

A Half Day Workshop on Ladies Engineers in Engineering

By : Engr. Magdalene Tan Lee, F.I.E.M. P.Eng.

The IEM Lady Engineers Sub-Committee led by the Chairperson, Engr. Chin LL, and other Committee Members namely Engr. Nalini, Engr. Magdalene Tan and Puan Gowry, visited the faculty of engineering in UTM Skudai on 12 September 2006. The ladies had an early start, assembling at the IEM in PJ around 6:00 a.m., and car-pooled to take the one-day trip to Skudai.

The journey was very pleasant. They stopped at the Ayer Keroh rest area for a quick breakfast before proceeding south. Along the way, they noticed the road reconstruction, widening and upgrading works underway. There was a hive of activities along the North-South Highway, apparently to be rushed in time for the upcoming festive seasons in October.

The ladies shared stories along the way and were able to 'do some daily office transaction' along the way, thanks to the Celcom and Maxis nationwide connectivity.

They arrived at around 9:30 a.m., just in time to start the session with the 30-odd student engineers (all ladies) who had assembled at the lecture hall.

Engr. Chin started with an introduction to the IEM, the number of members in IEM, and she touched on the percentage of lady engineer members in the Institution. She introduced the members of the Lady Engineers Sub Committee and the speakers for the day before they broke for the morning tea, which was sponsored by IEM.

Engr. Magdalene touched on the joy and satisfaction of being a Lady engineer, and being able to contribute to nation-building in a very special way. She also encouraged the students to stay at work in future, to contribute to serve in engineering organisations like the IEM and BEM. She is particularly proud of her ability to juggle time between work, family, voluntary work and self-development.

Engr. Nalini was able to drum into the students the importance of self-confidence in order to be able to survive in an engineering environment, especially in construction and field-



work. At the moment, field-work is still very much dominated by male engineers and the lady engineers would like to see that scenario change in the near future. Ladies engineers are encouraged to be physically and mentally strong to compete in the 'tough' world.

During question time, chaired by Puan Gowry, the students sought tips on appearing for job interviews. Some wanted to know if there is gender biasness to male counterparts in awarding any job. Any such doubts were quashed because the speakers gave concrete proofs. It was stressed that all applicants were always treated fairly, and jobs were awarded according to the capability of an individual. Of course, during the interview, the body language will show the candidate's willingness of undertaking the job on offer. Ladies were encouraged to be mobile and to think globally. All students were encouraged to think of raising a family when the time is right; at no time were the lady engineering students encouraged to ignore that privilege of ladies. ■

ERRATA

The publisher would like to express our apologies to the author of the article "Talk on A Snapshot of a Typical Schedule Management Methodology" for including its reference on the cover of last month's issue but not the article content itself in the final print. This oversight is much regretted.

