

*IEM Creating*

**IMPACT**

**2026**

**PRESIDENTIAL  
ADDRESS**

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**Ir. Yau Chau Fong**

President for Session 2026–2028



**The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia**

## **IEM PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS 2026**

by

**Ir. Yau Chau Fong**

**The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM)**

**Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026, Wisma IEM, Petaling Jaya, Selangor**

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**“THEME: IEM CREATING IMPACT”**

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Immediate Past President, Ir. Prof. Dr. Jeffrey Chiang Choong Luin,

Deputy President, Ir. Chen Harn Shean,

Vice Presidents, Ir. Prof. Dr. Tan Chee Fai, Ir. Prof. Dr. Lau Hieng Ho, Ir. Simon Yeong Chin Chow, Ir. Abdul Razak bin Yakob, Ir. Prof. Dr. David Chuah Joon Huang, Ir. Dr. Lee Yun Fook, Ir. Hj. Abrizan bin Abdul Kadir,

Distinguished Past Presidents,

Members of the Outgoing and Incoming Excomm and Council,

Datuk-datuk, Datin-datin, Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan,

Fellows, Members of the Institution, distinguished guests, partners, and friends of the engineering fraternity.

A very good morning to you all. It is my profound pleasure to welcome you to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) on this historic day, 18 April 2026. The AGM stands as one of the most vital occasions in our professional calendar, representing the very principles that underpin an organisation of our stature: accountability, transparency, and collective stewardship. This gathering is not merely a procedural necessity; it is a moment for us to reflect on our trajectory, review our progress, and reaffirm our shared commitment to the advancement of the engineering profession.

Today's meeting marks a significant transition for our Institution as we embark on a new session for 2026/2027 and 2027/2028. At the outset, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to our outgoing President, the Members of the Council, and the countless volunteers who have served across our Standing Committees, Technical Divisions, Branches, and Sections. The strength and prestige that IEM enjoys today are built upon the unwavering dedication and commitment of these individuals. Their tireless contributions have ensured that IEM remains a relevant, active, and respected pillar within the global engineering community. On behalf of the entire membership, I record our sincere gratitude for their exemplary service.

### **Personal Reflection: A Journey of Twenty-Five Years**

For me personally, assuming the Presidency of this esteemed Institution is both a tremendous honour and a significant responsibility. My journey with IEM began approximately twenty-five years ago when I first joined the IEM Graduate and Student Section as a co-opted member. At that time, like many of our younger members today, my primary motivations were simple: to learn, to build professional networks, and to gain exposure to the vast world of engineering.

Over the following two decades, my involvement with the Institution grew in depth and breadth. I was privileged to contribute through the Electrical Engineering Technical Division and later served within the Excomm and the Council. These years also provided opportunities to participate in vital initiatives such as the ASEAN Engineering Register and industry platforms like ENGINEER and MARVEX. These experiences were transformative, allowing me to view IEM through various lenses—as a young engineer seeking a mentor, as a volunteer executing activities, and eventually as a leader helping to shape the Institution's future.

Through this long-standing involvement, I have come to a singular realization: IEM is a community. It is far more than a platform for technical lectures or administrative activities; it is a professional home. Today, with a membership exceeding 40,000 engineers, IEM stands as one of the largest and most influential professional engineering bodies in the region. Our members are the heartbeat of the nation, serving across every facet of the engineering ecosystem, from consulting and heavy industry to academia, government, and the frontier sectors of emerging technology. It is through your collective work that we shape our nation's infrastructure, drive technological advancement, and fuel economic progress.

### **The Evolving Role of the Engineer in a Changing World**

As we look toward the 2026-2028 sessions, it is timely to reflect on how the role of the engineer is evolving. Recently, the global engineering fraternity celebrated World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development, led by the World Federation of Engineering Organisations and UNESCO. This year's theme, "Smart Engineering for a Sustainable Future through Innovation and Digitalisation," perfectly encapsulates the challenges and opportunities of our era.

