By: Ir. Zainal Abidin bin Othman

Imagine fifteen years from now on the state of our infrastructure considering normal growth; roads and highway, water supply, electricity and housing.

Will we be traveling along the Federal Highway at present speed or will it be faster? Or will we be traveling along an elevated highway above the existing one? Do we have a plan and if we do how are the public involved? Will there be toll plazas to collect revenue to build and maintain the new highway?

How about the city traffic? Will the current computerise system solve the daily traffic jam? Or will we still have to endure the crawl along Jalan Tunku

Abdul Rahman, Jalan Raja Laut, Jalan Sultan Ismail, Jalan Istana, Jalan Mahameru and Jalan Tun Razak? Is the public transport adequate to facilitate your mobility?

How about the SMART project? Will it be able to solve the dispersal of traffic moving south and relieve the congestion at Kampung Pandan/Jalan Tun Razak roundabout? It was some years ago when the roundabout was modified with the construction of overhead bypass and now again motorists are inconvenienced by the SMART project.

How about traffic along the PLUS highway especially during festival

breaks? Are we expecting by then additional lanes will be operational and traveling will be a breeze or will the production of cheap Asean cars outstrip the rate of road expansion?

Will the portable water supply be any better than today where installation of filters is a norm or will there be rationing to conserve water? The water transfer from Pahang to Selangor will then be a reality? Or should we be looking seriously at managing the demand side of water supply. Do we have a plan or are we depending on fire fighting technique? Then how about rural water supply?

On the issue of electricity, how are we maintaining the demand and quality apart from understanding the mix of fuel used in generating our power supply? Will we keep relying on fossil fuel or are we interested to develop the remaining hydro and other renewable energy in the future? With the current price of oil we should consider seriously developing

our remaining hydro sites. Or we still rely on the traditional assessment of replacement?

Housing is always a priority for the Government in ensuring that the masses have roof over their heads. How are we achieving the target and is it really working according to plan? Now and again we keep seeing in the mass

media of families not living in habitable dwelling therefore can we assumed that something is not well?

The answers for these questions may lie in the various policies and planning carried out by the various authorities. However how often do we see plan being adhered to and monitored to see the success of it? ■

Editor's Comments

Wow! We thank you for the comments. There are so many questions posed, that one really has to look hard into the crystal ball to find answers or solutions to them.

Let all of us begin the new year with some positive thoughts that things are being planned and implemented; maybe

not at the speed and effectiveness as one could expect. We should have good faith that, given time and resources, the leaders of today must be trying their best to do whatever they could.

Maybe we, ourselves, could be of some help by offering our services, in contributing towards solving some of these problems. If we really cared for the future, we would definitely be coming

forward to serve in whatever capacity or way towards community service, or nearer, to our IEM. If one just brings up problems, would not it be better if at the same time offers possible solutions to address them. This will definitely makes the world a better place to live in and life can become more enjoyable and the future generation can look forward to a better life!