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*Note: Please note that the positions in the Editorial Board and Sub-Committee on Journal will be nominated and filled in the upcoming Standing Committee on Information and Publications General Meeting.*

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E-mail: sec@iem.org.my Homepage: <http://www.iem.org.my>**Ninth Malaysian Plan:  
Strive for More Quality  
Outputs***By: Engr. Dr Ayob bin Katimon, M.I.E.M., P.Eng*

If human age is to be taken as an analogy to the development of the nation, at the age of 45 odd years (5 years for each Malaysian Plan), the Ninth Malaysian Plan must have reached a stage of maturity and established status. In business, this is the fruiting stage or harvesting time.

In terms of physical development, no doubt Malaysia has reached a certain stage that we can proud of, but again, if our target is to fully achieve a developed country status by the year 2020, one must not forget the aspect of quality in both physical and human resource development. Quality can be simply defined as things that are favoured by the creator to be obeyed and compatible with natural human beings. A complete package of quality is not without bringing and bridging the aspect of physical and spiritual together in an integrated manner. A quality development is thus a manifestation of the attribute of the represented society as a whole.

The core question here, after having basic infrastructures already in place, is how do we go about upgrading the quality of our development, leading to what we like to call 'a world class infrastructure with a world class mentality'?

Dear engineers, just take a look from any angle of our livelihood and let us think about incorporating our career life with a little extra quality. Among others, polluted rivers, flash floods, sewerage problems, incompatible public toilets, poor road conditions, slope failures, inconsistent electrical and water supply, poor garbage collection, inadequate drainage system, and up to chemically-free agricultural product, and etc.

As we generally believe in the concept of 'back to the basic' and 'solution must begin at the point source of the problem', several factors must be considered. Physical, social, belief systems and religious aspects must go together to avoid development imbalance. No discrimination should occur as we believe that every single thing created is equally important, and last but not least, always be thankful and proud of being a contributing Malaysian. ■

**Announcement**

The Editorial Board appeals to all IEM Technical Divisions to contribute articles to support the IEM Bulletin and Journal. Articles on Bridge Engineering and Construction are urgently required for the June and July 2007 issues of the IEM Bulletin.

Thank you.