

**The 1st IEM EETD Virtual Brainstorming meeting**

by Ir. Kwok Yew Hoe

Ir. Kwok Yew Hoe is currently the Secretary/Treasurer of Electrical Engineering Technical Division (EETD).

The Electrical Engineering Technical Division (EETD) held a very participative Brainstorming Session with all its committee members and IEM secretariat on Saturday 17th July 2021 through Zoom videocall.

The new Chairman of EETD, Ir. Lee Cheng Pay had organised this to encourage active teamwork and contributions, and brainstorming for new ideas. Since there were new committee members, the event was a way to introduce IEM structures and processes to them. The brainstorming session is usually held every 2-3 years when there is a change in Chairmanship, and this is the first one held virtually due to the pandemic.

The event started at 9.30am, where the Chairman Ir. Lee Cheng Pay, and the immediate past Chairman Ir. Francis Xavier, gave their welcome speeches. Thereafter a video of EETD's achievements was played, which depicted EETD's winning the IEM Presidential Award of Excellence (PAOE) for being the most active division for the following years:

PAOE 2016 – Champion

PAOE 2017 – 1st Runner Up

PAOE 2018 – Champion

PAOE 2019 – 2nd Runner Up

Since there was no annual dinner in 2020 and most of the events conducted virtually, new awards have been created which EETD won the following awards:

The Highest Number of Virtual Activities Conducted

The Highest Paid Number of Participants of Virtual Activities Conducted

Deputy Chairman Ir. Dr. Siow Chun Lim led the interesting ice-breaking session where members introduced themselves virtually by writing brief descriptions of themselves on a collaborative virtual platform space known as padlet. The session was full of camaraderie and everyone got to know each other better.

Ir. Lee Cheng Pay then walked through the presentation on Introduction to IEM and its structure and processes, including introduction to the Council, Executive Committee and Standing Committees. Next, Mr. Alex Looi who is the chief organiser of events/webinars shared details on how to organise activities. EETD continues to be very active in organising seminars and webinars, and has organised the most number of events in the past years.

This was followed by presentations by all the 6 Working Groups - Energy, Transportation, Healthcare, Electrical Installation, Explosive Atmosphere, Electronics and Telecommunication. The brainstorming session that followed was actively participated and many ideas generated, where members posted their ideas online on padlets, everyone could view realtime and discuss together. This is an effective way of conducting brainstorming sessions.

Among the interesting ideas that were generated are on enhancing education/competency, including to create a Tik Tok video on Electrical Safety, to conduct webinars on topics relevant to members such as Energy Management, Energy Saving Initiatives for Healthcare Facilities, EX- competency, creating awareness/guide on pathway to REEM and guide to PCE examinations. All these will be of benefit to IEM members in general.

An idea to benefit the community is for EETD to conduct Electrical Safety Checks for welfare and charity organisations' buildings during the pandemic, as well as community service for orphanage/home for the aged and food bank for the needy. These initiatives are relevant to mobilising the core capability of EETD members for the benefit of the community.

In the area of promoting awareness and dialogue, there was a suggestion for EETD to reach out to engineering associations in other countries for networking and dialogue especially on electrical matters. It was also recommended for EETD to have engagement with other societies with similar interests, for example in Healthcare and Biomedical Engineering, and Renewable Energy (SEDA).

A few members also proposed to organise Virtual Tours on Plant Visits and Engineering Commissioning works as a way to continue these activities during the period of EMCO/MCO. The site visits/tours were a popular learning activity before the pandemic. Another suggestion posted by the members was to get more "young blood" to join and serve in Technical Committee (TC) and Working Group (WG) in Standards Development under the mentorship of the senior members. Finally, the Chairman Ir. Lee Cheng Pay thanked the members for their participation, and these ideas will be discussed further and planned at the next EETD monthly meeting. The meeting ended at 1.00pm.



Meeting in progress