

**TECHNICAL TALK ENTITLED “SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FUNDING FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION”**

By: Engr. Dr Chong Mei Fong

A Technical Talk was organised by the Chemical Engineering Technical Division (CETD) entitled “Scientific Research Funding from The European Union” on 22th March 2011 at IEM Auditorium, 3rd Floor of Wisma IEM. The talk was delivered by Mr. David Crowley. Approximately twenty (20) members attended the talk.

The talk was started with Mr David Crowley introducing how the *Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)* of EU was initiated. He explained that FP7 was the short name for the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. This was the EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe and it would run from 2007 to 2013. He also emphasised that EU FP7 was the largest grant available so far and its funding increased tremendously comparing to the amount when it was first started. Following to this, he explained in detail the types of funding available under this framework, which was spread among individual, research institutions and SMEs. He then further explained the most relevant funding opportunities to the audience, which was the cooperation. The topics under cooperation were:

- Health
- Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies
- Energy
- Environment (including climate change)
- Transport (including Aeronautics)
- Socio-economic sciences and Humanities
- Security
- Space

In order to participate under the category of cooperation, a strong consortium consisted of research institutions and SMEs from both EU and third world countries must be formed. Mr David Crowley also discussed further in detail on the eligibility of the SMEs and the funding submission as well as evaluation procedures (Figure 1).

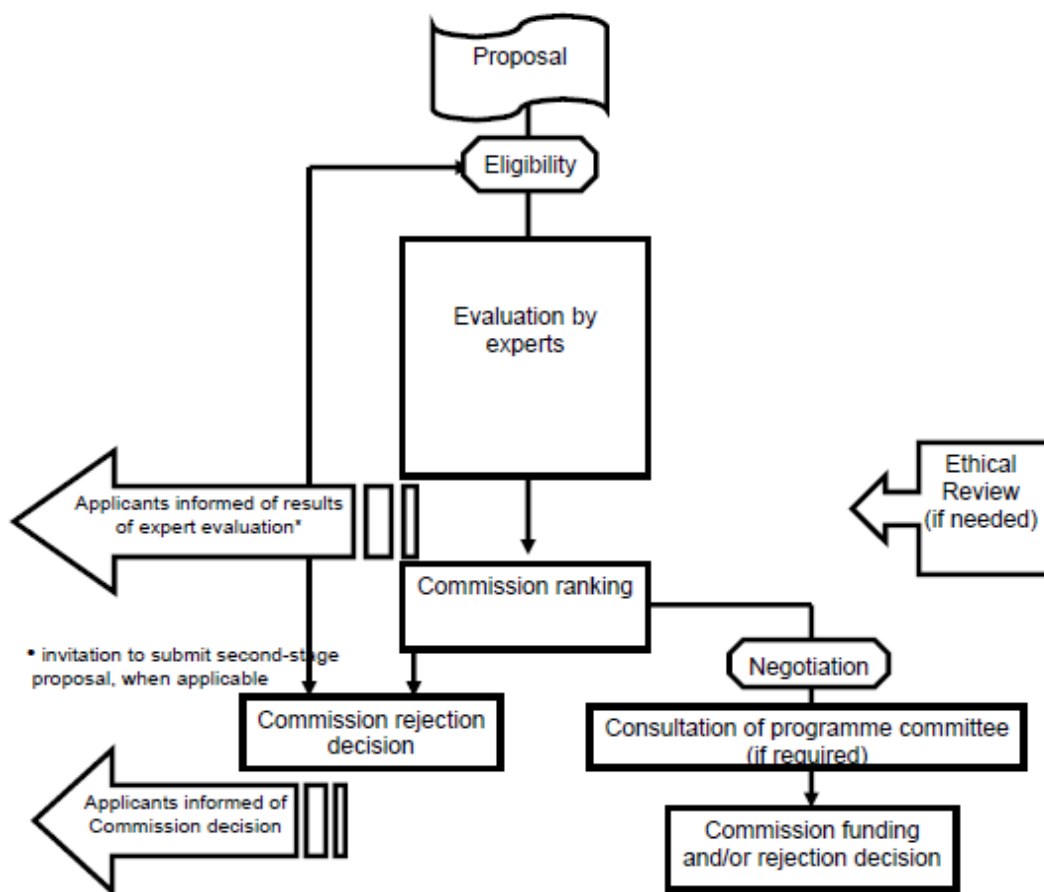


Figure 1: Funding evaluation procedures (<http://ec.europa.eu/>)

Finally, interesting conclusions were presented and as usual, the talk ended with a Q&A session at about 6.45 pm. On behalf of IEM's Chemical Engineering Technical Division, Engr Dr Chong Mei Fong presented a token of appreciation to Mr David Crowley and thanked him for his very informative talk.

As a conclusion, the talk had convey a very strong message to the audience or basically the SMEs on how the EU would like to establish an international cooperation under FP7 to integrate the EU into the worldwide community. This will also provide an advancement to research and technology in those countries like Malaysia that are developing based on their own knowledge capacity. This knowledge sharing mechanism will on one hand enriches the European research and on the other hand, creates opportunities in high end science and technology base industries among the developing countries.