

IEM 52nd Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner 2011

THE Institution of Engineers, Malaysia's 52nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Dinner on April 16, 2011 was a huge success. In the morning, the Annual General Meeting, held at Wisma IEM, was chaired by Ir. Vincent Chen Kim Kieong, President for the 2011/2012 Session. Besides the normal agenda for the meeting, tokens of appreciation were also given to past Council Members and Past Presidents for their contribution to the Institution, followed by Ir. Chen's Presidential Address 2011 entitled "Shifting Gears".

In the evening, the IEM Annual Dinner was attended by members, spouses and guests at the Grand Putrajaya Ballroom, Putrajaya Marriott Hotel and Spa, IOI Resort City, Putrajaya. The Guest of Honour was Y.B. Tuan Chua Tee Yong, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industries of Malaysia. Other guests included heads of Government departments, statutory bodies, agencies; institutions presidents and vice chancellors of local institutions of higher learning as well as representatives of other professional bodies, universities, institutes and commercial establishments.

The Annual Dinner began with an opening address by IEM President Ir. Vincent Chen and a speech by the Guest of Honour, Y.B. Tuan Chua Tee Yong. While dinner was being served, the members and guests were entertained by Ms. Janet Lee with her backup dancers by IMG. During an interval, Ir. Chen presented the IEM Gold Medal Awards to the Best Final Year Engineering Students in local universities and institutions of higher learning for the year 2010/2011.



The recipients are listed as follows:

Chong Ee Lian,
Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) (Aerospace)

Kiew Peck Loo,
Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) (Chemical)

Chua Yaw Choon, Leonard,
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
(Engineering and Built Environment)

Azizan Azwan bin Sapuan,
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) (Mechanical and Materials)

Vignesh Kumar a/I Munusamy,
Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) (Chemical)

Kelvin Koh,
Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) (Mechanical)

Anis Nadhirah binti Ismail,
Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) (Material)

Sheikh Ezamuddin bin Sheikh Mohd. Mustafa,
Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM)
(Electrical and Electronic)

P. KDT Muhammad Syahir bin Badruddin,
Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia (UPNM)
(Electrical and Electronic)

Tay Bing Lin,
Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) (Electronic)

Lim Yi Fei,
Multimedia University (MMU) (Electronic)

Chia Sing Ling,
Monash University (Chemical)

Lana Wong Ying Qian,
USCI University (Mechatronic)

Teh Sze Hong,
University of Nottingham (Malaysia Campus)

Wong Shen Yuong,
Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN) (Electrical and Electronic)

Zulkiffli bin Abdul Hamid,
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) (Electrical)

Ang Cheng Cheng,
University of Malaya (UM)

Pong Shyue King,
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) (Mechanical)

Chia Yee Shin,
Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) (Communication)

Toh Thiam Chai,
Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)
(Electronic and Communications)

Yong Hui Li,
Curtin University (Sarawak Campus) (Engineering and Science)

Lim Sheng Dar,
Swinburne University of Technology (Sarawak Campus)
(Mechanical Engineering)



Among the numerous award presentations that night, Engr. Dr Nor Hayati binti Abdul Hamid was awarded the Raja Tan Sri Ir. Zainal Prize for the best technical paper on "A Concept Development and Proposed Design Procedure for Rocking Precast Hollow Core Wall in Warehouse" contributed by a Graduate Member in the Civil Engineering discipline.

The Tan Sri Ir. Hj Yusoff Prize, on the other hand, was awarded to Ir. Dr Ibrahim bin Kamaruddin for the best technical paper on "Fatigue Behavior of Fibre Reinforced Bituminous Mixture from Indirect Tensile Fatigue Test" contributed by a Corporate Member in the Civil Engineering discipline. Ir. Luk Chau Beng was also awarded the Tan Sri Ir. Hj Yusoff Prize for the best technical paper on "Doing Energy Conservation and Efficiency: The Passionate Way" contributed by a Fellow Member.

The Most Supportive Award for graduate membership was presented to Ir. Adnan bin Zulkiple for the individual category, while Dato' Prof. Dr Mohd. Noh bin Dalimin, Vice Chancellor of Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) received the award for the organisation category on behalf of the university.

For the corporate membership category, Ir. Ruslan Abdul Aziz, Secretary BEM to receive the award on behalf of Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR) for the organisation category. Puan Adelina binti Iskandar, Vice President of Corporate Affairs for Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB), represented TNB to receive the award for the most active organisation in IEM's membership drive.

