



What it Takes to be a Successful Engineer ?

by Ir. Dr Mui Kai Yin

Ir. Dr Mui Lai Yin is currently a committee member in Electronic Engineering Technical Division (eETD).

Talk Synopsis:

Engineers played vital roles in social economic and nation building. They are the backbone for major development projects. Engineers faced many challenges in different work environment and condition. The speaker, Dato' Siew Hai (SH) Wong would like to share his personal experience throughout the 29 years of service and contribution in the electronics industry; he intends to depict some of his valuable experience and knowledge on how he overcome those key challenges and became successful.

Speaker Profile:

Dato' Siew Hai (SH) Wong has 29 years of working experience in the electronics industry. He retired from Intel after 27 years of service. His last position with Intel was Vice President of Technology and Manufacturing Group (TMG) and General Manager of Assembly and Test Manufacturing (ATM), responsible for all assembly test factories worldwide. He also served as the Vice President and Managing Director of Dell's Asia Pacific Customer Centre for approximately 2 years. Currently, he is involved in the electronics industry as the Chairman of MAEI (Malaysian American Electronics Industry) and as a Honorary Governor of AMCHAM. He is a member of PEMUDAH, a special task force to address public-private delivery services, since 2012. In May 2017, he was appointed the Chairman of the E&E Productivity Nexus by the Malaysian Prime Minister. He is a member of the Penang Science Council and he pioneered the set up of Tech Dome Penang, the first science and discovery centre in Penang, to inspire children and students to pursue science and engineering. Currently, he is a coach in the CGP (Cradle Growth Program). He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) for 12 years and was Chair of its audit committee. In education and charity, he is an Industry Advisor to MMU School of Engineering, a member of Board of Governor of KDU and also a Vice President of the Penang Welfare Association for Mentally Retarded Children.

Tentative Program Flow:

9:30am – 10:00am: Registration and Networking

10:00am – 10:05pm: Introduction

10:05am – 11:15am: InspireMe Talk Present by SHWong

11:00am – 12:00pm: Dialogue with SHWong and Q&A

12:00pm – 12:30pm: Continue Networking & End

Post Talk Write up:

The IEM eETD “InspireMe” Talk was started off by IEM Penang Branch Immediate Past Chairman Ir. Dr. Mui Kai Yin by giving a brief introduction about eETD, follow with introduction of speaker (Dato’ Wong Siew Hai). Thereafter, a loud applause was given to welcome Dato’ Wong to the stage to start the InspireMe Talk. Dato’ Wong gave further introduction about himself, where he has started off his career as an engineer in the manufacturing industry, progressively advance his career and rise up to the senior management position toward his retirement age. Dato’ Wong continued the InspireMe Talk session by having an interaction with the audience, where he threw out the following two questions for the floor to ponder, and allow audience to provide their thoughts on it.

Question 1: What are the biggest challenges as an engineer?

Question 2: Open questions to ask Dato’ Wong Siew Hai

Participants were given sticker note pads to write their thoughts, thereafter place them in front of the white board at the front stage. The floor responded very well toward Dato’ Wong’s questions. Participants actively participated in this activities. Many interesting pointers and questions were posted in the white board. And was categorized by Dato’ Wong prior giving his valuable advises.

Responses to questions 1, “biggest challenges faced” including the following:

- Time management
- Compensation
- Human resource
- Experience
- Communication
- Work balance
- Preparation for interview
- People issues
- Proposal for projects
- Others

Responses to Q2, “open questions to Dato’ Wong” including the following:

- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Compensation
- Career advice
- Experience
- Dealing with people
- Others

Besides, participants are given opportunities to ask direct question to Dato’ Wong. Topics such as, Change management: Adapt to change, and how to manage change?

Challenges: Job rotation, expose to new experience;

Performance: How to achieve good performance?

People issue: How to deal with it? Through engagement, proper discussion, clear objectives and goals

Communication: Important! clear communication, preparation for presentation

Success: Don't compare with others. Must define yourself!

Sharing: Sharing what you are doing with others; make known to others; make known to your boss!

During the open dialogue, some participants even asked Dato’ Wong how to get Datukship?

Dato’s Wong also shared the Penang Tech Dome project success story. How the idea was mooted, the challenges faced; how the committee obtained seed fund from the statement government, follow with industries contribution and support, as well as the process of realizing the project.

The InspireMe Talk was ended with Ir. Dr. Mui Kai Yin presented a certificate of appreciation and plaque to Dato’ Wong.



Open dialogue session