

CAFEO 32 in Yangon, Myanmar

A VICE PRESIDENT AND A PAST PRESIDENT OF IEM



By Ir. P.E. Chong

Ir. P.E. Chong, IEM Vice President, concurrently the Secretary General of AFEO.



Dato' Lim Chow Hock, AFEO Vice Chairman presenting the Certificate of Honourary Distinguished Patron to HE U Thien Sein while Ir. U Win Khaing, AFEO Chairman (on the right) and Ir. P.E. Chong (centre) witnessing the presentation

The ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO) is made up of the 10 national engineering organisations in ASEAN countries. Its main activity, Conference of AFEO (CAFEO), is held annually in one of the 10 countries, on a rotation basis according to alphabetical order.

This year's CAFEO 32 (the number indicates how many times CAFEO has been held so far), was organised by Myanmar Engineering Society (MES) and held in Yangon, Myanmar, from 10th to 12th November, 2014. Myanmar held the chair of AFEO for 2014 until the conclusion of CAFEO 32.

The event proceeded as planned in Hotel Sedona. The Governing Board meeting was held back-to-back with this annual event for a get-together at the end of the year. More than 600 participants from various parts of Asia and South East Asia attended.

EVENT PRECEDED CAFEO 32: TRIPS BY CHAIRMAN OF AFEO

The Chairman of AFEO and President of Myanmar Engineering Society (MES), Ir. U Win Khaing made one trip to the AFEO Secretariat for meetings and discussions, among others,

on the arrangement for technical and other meetings.

The Secretariat also met Ir. U Win Khaing earlier in the hotel lobby for discussions on his personal trip to Kuala Lumpur.

WELCOMING RECEPTION

The Welcoming Reception, held a day before the Opening Ceremony, allowed all participants to meet, network and get know each other. It was very well attended with plenty of food and drinks to go along with it.

OPENING CEREMONY

The Conference was preceded by a golf competition among the heads of delegations



From left: Ir. P.E. Chong, Dato' Ir. Lim Chow Hock, Ir. U Win Khaing, AFEO Chairman, Ir. Gunasagaran Kristnan, AFEO Hon Treasurer.



AFEO Board Meeting in session



Some VIP Observers Delegates from Laos (LUSEA) & Indonesia(PII)



AFEO Board Meeting in session



From left: Ir. Gunasageran, Ir. P.E. Chong, Dr Dang Vu Minh, President VUSTA, Y.B. Hj. Zulkifli Hj. Abdul Hamid, President of PUJA, HE Lim Sothaw, Sec Gen BEC, Ir. Bobby Gafur Umar, President PII, Ir. U Win Khaing, MES President/AFEO Chairman, HE U Kyaw Lwin, Union Minister of Construction, Myanmar, HE U Myint Swe, Chief Minister, Yangon Region, Dato' Ir. Lim Chow Hock, IEM President/AFEO Vice Chairman, Ir. Somphone Phanousith, Sec Gen LUSEA, Federico A. Monsada, President, PTC; Er. Chong Kee Sen, President IES; Prof. Dr Sucatvee Suwansawat, President EIT; Ir. U Kyaw San Win, CAFE0 Organising Chairman, Dato Ir. Dr Andy Seo Kian Haw, AFEO Head Commissioner.

and some delegates in the early morning. This was followed by the presentation of some technical papers. There were other activities in the afternoon as well on the day before the Conference proper.

On the second day, the grand Opening Ceremony started at 9.00 a.m., officiated by H.E U Kyaw Lwin, Union Minister of Construction, Myanmar, and H.E U Myint Swe, Chief Minister of Yangon Region, Myanmar.

The ceremony started early to accommodate a special visit to Naypyitaw, the administrative capital of Myanmar. After the ceremony, all the Heads of Member Organisations and other AFEO Office Bearers left immediately for the airport to board a plane for Naypyitaw to attend and witness the conferment ceremony of Distinguished Honorary Patron award to His Excellency, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The ceremony took place at the President's Palace.

CONFERMENT OF THE AFEO DISTINGUISHED HONORARY PATRON

The delegation was given VVIP treatment by the Myanmar government which provided a return chartered flight from Yangon. Unfortunately the original outbound plane intended for the flight developed a technical glitch, so we were transferred to a commercial flight which was diverted to Naypyitaw to ensure that the delegation would arrive at the Palace in time for lunch as the President was available for the conferment and lunch with the delegation. The President was extremely busy as he had to meet and entertain the overseas heads of States, including US President Barrack Obama who was there for the ASEAN Summit.

