Post Seeks the Person

I would like to thank the 600 odd members who managed to make it to the April 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Institution. Some precedence had been set at this meeting in that all these years we found it difficult to meet the quorum of 100 corporate members but we now had six times that number! Congratulations to you all! To accommodate such a large group we also needed to make use of some teleconferencing facilities with other rooms in order to conduct the meeting and voting. When the vote for a twenty percent increase in subscription recommended by Council was carried, that truly showed the commitment and interest members had in the Institution. I assure you that those comments, which were made by members at this yearly meeting shall be looked at in detail by both Executive Committee and Council of the day. I notice a paradigm shift among our members in that more members are seeking to volunteer their efforts for the Institution.

I have in my presidential address also touched upon the philosophy to move away from a candidate seeking the post to that for the post seeking the candidate. In this respect IEM Council has set up a committee to come up with the terms of reference for this 'Nominating Committee' under the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Activities, Engr. Yim Hon Wa (FIEM). There is no necessity to further amend any by-laws or constitution to accommodate such a move as members can continue to nominate candidates for the Annual IEM elections. In order to operationalise this trend, I have permitted and encouraged any member of the Institution to sit in and listen to the proceedings of the meeting except when we have votes to be taken in an executive session. It is hoped that with this practice in place, current council members are in a good position to evaluate potential future leaders for the Institution and whose names can be nominated to volunteer their services to IEM. Identification of leadership qualities in these candidates would then be an ongoing exercise.

Over the last three months, IEM has hosted at least three (3) Regional/International conferences. The impression gathered by the distinguished overseas speakers about IEM is the quality of these events and their intention to return for future events when the time comes. Among these, the Tunnelling and Trenchless Construction was attended by well over 200 participants although this was held one day after our Perak Branch co-hosting of a similar technical event with the Public Works Department (JKR). The event on 9th International Conference on Concrete Engineering and Technology (CONCET) was also well attended by more than 200 participants locally and abroad. This annual event is organised by rotation amongst three bodies namely, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Universiti Malaya and IEM. With its humble beginning mooted by Engr. Prof. Dr Wan Mahmood bin Wan Abdul Majid (FIEM) when he was a Council member of IEM, the local event has gone Regional and perhaps one day International. Not to forget following closely to CONCET was the 11th Asian Congress on Fluid Mechanics (11ACFM), which saw many experts from the Asian region visiting us to present their research results. I must congratulate the Organising Chairman who succeeded to make the call for papers and all proceedings done via the Internet and digitally. The presentation also had web-casting for a Plenary and a Special Lecture conducted via teleconferencing between Malaysia and USA for the Plenary and Taiwan for the Special lecture. The event was officially opened by our Hon. Minister of Science Technology and Innovation, Dato' Engr. Dr Jamaludin bin Dato' Mohd. Jarjis (MIEM) addressing a crowd of foreign experts and participants from 20 countries. I believe our secretariat must have been working flat out because not only do we have these conferences to deal with, the AGM and the IEM Open house also went on in between without much hitches. Next on the event will be the Asia Pacific Confederation of Chemical Engineering 2006 (APCChE '06) from 27-30 August 2006 with the theme "Innovation Sustaining Future Business". In conjunction with APPChE '06, there is also Chemical Technology Exhibition (ChemTex 2006) that would be held from 28-30 August 2006 and the Tripartite meeting between Persatuan Insinyur Indonesia (PII), Institution of Singapore (IES) and The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) hosted by us in Kuala Lumpur on 28 August 2006. The International Conference on Brownfield Asia 2006 with the theme on Remediation and Management of Contaminated Land (Focus on Asia) is scheduled to be held from 5 to 7 September 2006, whilst the 24th Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (CAFEO 24) with the theme "Branding of Asean Professional Engineering Services and Education for Global Mobility" would be held from 29 November until 3 December 2006. Finally the 16th Southeast Asian Geotechnical Conference (16 SEAGC) would be held from 8-11 May 2007. We are truly occupied for the rest of the year and I am looking forward to meeting more members in these events.

In closing, I wish to record my sincere thanks to you members for all the contributions and support. ■

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