



**WE – AFEO shining in CAFEO34**

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ASEAN member countries had converged under one roof from 21 to 24 November 2016 for the annual gathering, CAFEO34 of intellectual discussions, presentations, and meetings. The WE-AFEO women engineers hosted its annual WE-AFEO meeting at Puerto Princessa City, Palawan Island in Philippines on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016. WE-AFEO was formed in 2013 to establish strong networking within ASEAN, encouraging more women engineers to promote interesting dialogue and celebrate the success of the profession in AFEO. In the meeting, WE-AFEO country representatives presented their country reports at the meeting and further discussed on issues and challenges, funding opportunities, integration and coordination efforts among WE-AFEO women engineers. WE-AFEO women engineers from host country had generously arranged a fellowship dinner cum karaoke session for all the women delegates in the evening. It was indeed an amazing sight to see the serious and professional looking women engineers let their hair down, sang their hearts out and had fun on the dance floor.

## **WOMEN ENGINEERS SUMMIT 2016**

All WE-AFEO delegates were invited to Women Engineer's Summit on 23rd November 2016 to celebrate the shining achievements of WEAFEO delegates in Engineering. The first speaker was Ir. Dr. Leong Wai Yie from Malaysia on benchmarking Malaysia with Asia Pacific Women in STEM which is a key metric to gain competitive insights. She shared the statistical analysis of surveys conducted in APNN countries. The surveys included balanced development of human resources, glass ceiling for women and gender barriers. The talk explored the various networking and collaboration opportunities such as Young Women Scientist Camp, INWES conference and ASEAN Foundation. She concluded her talk by reiterating diversity is the key to competitiveness.

In engineering education, Engr. Dr. May Rose C. Imperial of FEU Institute of Technology presented her talk on women shining through in engineering education in the country. Among the highlights of her talk were the low number of women in top management positions in the university, technical panels, importance of accreditation and the on-going reforms in STEM education in the Philippines. In the consulting services field, Engr. Evelyn V. Dofredo from Philippines presented her talk on women engineers' achievement and contribution to various types of consulting services, such as management system, environment, engineering, management and IT. She shared different type of intervention styles and tips on how to succeed as women in consulting sector. She highlighted the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 as a major milestone in the regional economic integration agenda in ASEAN, offering vast opportunities for consultancy beyond borders. Engr. Lea N. Delfinado shared her talk on women engineers shining through in government sector. An open forum was held at the last session of the summit to promote discussion and gain greater understanding of women engineers' challenges. In the technical track, Dr. Habibah, Ir. Mah Siew Kien and Ms Sumathi from IEM Women Engineers Section also delivered their technical talks at their respective parallel sessions across different thematic tracks during the conference sessions.

It has been a tradition of the WEAFEO delegates and all women engineers attending CAFEO every year to support WE Summit which also brings together women engineers from ASEAN countries closer together.

## **ALL ENDS WELL IN UPLIFTED SPIRIT**

Everything that begins must end. The participants and delegates of CAFEO-34 are treated with a Farewell Banquet on the final day. The dinner was a buffet after presentations of Awards took place. Flag Hand over to the incoming President of CAFEO-35, Thailand, was done gracefully. Delegates from each ASEAN Country and Japan sportingly did their performances. Singing, dancing, martial arts were performed by different groups representing their countries.

The ASEAN women engineers (WE-AFEO) got together to surprise the audiences as the first performing group. It is the first of its kind, if I may say, that WE-AFEO took the center stage as 'the all women engineers' team. Whitney Houston Greatest Love of All was forcefully sung together and being cheered and joined by other fellow engineers in the banquet hall. And again for our Malaysian team, IEM-WE led the performance. Dancing to the tune Shalala lala (Vegaboy) we ensured everyone in the packed banquet hall had fun too. IEM-WE madam Chairman proudly put up a solo Wu Shu show which amazes everyone who were present. As the event got to the end and we bade friends and acquaintances farewell, all ends well in an uplifted spirit of CAFEO-34.

A trip to Palawan will never be complete without visiting the World Famous Underground River. IEM women engineers had fun together visiting the World Famous Underground River tour of Puerto Princesa during the technical visit day. Having fun together is equally important in creating a unique and stronger bond. As one of the Malaysian's favorite pastimes is eating, IEM women engineers coincidentally met IEM male engineers at KaLui restaurant, the most famous and best value seafood restaurant in Palawan to enjoy the sumptuous seafood dinner on the evening before returning to Malaysia the next day. The team who eats together stays together!



Women engineers working hard together during WEAFO meeting



WEAFO lady engineers at CAFE034