G&S Open Day 2005 – Pinnacle to a Great Year

Reported by : Sdri. Kee Wai Fun

Sixty-five (65) and still counting. The G&S section has organised 65 activities for the last session and the pinnacle is on 2 July 2005. The anticipated day was no other than the G&S Open Day 2005, held in conjunction with the G&S 35th AGM. Many activities were scheduled throughout the day, starting from as early as 8.30 a.m., and ending only at 11.30 p.m. Indeed, the activities lined up throughout the day were impressive.

The first activity scheduled for the day was "Forum on Careers in Engineering in Our Nation", catered to young graduates and students who were still unsure of which career path to take. Several luminaries from the Malaysian engineering scene were invited to give talks about engineering careers in the various fields – consultancy, education & research, contracting, government service and politics. The speakers included Ir. Dr Gue See Sew (Managing Director of Gue & Partners Sdn. Bhd. – consultancy), Y. Bhg. Dato' Ir. Prof. Dr Chuah Hean Teik (Vice President I of Multimedia University – Education & Research), Y. Bhg. Dato' Ir. Low Keng Kok (Joint Managing Director of Road Builder (M) Holdings Berhad – contractor), Ir. Ashari bin Mohd. Yakub (Board of Engineers, Malaysia – government service) and the guest of honour Y. Bhg. Datuk Ir. Ong Tee Keat (Deputy Minister of Youth & Sports – politics). The room was crammed with engineering students and young engineers, all wanting to know more about the various engineering career paths. The highlight of the morning session was the official launching of the G&S's new theme "Engineering the Engineer" by the Y. Bhg. Datuk Ir. Ong Tee Keat. The theme is in line with G&S section's continuing efforts in cultivating competent and all-rounded engineers.

After a break for lunch, the 35th AGM of the IEM Graduate & Student Section commenced beginning with an introductory speech from the re-elected Chairman of the G&S Section, Sdr. Suresh Yegambaram. The annual report and financial statement of the G&S for session 2004/2005 were then presented by the Honorary Secretary / Treasurer, Sdri. Kee Wai Fun.

The highlight of the AGM was the announcement of the results of the G&S election. Some of the committees were elevated to more senior positions, with some fresh faces filling the vacated posts. However, two vacancies for G&S's position of General Member went unfilled, and the members voted for the committee to elect these members at a later time. The Chairman then invited for volunteers from the floor to become co-opted committee members. Many young engineers took up this offer, thereby swelling the size of the current committee to its largest in recent years – 20 committee members.

Some roses among the others at the Annual Dinner

Panelist during Q&A

Two simultaneous events then took place at 4.00 p.m., the Inter-Branch Conference and a talk regarding the route to become a MIEM (conducted by Ir. Prof. Dr Ruslan Hassan). As for the Inter-Branch Conference, the G&S committees from IEM HQ were extremely delighted to note the presence of G&S committees from the states of Sabah, Sarawak, Penang and Johor. These representatives included Sdr. Edward Jong (Sarawak), Sdr. Leslie Yew Min Yun & Sdri. Ellis Lo (Sabah), Koay Yeong Chze (Penang) and Sdr. Jeffrey Ngan (Johor / IEM Southern Branch). It is hoped that as a result of the Inter-Branch Conference members shall see the start of numerous joint-activities.

The final event of the G&S Open Day was the IEM G&S Annual Dinner 2005, held at Crystal Crown Hotel. The purpose of the Dinner was to appreciate the contribution of the G&S committee, advisors, speakers from the IEM Geotechnical Engineering Technical Divisions that had co-organised course with the G&S section and also volunteers for all the activities

organised. Those who attended the dinner were also entertained to a presentation by G&S's delegates to Japan. The sharing of their experiences was indeed eye-opening. However, the highlight of the Dinner was surely the launching of the Student Representative Council (SRC) of the IEM G&S, which was easily the reason why this year's Annual Dinner saw the highest number of student participants, estimated at about fifty. The students who were mainly from MMU Cyberjaya, MMU Malacca, UM, and UIA had played an active role in setting up the SRC. The main aim of the SRC is to organise more activities for IEM student members. The long-awaited launching of the SRC culminated in an enthralling multimedia presentation that had been prepared by students from UM.

Besides the launching of the SRC, other memorable moments at the Dinner included the presentation of certificates to the G&S committees of the previous session. The emcees of the Dinner then sprung a surprise, by announcing that awards would also be given out for the Most Outstanding G&S Volunteers, which proved to be a first for the G&S.

The dinner was all the more enjoyable for the antics of the emcees of the night, namely Sdr. Ivan Tan and Sdri. Hareiny Hilmy. Posing as Nero and Trinity, both of them kept the audience in stitches! Kudos to Sdri. Cheng Wei Loon for pulling off the job of organising the dinner in a mere 6 weeks. ■

The author is the ex-Honorary Secretary/Treasurer of the G&S Section for Session 2004/2005.

The awards for the night ultimately went to:

Most Outstanding Graduate Volunteer (Male):	Lim Terk Yiang
Most Outstanding Graduate Volunteer (Female):	Hareiny Hilmy
Most Outstanding Student Volunteer (Male):	Alex Tan Yew Wai
Most Outstanding Student Volunteer (Female):	Heah Hooi Kiang