

## Half-Day Forum on “Road to BEM Accreditation: IPTS Experience”

ENGINEERING EDUCATION TECHNICAL DIVISION



by Ir. Assoc. Prof. Dr.  
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**AS** Malaysia moves towards becoming a developed nation by 2020, education becomes one of the most important aspects in achieving this goal. Engineering education has become more appealing among students pursuing their tertiary studies.

Many Malaysian private Higher Education Institutions (HEI) have started offering a variety of engineering programmes to meet the high demand. Prior to conducting engineering programmes, an institution should obtain approval from the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM) through the Engineering Accreditation Council (EAC). The EAC assesses and accredits engineering programmes offered by all institutions in the country.

The Engineering Education Technical Division of IEM initiated a forum on “Road to BEM Accreditation: IPTS Experience”. The forum provided a platform for Malaysian private HEIs offering engineering programmes to share their views and experiences via talks and discussions with invited panellists from private HEIs which have a vast experience in the accreditation process.

The speakers in this forum were Prof. Ramesh Singh, Assoc. (Professor, Universiti Malaya), Prof. Dr Izham bin Zainal Abidin (Deputy Dean – Academic, Universiti Tenaga Nasional) and Dr Mok Vee Hoong, Jimmy, (Dean of Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Built Environment, School of Engineering, UCSI).

The presentation started with Prof. Ramesh giving a detailed overview of the accreditation process from the perspective of an EAC evaluator. He shared in detail the criteria that are used during EAC visits.

The criteria are:

- Program Education Objectives (PEO)
- Program Outcomes (PO)
- Curriculum
- Staff
- Students
- Facilities
- Resources
- Quality Management System

He dwelled on each criterion in detail, especially PEO's and PO's where many Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) are still having difficulties in interpreting them. He also touched a little on Blooms Taxonomy and how this taxonomy can be used to prepare assessments in a more reflective manner.

Dr Izham and Dr Mok, on the other hand, shared their experiences on how their colleges prepared for the EAC visits. Their experiences were very insightful to the participants. Many of them also shared the same uphill challenges.

The forum provided a good insight on the procedures and preparation involved for the accreditation evaluation. There were many positive discussions on the submission procedures. A total of 45 people attended the forum. The participants were from the industry and various IHLs. A follow-up in the form of a workshop was also conducted on 21 March 2011 to assist participants in preparing the EAC self-assessment report (SAR). This time the participants numbered close to 40 people. ■

### ANNOUNCEMENT

#### IEM GOLF TOURNAMENT 2011: PERANGSANG TEMPLER GOLF CLUB 20 JULY 2011

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