



IEM Branches

The President of IEM gets invitations to attend IEM Branch Annual Dinners and I would like to thank them for their invitations. There are 11 branches up and down the country and whenever possible I shall be attending these annual functions to address our members at the branches. One recent function was the Perak Branch Annual Dinner in which I updated members on the status of various professional issues, which faced our members in the building and construction industry. A more satisfying note that evening was to be able to get the guest of honour Y.B. Dato' Ramly Zahari, (representing the Menteri Besar) to assist the Perak Branch to look for a vacant bungalow unit for a long term lease to house the Perak Branch Secretariat. It is now up to the Branch Chairman Engr. Khairul Anwar bin Masud (M.I.E.M., P.Eng) to follow up on the above effort.

Excomm has also been well attended by members from the branches who are in-town for their own programmes and who find time to be with us to observe and contribute towards the proceedings. One such member who frequented our meetings is the Sarawak Branch Chairman, Engr. Zawawi bin Embong (M.I.E.M., P.Eng) who has been updating Excomm about status of the International Engineering Centre and the issues associated with ownership of that property. Whilst we try our best to serve our branches, it is truly the branch volunteers who shall determine the effectiveness of a branch.

A follow-up lunch meeting with Y.B. Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Chief Minister of Penang, to brief him on the Pro-ETI bureau of IEM and the need to arrange trips to ASEAN and other countries to market our engineering expertise up north was held on 24 July 2006. At the same time, the IEM's gift of the Sarawak Branch's publication entitled "From Bamboo to Broadband- one Century of Engineering" to the Chief Minister stimulated a discussion which

saw the need for a publication for Penang with perhaps the title "From Light to RF - Centuries of Engineering", Light being the first landing by Francis Light on Penang Island in 1786 a job to be undertaken jointly between IEM Penang Branch, Penang State Development Corporation and the Penang state industrial supporters.

Back in K.L., a breakfast dialog was held with Y.B. Dato' Engr. Mohd. Zin Mohd. (MIEM), Deputy Minister of Works, to discuss various issues which affected the engineering profession on 19 August 2006. One of the issues discussed was the need for Project Management Consultants to be regulated by respective Professional Practice Boards since a team of professionals who handle the project under his direction each have its own regulators. The other issue is with respect to the need to export our expertise overseas and how best IEM can assist in enabling it for the nation. An action plan is being drawn up by the Standing Committee on Corporate Affairs under its Chairman and Vice-President Engr. P.E. Chong (FIEM, P.Eng.)

The Asia Pacific Congress of Chemical Confederation (APCCChE) was held from 28 till 30 August 2006 in conjunction with a corresponding Exhibition at the KL Convention Centre. More than 400 participants from all over the Asia Pacific region attended this conference, focusing on truly learned outcomes from the research laboratories and the chemical industries. Engr. Johan Alimin Samad (MIEM, P. Eng.), Engr. Prof. Mohd. Ali Hashim (FIEM, P. Eng.) and their hardworking organising committees are to be congratulated in their voluntary effort towards making the conference a success. On the second day of APCCChE, at the same time, a Tripartite meeting was held at the same venue between the Institution of Engineers Indonesia, Institution of Engineers Singapore and us to review common engineering issues which

faced the 3 countries. Progress on Tsunami rebuilding in Bandar Aceh was reported and the annual trans-boundary haze problem which K.L. faces was also discussed. Engr. Assoc. Prof. Dr Suhaimi Talib (MIEM, P. Eng.) presented IEM's findings on the haze issue. Both the Presidents of Institution of Engineers, Singapore, Er. Tan Seng Chuan and The Institution of Engineers, Indonesia, Ir. Heru Dewanto were present at the meeting.

Shortly after APCCChE was Brownfield Asia from 5 to 7 September 2006, which was officially opened by Y.B. Dato' Seri Ong Kah Ting, Honourable Minister of Housing and Local Government. It was attended by more than 150 delegates from the Asian Countries. A surprising fact was that there is no local map of contaminated land or "Brownfields" as compared with "Greenfields" available anywhere in the country and the Honourable Minister has started a project towards the identification and mapping of such "Brownfields". Remediation and rehabilitation of "Brownfields" can go a long way towards putting them back to good use. We are rather fortunate in that we do not suffer the consequence of radioactive contamination on our land for which rehabilitation would have been near impossible. My felicitations to Engr. Assoc. Prof. Dr Suhaimi Abdul Talib (MIEM, P. Eng.) the organising chairman and his committee for being able to come up with an exciting summary of ideas to be presented to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for their further deliberation and action.

In conclusion I would like to wish all our members who are celebrating a most enchanting Happy Deepavali, Selamat Hari Raya Aidil Fitri and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. ■

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