

BANGUNAN INGENIEUR (THE IEM BUILDING) (PART 2)



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

CONSTRUCTION BEGAN

With the design finalised and drawings completed, the plans were submitted to the PJ Town Board (Lembaga Bandaraya PJ) for approval. The fine tuning of the drawings was done with valuable inputs from Mr. A.S. Bhatt and Mr. Lee Boay Huay, who were then P.J Town Board engineers. Accordingly, the building plans were approved by P.J Town Board in June 1972.

At the 164th Council Meeting held on 10 July 1972, the Council noted that the building plans had been approved and decided to call for tenders. Following discussions with the architect, the Council requested that arrangements be made for tenders to be invited as soon as possible.

After some minor amendments to the design and drawings, the architect was able to call for tenders in December 1972. The tender was closed on 30 January 1973 and 9 tenders were received. At its 172nd meeting held on 13 March 1973, the Council considered the Report on Tenders and agreed to accept the recommendation of the Building Committee. The contract was awarded to M/s. Ng Chye Heng. The contractor's work as tendered was a total of RM219,450.00, not inclusive of PC items such as air conditioning, lifts, etc. It was estimated then that the cost of the contractor's work for the building would eventually be around RM300,000.

The building site at Lots 60 & 62 Jalan 52/4 was handed over to the contractor on 14 April 1973 and accordingly, the targeted completion date would be 14 April 1974. However due to some problems and unforeseen circumstances, there were delays in construction work and the Council could not organise the launching ceremony as planned.

The ceremony for the laying of the foundation stone was delayed and was only held on 27 June 1974. Our Founder President, Tan Sri Hj. Yusoff bin Hj. Ibrahim, was given the honour of performing this function. During the ceremony, Tan Sri Hj. Yusoff donated RM1,000 to the Building Fund as "bunga tangan". (The speeches given by the IEM President, Mr. JG Daniel, and Tan Sri Hj. Yusoff can be found in IEM Bulletin Vol. 1974 No.7, July 1974).

During the construction work, some modifications and changes were made to the original design and drawings to include the addition of a basement and the reconfiguration of the floor space.

At the time when the contract was awarded, it was expected that we could occupy the new building after one year. Unfortunately, the Institution and the contractor were caught in the woes of an unprecedented inflation in the country which also swept through the world from the latter part of 1973 to 1975. Like all other commodities, the price of building materials skyrocketed and as a result, the cost grew far more than the original estimated figure. To add to the problem, there was a shortage of steel, cement and other building materials. IEM was really in a dilemma. The Council suffered great anxiety, especially when construction work almost came to a standstill.

However, through the dedicated efforts and strong support of members, sourcing of building materials continued and various activities were organised to raise more funds. These really saved the day and the building was finally completed in May 1976 at the cost of RM671,780.00, including all the PC items.

It was very appropriate that our then President, Ir. Chan Kee Pok, in the Annual Report for the 17th AGM on 23 April 1976, gratefully thanked those who so generously donated both money and services to enable the Institution to have its own building. Below is an extract from the IEM Annual Report:

"I would like to record the thanks of the Institution to the Building Supervision and Management Committee headed by Ir. Lee Boay Huay for the good work carried out during the session. Our thanks also go to Architect Team Three (Jurubena Bertiga) for the design of the building, to Ir. Chan Weng Chiu, who was responsible for the structural design, to Ir. Wong Kon Nam for the supervision of the structural construction on site, to Ir. Dr Huang Han Chao for acting as mechanical and air-conditioning consultant, to P.C.R & Rakan-Rakan for services as acoustic and electrical consultants and to Ir. Dr Ting Wen Hui for overall supervision and co-ordination."

SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Just before the contract was awarded, the Council at its 176th Meeting held on 30 July 1973, appointed the Building Supervision Committee. Later, the Committee was named Building Supervision and Management Committee. Its main function was to ensure that construction work proceeded

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smoothly. Over the years, from 1973 to 1978, the Committee comprised the following members:

1. Chairman:

- Ir. Dr Ting Wen Hui (Session 1973/74 to 1975/76)
- Ir. Lee Boay Huay (Session 1976/1977 and 1977/78)

2. Deputy Chairman:

- Ir. Razali bin Bidin (Session 1973/74 and 1975/76)

3. Committee Members:

- Ir. Hj. Abd. Wahab bin Hassan (Session 1973/74)
- Ir. J.G. Daniel (Session 1973/74)
- Ir. Lee Boay Huay (Session 1973/74 to 1975/76)
- Ir. Yuen Kai Meng (Session 1973/74 and 1974/75)
- Ir. Tan Ghee Soon, Eddie (Session 1974/75)
- Ir. Pang Leong Hoon (Session 1974/75 and 1976/77)
- Ir. C.P. Karunakaran (Session 1975/76)
- Ir. Tajul Arus bin Noh (Session 1976/77)

The Institution is very grateful to the above Committee Members for their dedicated services and valuable time spent to ensure the construction work proceeded well, even during extremely trying times. Under proper supervision and directions, Bangunan Ingenieur was successfully completed.

The Building is now 38 years old and is still standing strong as a testimony of good engineering design, construction and proper supervision! A job well done!

From the 17th and 18th Annual Report Balance Sheets as at the 31st December 1975 and 31st December 1976, the following figures were given on the cost of Bangunan Ingenieur:

Land	RM 20,485.50
Building Contract (Ng Chye Heng)	RM 325,169.28
PC items (air conditioning system, electrical, lift, etc)	RM 346,610.72
TOTAL	RM 692,265.50

OFFICIAL OPENING

With the completion of Bangunan Ingenieur, arrangements were made for the official ceremony to commemorate the occasion. The date was 14th April 1977 and the venue was in front of the Building. The welcome address was made by our President, Mr. Chan Kee Pok. The guest of honour was Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the then Deputy Prime Minister, Malaysia. (Text of the speeches can be found in IEM Bulletin Vol. 1977 No. 4 April 1977).

Over 250 members and guests attended the ceremony held in front of Bangunan Ingenieur.

WHAT'S NEXT

In the Annual Report at the 17th AGM held on 23 April 1976, it was reported that the Building was completed and ready for occupation in May. The IEM Building was named Bangunan Ingenieur. The IEM Secretariat moved in on 28 May 1976. Apart from the space occupied by Secretariat



Bangunan Ingenieur

staff, the rest of the floor spaces were rented out. Our first tenants were as below:

First Floor: Jabatan Talikom (Bahagian Permohonan)

Ground Floor: Development and Commercial Bank

Basement:

- i. M/s Oh & Associates
- ii. M/s C.H William, Talhar & Wong Sdn. Bhd.
- iii. M/s Drew Ameroid Sdn. Bhd.
- iv. M/s Mayo, Fong & Yong Dental Surgeons

When Bangunan Ingenieur was completed in 1976, there were 1,804 IEM members and only 10 staff members. Today, IEM membership stands at 28,616 and there are 39 staff members. IEM activities have also increased over the years.



Wisma IEM

As space was the main factor that was holding back the development of IEM, this warranted the need to consider office expansion and/or finding a new place. The Council and its members, after long deliberation, decided to purchase the building across the road in 2007 and it was named WISMA IEM! ■

Y.Bhg. Dato' Ir. Pang Leong Hoon was formerly the Director-General, Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Malaysia. He was also the Past President of IEM for Sessions 1984/1985 and 1985/1986.