The IEM Presidential Awards of Excellence 2010 were



given to seven technical divisions for their active participation in the institution's activities for the year 2010. Once again, the Mechanical Engineering Technical Division was declared the winner, followed by the Civil and Structural Engineering Technical Division and the Electrical Engineering Technical Division as the first and second runner up respectively.

The Project Management Technical Division was selected for the Most Improved Technical Division Award, while the fourth, fifth and sixth place went to the Geotechnical Engineering Technical Division, the Chemical Engineering Technical Division and the Building Services Technical Division respectively.

The IEM Excellence Performance in Fund Raising for the IEM Building was awarded to the top technical division which raised the highest amount of funds. The Mechanical Engineering Technical Division was declared the Platinum Winner having raised a total of RM60,000.

This year, for the first time, certificates of appreciation were given to the IEM Editorial Board Editors, namely, Engr. Abi Sofian bin Abdul Hamid for his role as the Bulletin Editor and Ir. Assoc. Prof. Dr Marlinda binti Abd. Malek for her role as the Journal Editor.

Earlier in the day during the AGM, a certificate of appreciation was also presented to Ir. Cheong Loong Kwong, Allen for his generous donation to the IEM Library. Last but not least, Ms. Ooi Beng Ean and Puan Halimah binti Musa from the IEM Secretariat each received a certificate for IEM's Long Service Award. IEM members and guests then bid farewell with fond memories of an enjoyable evening. ■



A Summary of the IEM Presidential Address 2011 entitled “Shifting Gears” by Ir. Vincent Chen Kim Kieong, President for the 2011/2012 Session

IEM President Ir. Vincent Chen Kim Kieong began his Presidential Address by expressing his gratitude to Immediate Past President Dato' Ir. Prof. Dr Chuah Hean Teik and the Council. He then proceeded to ask IEM Committees and Technical Divisions to take note of the composition of IEM's Corporate Members and to tailor their activities to attract and benefit its members.

He also cautioned that, Council Members should always be mindful of the impact of decisions they make, especially those that directly affect the livelihood and professional wellbeing of a substantial number of IEM's members. He also appealed to IEM members who are engineer owners of consultancies to join the ACEM. He pointed out that having a united and strong ACEM that represents the majority of consultants in the country would benefit the entire consultancy sector.

Ir. Chen also shared some compelling issues related to the engineering profession. He pointed out that, in recent years, there has been a trend among certain public agencies to enforce licensing or registration of subsectors within major disciplines. Although it is unfortunate that the isolated shortcomings of a few PEs are used to impose unnecessary licensing requirements to inconvenience and penalise the rest of the PEs, he stated that the isolated cases can be referred to the BEM for further and appropriate action.

In terms of education, Ir. Chen pointed out that engineering programs have mushroomed despite a dearth of experienced teachers of engineering. To maintain high teaching standards and the production of high quality engineering graduates, he believed that IEM should initiate a Code of Ethics for teachers of engineering.

Ir. Chen also brought up an issue that was close to his heart, *i.e.* the career prospects for engineers. He stated that, in the private sector, engineers can reach the highest echelon of the boardroom as directors, MDs or CEOs. However, the same cannot be said for engineers in the public sector.

He pointed out that the present structure of the public service does not provide any pathway for an Engineer to be considered for elevation to the highest Civil Service post as Ketua Setiausaha Negara (KSN) or even as Ketua Setiausaha (KSU). As such, he called for IEM to tackle and resolve this discrimination and eliminate the denial of opportunity of engineers in the public sector to reach their full potential in the service of the nation.

Ir. Chen also stressed that IEM must respond immediately to any engineering failures or disasters. He added that IEM must also ensure that the institution is up to date on all matters relating to policies and developments in engineering matters. To achieve this, the Executive Director, under the direction of the President, will be tasked with the assembling of all the necessary information, reports and relevant data to enable the Excomm and President to respond publicly to events and policies relating to engineering.

Lastly, Ir. Chen called for the full support of the Council, the Excomm and volunteers to take part in helping IEM go beyond its learned society role, and transcend to that of a Professional Institution to bring the greatest benefit possible to engineers, to the profession and to the country. He pointed out that, by enhancing the role of IEM as a Professional Institution, the institution can then be at the forefront of influencing engineering policies in the nation's infrastructural development, in manufacturing and in engineering education.