We understood that the other passengers on this commercial flight were not aware that the plane was being diverted and they were not allowed to disembark when the plane landed in Naypyitaw.

We were taken immediately to the VIP lounge for transfer to vehicles that would take us to the Palace, accompanied by police outriders. The roads leading to the Palace were

lined with policemen to ensure that the journey to the Palace was not interrupted by traffic at the many road junctions.

All the way, we were accompanied by the Minister of Construction, HE U Kyaw Lwin, his Deputy, HE Dr Win Myint, and other high ranking officers.

After the conferment ceremony, the delegation was entertained to lunch by HE U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

TECHNICAL AND MEETINGS

Back in Yangon, the Workshop on Transportation and Logistics as well as conference technical sessions continued. There were



Picture shows Myanmar recipients of Certificates of ASEAN Engineer Membership Award at the Welcoming Reception with Ir. U Win Khaing (6th from left), Dato' Ir. Lim Chow Hock (7th from left), Ir. P.E. Chong (5th from left), Dato Ir. Dr Andy Seo Kian Haw (8th from left)

many different engineering displays at the exhibition booths located at the entrance to the Conference Ballroom. Besides the conference sessions, the working group meetings, Young Engineers of AFEO (YEAFO) and Woman Engineers of AFEO (WE-AFO) meetings also went on as scheduled.

WE-AFO was formed only in 2013 to discuss women engineer issues within the ASEAN countries. The Energy and Environment Work Group was chaired by Malaysia, Education and Capacity Building by Singapore, and the Transportation and Logistic and the Disaster Support was chaired by Thailand.

Country Reports were presented by the respective Heads of member organisations that afternoon upon their return from Naypyitaw. The day ended with the ASEAN Engineers Register Commission meeting in the evening.

AFEO BOARD MEETINGS

The AFEO Board meeting also discussed the possibility of member organisations coming together with a Declaration to be announced as the Yangon Declaration II. This was a follow-up to the Yangon Declaration signed 10 years ago in Yangon.

The Yangon Declaration II signing ceremony was held at 4.30 p.m. in the presence of the members of the Press and TV

from Myanmar. This Declaration can be viewed at the AFEO website: afeo.org.

CLOSING CEREMONY/BANQUET

In the evening, there were lively activities including the presentation of awards for best engineering projects, feats and individuals of the various ASEAN countries. Outstanding engineers and eminent personalities were also conferred Honorary titles. These were followed by lively performances of singing and dancing, by delegates and young engineers from the various countries.

The handover ceremony was also held during the grand Gala Dinner. By rotation, after Myanmar, it now falls on IEM (Malaysia) to hold the AFEO Chair and to host CAFEEO 33 in 2015. The AFEO flag was handed over to IEM President Dato' Lim Chow Hock, marking the end of CAFEEO 32.

IEM Penang Branch has been tasked to organise this event for CAFEEO 33 which will be held in Penang, Malaysia. The Organising Chairman of CAFEEO 33 is Immediate Past Branch Chairman Ir. Paul Por Chi Wei. Assisting him will be the current Penang Branch Chairman Ir. Dr Mui Kai Yin and his committee while IEM Standing Committee of Activities will be tasked to help in the co-ordination.



IEM Members & Other Malaysians singing the One Malaysia song at the Closing Ceremony

Invitations were extended to all participants from ASEAN and ASIA to CAFEO 33 which was expected to be held from 22nd to 26th November, 2015.

The night ended with lots of singing and dancing, marking the end of a very successful conference.

TECHNICAL VISITS

The host had kindly organised technical visits to various places of interests on Day 3, 13th November. These included Nyaung Done Bridge, Mini Hydro Power Improvement Project, Bago Division and Thaukyegat 120 MW Hydro Power Station.

Some sites took 3-8 hours of travelling time by coach and a total of 7 buses left for the various destinations.

Those who did not take part in these visits returned home while some stayed on for social tours and shopping in Yangon. Most delegates returned home on 14th November.

MYANMAR ENGINEERING SOCIETY, HOST OF CAFEO 32 AND ALL:

On behalf of AFEO, we wish to thank the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for its support, through its relevant Ministries and Departments and agencies, in rendering all the assistance required for the success of CAFEO 32 in Yangon. This was also made possible by the good leadership, great effort and excellent work by the Myanmar Engineering Society led by Ir. U Win Khaing, its hardworking organising committee and other volunteer members.

We also wish to thank AFEO Heads of Delegations and delegates coming from far and near for their enthusiastic participation and the generous sponsors without whom CAFEO 32 would not have achieved such great success. Thank you very much. A Very Happy New Year 2015 to all. ■