

## The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia

Bangunan Ingenieur, Lots 60/62, Jalan 52/4, Peti Surat 223, 46720 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan

**Tel**: 03-79684001/2 Fax: 03-79577678

E-mail: sec@iem.org.my IEM Homepage: http://www.myiem.org.my

# Technical Talk Common Operational Challenges and R&D Opportunities in Malaysian Thermal Power Plants

(Jointly Organised by Oil, Gas & Mining Technical Division and Electrical Engineering Technical Division IEM)

Date : 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (Saturday)

Time : 9.00am – 11.00am (Refreshment will be served at 10.30am)

Venue : TUS and C&S Lecture Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Wisma IEM, Petaling Jaya

Speaker: Ir. Dr. Mohd Shiraz Aris

#### **SYNOPSIS**

The Malaysian energy generation sources from which power is generated and injected into the national grid originate from coal, natural gas, hydro and small amounts of renewables. Power from coal and natural gas are categorized as generation from conventional thermal power plants, collectively making-up more than 50% of the Malaysian energy mix. The coal plants contribute to the base load supply whilst the gas turbine plants, with the exception of a few, inject peak load demand into the grid. The contribution of the thermal power plants in the Malaysian energy scenario and their role as base load producers suggest operational criticality and reliability of the relevant assets. One of the common challenge in thermal power plants is the quality of fuel source. Both coal and natural gas supply play a significant role in ensuring the power generation process is not compromised in terms of unplanned outages and heat rate targets. Especially in coal power plants, a fuel quality issue can translate into several operational hiccups such as ash deposition, clinker formations, unbalanced firing and overdesigned furnace exit gas temperatures to name a few. In gas turbine plants, an increase in inert content from sour gas sources, higher hydrocarbons from LNG injection and high rate of changes in gas supply compositions are known causes of plant tripping associated to poor combustion.

The listed challenges for thermal power plants are not exhaustive and are merely high level examples of what one can expect to find when engaging with power plant operators. Through careful synthesis and exploration of these issues there are many solutions which can be offered to the thermal power plant operators. These solutions may utilize tools which have become more acceptable such as computational fluid dynamics, machine learning optimization and modelling capabilities. The tools are enablers which are filling in the gaps and, in many instances, have become solution drivers for the plants. This talk will provide an overview of the challenges faced by coal and gas fired power plants, focusing on fuel quality, supply and some of the upstream gaps which are critical to the plant's performance and reliability. There will be insights on the latest findings and related solutions for operational excellence in thermal power plats.

#### **SPEAKER'S BIODATA**

Ir. Dr. Mohd Shiraz Aris has over 26 years combined experience in engineering, research and consultancy within the oil and gas and power industries. After graduation, he worked for Esso Production Malaysia Inc., Beloit Asia Pacific (Singapore) and PETRONAS prior to his current position as Principal Researcher at TNB Research Sdn. Bhd. He has published articles related to Heat Transfer, Thermal Design, Renewable Energy and Energy Optimization in numerous journals and presented at major international conferences around the world. Ir. Dr. Mohd Shiraz completed his Bachelor of Science in 1998 and he is a member of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia.

Ir. Azwira Mohd Azmi Chairman, Oil, Gas and Mining Technical Division, IEM Ir. Chong Chew Fan Chairman,

Electrical Engineering, Technical Division IEM

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BEM Approved CPD/PDP Hours: 2 Ref No: IEM18/HQ/462/T

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FEE ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Members:

- (i) Registration Fee: No Charge
- (ii) Administrative Fee:
  - (a) Online RM15 (b) Walk-In RM20

#### **Non-Members:**

(i) Registration Fee: RM50(ii) Administrative Fee: RM20

- Limited seats are available on a "first come first served" basis (maximum 100 participants).
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