We are currently witnessing a rapid transformation in engineering practice. The integration of artificial intelligence, digital engineering platforms, advanced materials, and sustainable energy systems is fundamentally changing how engineering solutions are conceived, designed, and implemented. Simultaneously, engineers are being called upon to lead the response to society's most urgent crises, including climate change, energy transition, urban sustainability, and technological disruption.

In this complex environment, the modern engineer must be more than a technical specialist. We must evolve into innovators, integrators, and leaders who can navigate interconnected global challenges. Our mission aligns seamlessly with Malaysia's national strategic frameworks, including the MADANI Economy framework, the New Industrial Master Plan 2030 (NIMP 2030), and the National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR). Professional institutions like IEM have a sacred responsibility to support our members through these transitions, ensuring that engineering expertise remains the cornerstone of national development.

### **Presidential Theme: "IEM Creating IMPACT"**

To guide my term as your President, I have chosen a theme that is both a vision and a call to action: "IEM Creating IMPACT". This theme reflects my firm belief that IEM must move beyond being solely a platform for networking and activities. While those elements are important, we must strive for more.

We must create meaningful and measurable impact for our members, for the engineering profession, and for the nation at large. This means:

- Creating impact by strengthening professional standards and upholding the highest levels of ethical conduct.
- Creating impact by shaping national conversations on the critical roles of engineering and technology in society.
- Creating impact by supporting engineers throughout their entire professional journey, from the classroom to the boardroom.
- Creating impact by positioning Malaysian engineers to contribute with confidence in an increasingly complex and interconnected global market.

To translate this vision into reality, the leadership of IEM has developed an integrated strategic framework known as IEM IMPACT 2030. This framework is designed to ensure that our Institution remains relevant, influential, and trusted in a rapidly shifting landscape. It aligns our people, our programmes, and our processes toward a common destination, enabling us to lead the profession with confidence.

## The Six Pillars of IEM IMPACT 2030

The IEM IMPACT 2030 framework is built upon six strategic pillars that will define our focus for the coming sessions:

### 1. Innovation

The first pillar recognises that engineering practice is increasingly defined by emerging technologies. To stay ahead, engineers must be lifelong learners who can anticipate change. Under this pillar, IEM will enhance its role as a premier platform for technological insight. We are introducing initiatives such as “Engineering Outlook” and “Innovation Intelligence,” which will provide our members with curated insights into global trends and technological breakthroughs.



Furthermore, we are committed to the realisation of a Digital-First IEM. By strengthening our digital infrastructure, we will ensure that every member can access professional resources, engagement opportunities, and information more effectively and seamlessly than ever before. We aim to be a forward-looking institution that proactively

prepares our engineers for the future.

### 2. Membership

Membership is the foundation of IEM, and we must ensure that the Institution provides tangible value at every stage of an engineer’s career. Central to this is our “End-to-End Membership Journey,” which creates a smooth professional pathway within the Institution, guiding our members from their days as students to becoming Graduate Engineers, Professional Engineers, and ultimately, Fellows of the Institution.



To ensure the future of our leadership, we are also launching the IEM Protégé Programme. This initiative is designed to identify and nurture the most promising young engineering talent. Selected protégés will gain direct exposure to the leadership of the Institution, participate in high-level initiatives, and contribute their unique perspectives to the issues affecting our profession. By cultivating the next generation today, we strengthen the long-term vitality of IEM.

### 3. Professionalism



Engineering is a profession rooted in competence, integrity, and the public trust. While regulatory bodies handle registration and compliance, IEM must serve as the ethical compass of the profession. We are tasked with guiding the values and professional conduct that define what it means to be an engineer.

Under this pillar, we will focus on Engineering Standards Development. By taking an active role in developing technical guidelines and best practices, we will support both the profession and the wider industry. These efforts reinforce IEM's authority as a trusted source of professional excellence and guidance.

### 4. Advocacy



Our expertise is critical to national policy, yet the voice of the engineer is not always heard clearly in the halls of power. To bridge this gap, we will focus on the development of Subject Matter Experts within our ranks.

