

THE IEM BUILDING FUND

This is a compilation of articles under the Sub-Committee on Documentation and Recording of IEM Historical Events under the chairmanship of Datuk Ir. Prof. Dr Ow Chee Sheng. Committee members comprise Y.Bhg. Dato' Ir. Dr Andy Seo Kian Haw, Ir. David Lai Kong Phooi, Ir. Prof. Dr Lee Sze Wei and Ir. C.M.M. Aboobucker



by Dato' Ir. Pang Leong Hoon

AT its 19th meeting on 13 January 1961, the IEM Council considered the need to start a building fund with the view to have its own building one day. Towards the end of 1970, the IEM Secretariat shifted from the Station Hotel (Railway Station, Kuala Lumpur) to the old NEB Office Building in Jalan Timur, Petaling Jaya. Squatting there since 1970, IEM was mindful then that it could not occupy temporary facilities forever.

The first Committee on Building Fund was appointed by the Council during Session 1962/63. The Building Fund Sub-Committee was chaired by Y.M. Raja Zainal bin Raja Sulaiman. Subsequently, the Building Fund Committee was appointed with the following Council Members as Chairman:

- Mr. Thean Lip Thong (Oct 1966 to June 1968)
- Mr. Chester Ho Hong (July 1968 to Dec 1970)

The Committee considered various ways and means to raise funds including the sale of car badges, organising functions and even running a lottery. For a start, each Council Member contributed a minimum of \$100 to the fund. Appeals for contributions were also made in the IEM bulletins and circular leaflets to IEM members and the general public and firms.

Initially, the efforts were not very fruitful or effective because there was not much information available on the site and on the design of the proposed building. However, after the site was decided on in 1966 (i.e. QT(R) 5514 Lot 60-62 Jalan 52/4, Town of Petaling Jaya, Selangor) and the preliminary design of the proposed IEM building was made available, contributions began to flow in. By mid-1968, the Building Fund stood at \$86,508.08 and at the end of 1970, it was \$127,020.31 (Ref: IEM Bulletin No. 5, No. 6 and No. 10). This amount was made up of:

- \$19,089.00 contributed by 217 members;
- \$107,941.31 contributed by 26 firms, organisations and others.
- The total sum was **\$127,030.31**

As the amount received was still not sufficient, the Council decided to organise fund raising dinners. Two functions held in 1975 and 1976 raised \$60,000 on 22 February 1975 (under the Organising Chairman En. Mohd. Razali bin Bidin) and \$58,000 on 6 November 1976 at Hotel Merlin, Kuala Lumpur (under the chairmanship of Mr. Cheah Kok Cheang). The total sum raised was \$191,275 (Ref: IEM Annual Report Session 1978/79).

List of Main Contributors and Amounts

Members	Amount
Ng Sui Cam	\$5,006
Chin Fung Kee	\$1,340
Lim Choong Kong	\$1,000
Seshan T.G	\$1,000
Chester Ho Hong	\$520
Sehested K.C.	\$500
Ho Chiap Chye	\$500
Teoh Cheng Hock	\$500

Organisations	Amount
Binnie & Partners	\$30,000
Lembaga Letrik Negara	\$20,000
Sir William Halcrow & Partners (£2,500)	\$18,178.19
Preece, Cardew & Rider	\$10,000
Steen Sehested & Partners	\$6,000
Association of Consulting Engineers	\$5,000
The Singapore/Borneo Joint Group	\$2,899.08
Lim Kah Ngam Ltd.	\$2,000

With the contributions received and the available resources of the IEM, BANGUNAN INGENIEUR was completed in May 1976 and opened by the then Deputy Prime Minister, Y.A.B. Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on 22 April 1977.

A couple of years ago, IEM acquired another office building across the road. Currently, there is a Building Fund Committee under the chairmanship of both Datuk Wira Ir. Md Sidek bin Ahmad and Dato' Ir. Dr Gue See Sew entrusted with the task to raise funds for WISMA IEM. Members are reminded to contribute generously to the Fund to reduce the bank loan. ■

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