

**YEAFFO 21 in Yangon, Myanmar**

by Mr. Yew Weng Kean Grad. IEM

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The Young Engineers ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisation (YEAFFO) is organized annually around the 10 ASEAN countries, where each country rotates as host in an alphabetical order. This year was the 21st edition of YEAFFO and it is held in conjunction with the CAFEO 32 in the beautiful city of Yangon, Myanmar. The official event was held from 10th to 12th November, 2014. About 21 delegates from Malaysia flew to Myanmar to participate in YEAFFO 21.

Pre-YEAFFO(Day0) – Day tour around Myanmar

Prior to start of YEAFFO, the delegates arrived a day earlier to have a day tour of the city of Myanmar. Boarding a bus under a local tour guide, Ms. Hsu Mon Oo, we toured the city throughout the day to enjoy the lovely sites of Yangon, Myanmar. Our first stop was the circular train, which is one of the historical sites as it was built since the British colonial times. We took the circular train from one stop to another to experience the true essence of local life in Yangon.

After the circular train, we moved on to the Chauk Htat Gyi Pagoda which is known for its 65 meters long and 16 meters high Reclining Buddha. We were in awe of the huge structure which was well worshipped by the locals. There were also some Burmese writings inscribed on the Chauk Htat Gyi Buddha's feet which accordingly contain information on Buddhism and teachings of the Buddha. A similar Reclining Buddha can be found in the city of Bago which we would visit later.

Following that, we visited the Bogyoke market which is also known as Scott's market to look for some local souvenirs. Lastly, we visited the Shwe da-gon Pagoda which is one of the most famous pagodas in the world and the main attraction of Yangon city. The Pagoda sits atop a hill and is 99 meters tall. It can be seen from most places in Yangon throughout the day and night. Around the Pagoda is a number of shrines, one for each of the eight days of the week in Asian astrology (Wednesday is split into two days). Local people pray to the shrine belonging to the day of their birth.



Opening day YEAFEO (Day 1) – Bowling and welcoming reception

On the opening day, the YEAFEO delegates who were already registered were invited to join in their bowling competition hosted by the Young Engineers of the Myanmar Engineering Society (YE-MES). We were split into groups not limited by country. This allowed us to mingle around and make new friends with other young engineers from other countries while enjoying a good game of bowling.

The Welcoming Reception was held at Sedona Hotel that night for all CAFE0 and YEAFEO delegates. The Reception is usually held a day prior to the opening ceremony to welcome all the delegates. We were able to catch up with some friends which we made last year at past YEAFEO's while making new ones as well. It was well organized and delegates had plenty of food and drinks to last through the night.



YEAFEO (Day 2) – Opening Ceremony and YEAFEO meeting

On the second day, the grand opening ceremony started at 9am, officiated by H.E U Kyaw Lwin, Union Minister of Construction, Myanmar and H.E U Myint Swe, Chief Minister of Yangon, Myanmar. Following the opening ceremony, YEAFEO delegates then proceeded with the country report presentation where each country took turns to present their activities done in their country in the past year. This is where we learn of one another activities and how we can incorporate them in our country as well.

Post meeting, YEAFEO delegates had dinner at a nearby restaurant.



YEAFEO (Day 3) – Bago ½ Day Trip/AFEO Governing board meeting and closing dinner

