

*Welcome to IEM's e- news update, your source for the latest updates on the Institution's announcements, news releases and more. For this week, we are pleased to share with you some of the activities that took place in the month of April 2020.*

## **HUMANITARIAN AID BY THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, MALAYSIA (IEM)**

If past history is any indication, frontline health care workers are the group faced with the highest risk of contracting infectious diseases such as Covid-19. The SARs outbreak in 2012 for example saw 20% of victims in all cases coming from health care workers. They are the people who spend a lot of time up close with the patients executing high risk activities.

In the war against Covid-19, personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves, and gowns help to keep them safe to a certain extent when they are treating the patients. How can IEM help?

On 13 April 2020, IEM President, Ir. David Lai Kong Phooi was at University Hospital Medical Centre Petaling Jaya to present 10,000 pieces of 3-ply surgical face masks to YBhg Datuk Ir. (Dr.) Abdul Rahim Hj. Hashim, Vice Chancellor of University Malaya and Acting Chairman of the UMMC Board of Management for their medical staff. The face masks were purchased with collections received from the recent donation drive with contributions from members including IEM Negeri Sembilan Branch and friends of IEM. In line with IEM's mission to service the needs and interests of its members and the public, IEM feels that the donation of face masks is the most essential item for our healthcare personnel during this crisis.



IEM President Ir. David Lai Kong Phooi (4<sup>th</sup> from the left) presented surgical face masks to YBhg Datuk Ir. (Dr.) Abdul Rahim Hj. Hashim. Also present at the event were (on the right) Professor Dr. Tunku Kamarul Zaman bin Tunku Zainol Abidin, Director of UMMC, Dr. Susheela Nair, Registrar University Malaya and En Yuhanis (3<sup>rd</sup> from the left) representing CIS Network, one of the contributors to the IEM Donation Drive, Ir. Prof Dr Jeffrey Chiang Choong Luin, Vice President of IEM and Ir. Dr Oh Seong Por, Chairman of IEM Negeri Sembilan Branch.

Besides the medical frontliners, IEM also feels that there is a need to consider protection for the handicapped. On 30 April 2020, IEM Headquarters donated 5,000 pieces of 3-ply surgical masks to the **Malaysian Association For The Blind (MAB)**. A simple handover was held at the IEM Headquarters where IEM President Ir. David Lai Kong Phooi accompanied by IEM Deputy President Ir. Ong Ching Loon, presented the supplies to MAB's Chief Executive Officer Mr. George Thomas,



IEM President Ir. David Lai Kong Phooi (centre) presenting the surgical face masks to MAB CEO Mr George Thomas. Also present, IEM Deputy President Ir. Ong Ching Loon (on the right).



The masks were distributed to the MAB members immediately the same afternoon by Mr George Thomas.

Besides IEM HQ, many of the IEM Branches also did their bit to support the front liners and IEM is extremely pleased to report their efforts as follows.

**IEM PENANG**

IEM Penang Branch organised a Charity Drive among its members to alleviate the shortage of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) in Penang General Hospital. Due to the pandemic outbreak and the shortage of the PPE, the Charity Drive was successfully carried from 3 April 2020 to 8 April 2020.

IEM Penang Branch utilised the proceeds and kind contribution from its members to purchase several important PPE supplies. On 13 April 2020, IEM Penang Branch donated 2,000 pieces of Bouffant Caps, 2,000 pieces of Shoe Covers, 500 pieces of KN95 Face Masks, 100 pieces of Isolation Gowns and 60 pieces of Surgical Gowns to the Penang General Hospital.



The PPE donation contributed by IEM Penang Branch was received by Dr. Wong Khar Ming (seated) and his team on behalf of Penang General Hospital on 13 April 2020.

## IEM MELAKA

IEM Melaka Branch contributed food supplies to the frontliners on duty to the Chief of Police for Melaka Tengah, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Afzanizar Bin Ahmad. IEM Melaka Branch was represented by its Chairman Ir. Dr. Puvanasvaran Perumal. Also in attendance was JKR Melaka Director YBhg. Datuk Ir. Haji Ismail.

The Branch purchased RM1,300 worth of drinks and food for the IPD Melaka Tengah.



Members from IEM Melaka Branch presented the contributions to Melaka Tengah Police Contingent

## IEM KELANTAN

On 28 March 2020, IEM Kelantan Branch officially launched the IEM Kelantan COVID19 Fund to receive donations from its members.

On 1 April and 2 April 2020, IEM Kelantan Branch supplied hand sanitizers to medical personnel at Klinik Kesihatan Pengkalan Kubur, and Klinik Kesihatan, Pasir Pekan, Tumpat. The donation was initiated by the IEM Kelantan Branch Vice Chairman 2, Ir Noor Zaidi bin Abdullah. IEM Kelantan Branch also distributed 10 liter hand sanitizers to medical personnel at klinik Kesihatan Pengkalan Kubur, Tumpat.



Medical personnel receiving hand sanitizer from IEM Kelantan Branch, initiated by Vice Chairman 2, Ir. Noor Zaidi bin Abdullah.



Food items/Groceries are being segregated to be given out to 40 affected families.

## IEM SARAWAK

The outbreak of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Malaysia has forced Malaysians to stay at home starting 18 March 2020. University students were given options to stay in their hostels or return to their homes. Due to logistic and accessibility, some had to remain in campus. This has turned into a challenge for a significant fraction of the students who depend on the university for basic needs — daily food supply.

Politeknik Kuching, Sarawak, located 28km from Kuching city centre was isolated from the commercial area vicinity. Their lecturer, Ir. Richie Wong contacted IEM Sarawak Branch to request for donation in kind. IEM Sarawak Branch Committee at it's March meeting endorsed and allocated RM5,000 to assist the stranded Politeknik Kuching Sarawak students who are affected by the movement control order (MCO).



There were a total number of 480 on campus students and another 42 off campus students experiencing shortage of food supplies and face masks.

The amount donated was utilised to purchase meals and some basic items. The students have responded in IEM Sarawak Branch Facebook and thanked IEM Sarawak Branch for the kind gesture.

Students conveyed their appreciation to IEM Sarawak Branch for their quick response and kind gesture.

## IEM SABAH



IEM Sabah Branch Chairman Ir. Jeffrey Ng (4<sup>th</sup> from the left) & its Honorary Secretary Ir. Tan Kok Jyh presented 300L Chest Freezer to the The Kota Kinabalu Health Officer Dr. Julaidah bt Sharip (3<sup>rd</sup> from the left).

Rising to the urgent call for a freezer for storing reagents and samples for COVID-19 test, IEM Sabah Branch donated a 300L top loading freezer to Jabatan Kesihatan Kawasan Kota Kinabalu. IEM Sabah hoped that the donated item would be able to reduce the health officers' burden in sourcing needed facilities while accelerating the fight against the pandemic. Throughout the movement control order, IEM Sabah had also contributed in other forms and efforts. These included prepared meals for frontliners and supply of food items to the stranded Universiti Malaysia Sabah students by IEM Sabah Women Engineers. IEM Sabah also participated in the donation of PPEs via the contribution raised from various professional bodies and NGOs.

*Thank you.*

*Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19.*

*The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM)*

*30 April 2020*