



Talk on “Engineering Culture” – 18 August 2017

by Dato' Ir. Othman Ismail

Dato' Ir. Othman Ismail is currently an observer in the Engineering Education Technical Division (E2TD).

I was representing The Engineering Education Technical Division of IEM to deliver a talk entitled “Engineering Culture” to Uniten final year engineering students. The talk was given on 18 Aug 2017 at Administration Theatre, Uniten, Bandar Baru Bangi from 3.00 – 5.00pm. This session is organised by Uniten Engineering Club cum the secretariat for the talk. Representative from IEM Pn Norimah and Pn Rohaida also available and they opened registration table.

This talk on Engineering Culture was targeted to engineering students from Uniten. The talk executed as planned and was running very well. The attendance was from final year engineering students of Uniten. The theatre was full with students with some those who came late got to sit on the theatre stairs. It was estimated around 200 participants.

The content of the talk covers topics on Definition of Culture, Scope of Engineering, Engineers’ Code and Ethic, Contractual interpretation, Relationship of culture in engineering. The talk also fills up with video and a few case studies for the participants to respond and give their understanding and opinions.

The talk starts with the definition of culture with the purpose to relate the importance of cultivating the right culture for the future. Culture in its broadest sense is cultivated behaviour; that is the totality of a person's learned, accumulated experience which is socially transmitted, or more briefly, behaviour through social learning.

The next is for the participants to understand and know the importance of an engineer in society. Video on the topic of “What is Engineering” is shown to participants. The content of video can be summarised that engineers solve problems, solving problems that make life better and problems are engineers’ aspiration

The talk goes on with explanation on Ethics and the Engineer. In the practice of engineering, most engineers, no matter whether they are employees or private practitioners, or whether they are in public or private enterprise, find that in their professional lives, they encounter problems that are far removed from the technical and the impersonal. Engineering is closely involved in human relations and in business and commerce.

The Engineers' Code of Practice of five components namely the profession, colleagues, towards employers and clients, the public and oneself is explained in details. The Dos and Don'ts as a professional engineer also explained at length.

Last topic of the talk was on engineers' involvement in contracts. The topic is important as understanding and execution of contractual term and conditions are critically important as engineers somehow directly or indirectly involve in executing the contract. Since the contractual terms and conditions are legal terms thus do give legal implication. The topic on contractual interpretation has been explained at length which covers primary rule and eight secondary rules of contract interpretation.

The talk concludes that among others knowledge, values, attitude, experience and practice will become the culture, thus need to develop and adopt the right culture. Engineers shall adhere to the Code of Ethics where the engineering profession will benefit in promoting its reputation, credibility and respect. This will result in engineering profession to maintain its attractiveness as a rewarding and respectable profession.

Cumulative deposits, adhering to the Code of Ethics and Engineers' Code of Practice will lead to Engineers' Hallmark of Professionalism.