These experts will serve as the bridge between the technical world and the public sphere, engaging with policymakers and industry stakeholders on issues ranging from sustainable infrastructure to technological ethics. Through robust advocacy, we will ensure that engineering knowledge contributes meaningfully to the decisions that shape our nation's future.

### 5. Collaboration



international engineering bodies.

Today's engineering challenges are too complex to be solved in isolation. They require collaboration across disciplines, industries, and national borders. We will actively strengthen our partnerships with universities, government agencies, and

Through regional partnerships and our foreign IEM chapters, we will expand the horizons for Malaysian engineers. By participating in international engineering events, we will not only learn from the best but also strengthen IEM's presence as a leader in the global engineering community.

## 6. Transformation



Finally, for IEM to deliver impact externally, we must transform internally. We will focus on strengthening the IEM Secretariat as a Strategic Enabler, enhancing its capacity to execute our strategies and engage with stakeholders effectively.

We will also work to revitalise the IEM Branding, ensuring that we are recognised by all as the definitive professional voice of engineers in Malaysia. At the same time, we need to ensure strategic direction and key initiatives are sustained across presidencies, not reset every term. By ensuring long-term institutional continuity, we will remain resilient and forward-looking, capable of weathering any future challenges.

### **Recognising the Strength of Our IEM Community**

While strategies and frameworks are important, the true strength of IEM lies in the dedication and contributions of its members. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the important roles played by our IEM Branches, Technical Divisions, Sections and volunteer leaders across the country.

Our Branches serve as the front line of engagement with members at the regional level. Through technical activities, professional development programmes and outreach initiatives, our branches ensure that IEM remains accessible and relevant to engineers throughout Malaysia.

Similarly, our Technical Divisions play a crucial role in advancing engineering knowledge and professional excellence. Through seminars, conferences, position papers and professional discussions, they provide platforms for engineers to share expertise, discuss emerging technologies and contribute to the development of engineering practices. These divisions represent the technical backbone of the Institution and are instrumental in supporting initiatives such as engineering standards development, knowledge sharing and subject matter expertise, which are key components of the IEM IMPACT 2030 strategy.

I would also like to highlight the important contributions of the Women Engineers Section, which continues to play a vital role in promoting diversity, inclusiveness and professional development within the engineering community. The Women Engineers Section has been instrumental in encouraging greater participation of women in engineering, providing mentorship and support networks, and inspiring the next generation of engineers. Their efforts contribute significantly to strengthening the engineering profession and ensuring that it reflects the diversity and talent of our society.

As we move forward with the implementation of IEM IMPACT 2030, the success of this strategic framework will depend greatly on the active participation of our Branches, Technical Divisions, Sections and volunteers. Together, they form the collective strength of the Institution and will play a key role in translating strategy into meaningful action.

### **Engineering Resilience in Uncertain Times**

We cannot ignore that we live in a world of increasing uncertainty. Geopolitical tensions and global conflicts have immediate impacts on our local economies, volatile material costs, and disrupted supply chains. In such times, the role of a professional institution becomes even more critical.

IEM must be a source of continuity and resilience. Through knowledge sharing and professional engagement, we will help our members navigate these emerging hurdles. Most importantly, I want to assure every member here today: IEM stands with you. We are a community that supports its own, and together, we will turn these challenges into opportunities for growth.

### **Conclusion: Building the Future Together**

In closing, I am reminded of the theme from our IEM Annual Dinner this year: “Connecting Engineering Practitioners”. That spirit of connection is what makes our Institution great. Whether we are 1,700 people at a gala dinner or 40,000 engineers serving across the nation, our strength lies in our unity.

Engineers have always been the builders and movers of the future, even in the most uncertain of times. With the collective spirit of this Institution and the professional excellence of our members, I am confident that we will achieve our goal of IEM Creating IMPACT.

I look forward to serving you over the next two years as we work together to shape a better, more sustainable, and more prosperous Malaysia.



Thank you.

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# IEM

The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia

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