

OUR FIRST OFFICE - WHERE IEM BEGAN



This is a compilation of articles under the Sub-Committee on Documentation and Recording of IEM Historical Events

by Dato' Ir. Pang Leong Hoon

IN the initial formative stage in 1958, IEM had no building of its own and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Lau Foo San had to keep the papers and files in the boot of his car or in his office, Lau & Partners, on the 2nd Floor of Mansion House, High Street, Kuala Lumpur. The building was later renamed Malayan Bank Building.

In 1970, through the good offices of our then President, YAM Raja Tan Sri Ir. Zainal bin Raja Sulaiman, who was also the General Manager of the National Electricity Board (NEB) at the time, IEM was offered temporary use of a section of the former NEB District Office building in Jalan Timur, Petaling Jaya, Selangor. The building has since been demolished and a new multi-storey TNB building stands on the same site.

From our IEM Bulletin (Vol. 1970/1971 No. 7 – February 1971), there was an announcement made on the new office for IEM. An extract from the bulletin is reproduced below:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW INSTITUTION OFFICE

As mentioned elsewhere already in the Bulletin, the Institution has been granted the temporary use of part of the premises of the former N.E.B. District Office building at Jalan Timur, Petaling Jaya.

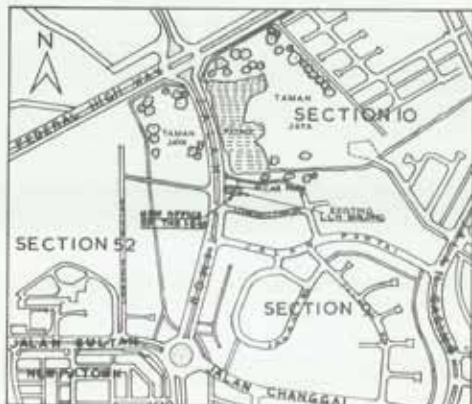
The Hon. Secretary has announced that the new Office is operational with effect from the 1st October 1970. The Institution Secretariat staff will be in attendance at the office throughout from 8.30 a.m. to 5.15 p.m. on weekdays and from 8.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. on Saturdays. The office will be closed on Saturday afternoons and on Sundays and Public Holidays.

A new telephone is being installed for the exclusive use by the Institution Secretariat. The telephone number is Petaling Jaya 53764. A new Post Office Box at Petaling Jaya is being applied, and members will be notified in due course of the new postal arrangement.

The new Institution office has a meeting room which can be utilised by the various I.E.M. Committees for holding their meetings. There is also a small reading room for members who wish to avail themselves of the facilities of the Institution Library.

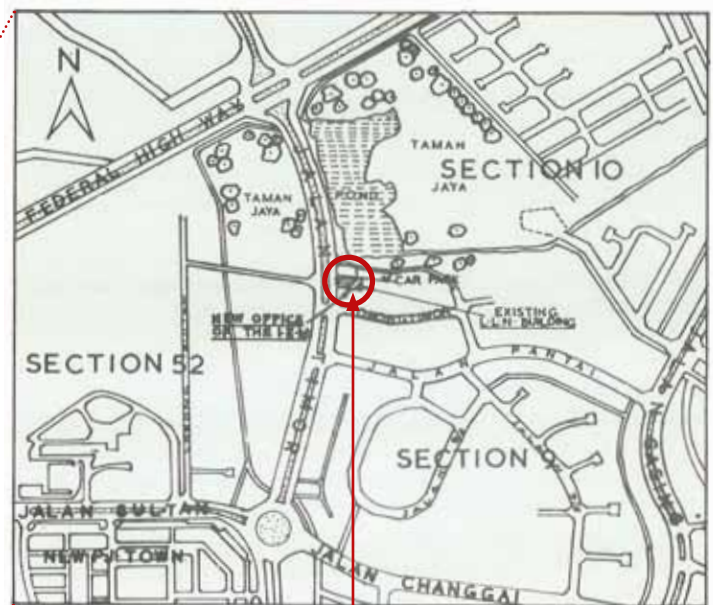
The Council would like to record its grateful thanks to the Pengurus Besar of the L.L.N., Yang Mulia Raja Tan Sri Zainal, for having so kindly approved the use of the Board's building by the Institution.

The actual location of the new office is given in the map hereunder, to help members, especially visitation members, find it.



At its 6th meeting held on 6 November 1959, the IEM Council decided to employ a part-time shorthand typist to help the Hon. Secretary with the correspondence. It was agreed that the person be paid an allowance of "not more than \$5 per hour". As there were no takers, Mr. A.S. Bhatt, a Council Member, was kind enough to provide the required service through his office at the Petaling Jaya Authority. Later, Mr. Thambirajah was recruited as a part-time officer to handle the day-to-day affairs of the Hon. Secretary and served till 1 September 1970. Before this, IEM had appointed Mr. Shan Thurai as clerk-cum-typist from 1 August 1970 to fill the vacancy. Other IEM staff members were recruited from time to time as required.

The IEM office in Jalan Timur (picture right) served as the Secretariat until Bangunan Ingenieur in Jalan Sultan, Petaling Jaya was completed in May 1976. ■



IEM first office

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