

**Technical Visit to Panasonic Manufacturing Malaysia Berhad
manufacturer of KDK products**

by Ir. Yap Chee Hong

Ir. Yap Chee Hong is currently the Deputy Chairman in Building Services Technical Division (BSTD).

The event was held on the 24th March 2018 morning. There were a total of 30 participants and among them were 9 BSTD committee members. Our host had a total of 15 staff from the various divisions on standby to explain on their products which are sold under the brand of KDK.

Mr Leonard Choong, KDK Deputy Chief Executive, gave a welcome speech to all the participants while Ms Goh Chai Leng, KDK Marketing Manager, explained the background of the company. She informed us that KDK stands for Kawakita Denki Kigyousha which was an engineering company started back in year 1909. Through the years of improvement and innovation, KDK became one of the market leaders of fans product. It then started its operation in Petaling Jaya on 1st April 2002. Their products are mainly ceiling fans, general fans, ventilating fans and other air moving equipment.

The latest KDK product line is the ceiling fan that operates using a Direct Current (DC) motor. DC motor uses an internal array of magnets of opposing polarity that creates a magnetic field. It energizes the torque required to rotate the motor's rotor. The process has proven to save 55% of electricity consumption when compared to conventional AC motor. In this respect if there are area where the usage of the fan is often then DC motor ceiling fan would reduce the operating cost of the fan.

Mr Foo Toon Hock, Quality Control Manager, explained the safety improvement on KDK ceiling fan such as safety wire, cut-off safety switch and blade safety hanger. The cut-off safety switch will activate upon detecting wobbling movement of the fan while the safety wire prevents the fan from falling down. The blade safety hanger prevents the fan blade from breaking off when under abnormal pressure exerted on the blades.

Mr Foo also provided a few tips on the installation of ceiling fan like at least 1 meter away from the wall and fan should not be installed under the dome, slanting ceiling and between the beams. On the maintenance aspect he emphasized on the use of original spare parts like the fork pipes, those sold in hardware shops are not equipped with safety wire.

After the briefing session by the various presenters, we proceed to the factory assembly line to witness the various processes and quality control checks conducted along the line. Mr Leonard Choong took the opportunity to explain the importance of indoor ventilation if not carried correctly will lead to high humidity in turn will lead to condensation on the windows, formation of moulds which encourages white ants or termites to form colonies. In this respect there is need to match the types of ventilating fan and the room size.

A practical session on installing a ceiling fan was arranged in order to get a feel of the installation work and Ir Sofia Johari, BSTD Committee member volunteered to carry out the installation and with success.

At the end of the session Ir Yap CH presented a souvenir to Mr Leonard Choong in appreciation for their hospitality. All the participants enjoyed the lunch prepared by our host.



Sofia Johari volunteered to install the ceiling fan with other IEM members looking on



Group photograph of the Technical Visit to KDK