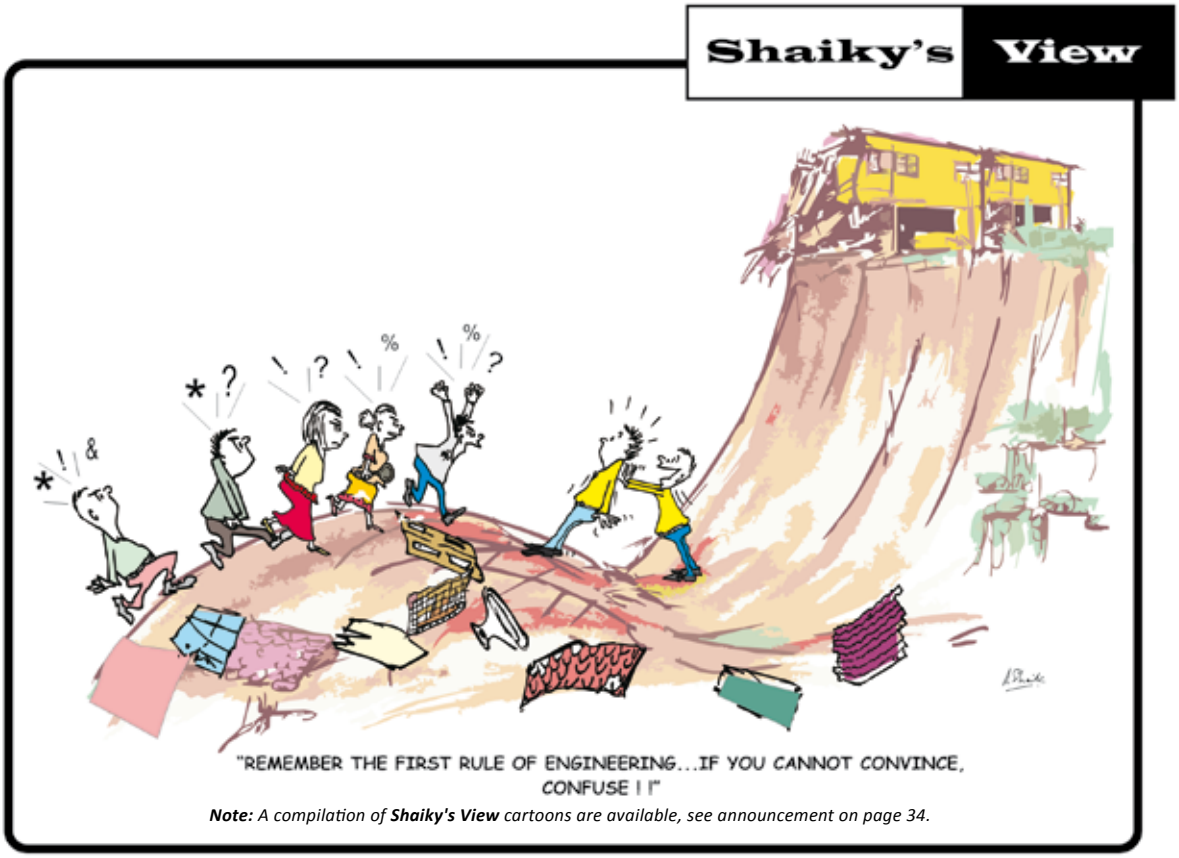
Building Tomorrow

by ***Engr. Abi Sofian bin Abdul Hamid***

BUILDING Services Engineering has come a long way since the first building was constructed by mankind many centuries ago. While the first building dealt primarily with the need for a shelter, today's modern buildings were constructed to not only serve the functional needs of the occupants but also to deal with the lifestyles of modern community. Gone are the days whereby building services engineering merely includes the mechanical and electrical engineering disciplines in addition to the civil and structural elements.

The evolution of information technology has created many windows of opportunity for engineers to widen the scope and enhance the quality of building services which in turn is associated with the quality of life of the building occupants. Among others, building services today incorporate such features on safety, security, energy savings, automation and so forth. With the growing trend of buildings with high real estate value being converted to investments trusts, the challenge for the engineers would be to be able to respond to the sophisticated requirements of their customers. The most critical role would be to ensure those buildings remain sustainable and relevant in many years to come. Perhaps a smart building is one of the available options. This edition of JURUTERA touches on some of the latest issues in building services engineering from the perspective of our fellow engineers.

On the lighter side, Ir Chin shares some of the highlights he experienced while climbing an active volcano. An overview of readership surveys conducted in 2003, 2005 and 2008 was included as a self reflection for each of us, IEM members. Although the information may have been long overdue it was still informative and relevant to all of us. It can be viewed as an indication of where we are and which route we should take to get to our destination in so far as our publications are concerned. In this light we ought to take cognizance of the kind of challenges we may face in our journey and how we should manage the risks involved in a way as suggested by Ir Shun in his thought on Risky Woods as outlined in his Safe-Tea-Time! ■



Note: *A compilation of* ***Shaiky's View*** *cartoons are available, see announcement on page 34.*