

Career Talk at Tunku Kurshiah College, Seremban

SUB-COMMITTEE ON WOMEN ENGINEERS



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binti Abdullah

ON the morning of 2 November 2010, we made our way to Seremban for a career talk at Tunku Kurshiah College (TKC). Ir. Lau Yuk Ma, June, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Women Engineers, together with Ir. Magdalene Tan Lee and Ir. Ruzitah binti Supinyeh, were joined by Ir. Sharifah Azlina binti Raja Kamal Pasmah, En. Ahmad Tarmizi from the Welfare Secretariat and the author.

We arrived at TKC in good time for the talk which started at 9.00 a.m. The programme was organised by the Guidance and Counselling Unit and PIBG of TKC. The third and fourth formers were divided into six groups. In addition, booths were set up to house six different professional groups. The professions that were represented included engineering, medicine, geophysics, accountancy, architecture and property valuation. As the alumnae of TKC have made their mark in virtually every profession, most of the representatives for this programme were former TKCians.

We were warmly greeted by Datin Dr Zailinawati Abu Hassan, the programme coordinator, the teachers and the cheerful expressions of the students as we headed

towards our booth. Datin Dr Zailinawati briefed us on the organisation of the programme in which we were requested to give three one-hour talks whereby each talk would be attended by a group of students.

Ir. Lau, a 'pro' at ice-breaking sessions, started each talk by introducing the representatives from the Sub-Committee on Women Engineers and giving a brief overview of the engineering profession. The objective of the talk was to encourage female students to pursue engineering as their profession of choice. The talk also included an introduction to the various engineering fields.

Ir. Lau, Ir. Sharifah Azlina and Ir. Ruzitah (who outnumbered representatives from the other fields of engineering) gave a brilliant description of the civil engineering profession. The students were also inspired after listening to Ir. Tan's vast experience in the field of electrical engineering. In addition, the author gave an overview of the many areas of mechanical engineering and briefly introduced the other engineering fields.

The talk also covered topics such as career opportunities, the engineering achievements in Malaysia and what would be expected from the engineers of tomorrow. The question and answer sessions were indeed lively. There were quite a number of questions from the students on the academic requirements for pursuing a degree and postgraduate studies in engineering. Being an academician, the author had the pleasure of explaining to the students the current requirements of the undergraduate as well as postgraduate programmes offered locally and abroad. Some of the students were also interested to know the expectations and challenges of being a female engineer. The lady engineers were only too happy to share their valuable experiences in dealing with delicate situations in a predominantly male environment and in transforming obstacles into opportunities.

The programme ended at lunchtime, but not without a memorable photography session. The speakers were treated to a good lunch at the dining hall where they had the opportunity to mingle with the teachers and other speakers. Overall, it was another successful activity for the IEM Sub-Committee on Women Engineers. Ir. Sharifah Azlina's effort in the organisation of the activity and En. Ahmad Tarmizi's valuable assistance played an important role in the success of the TKC trip. We hope that the talk has made an impact on the students and that they are inspired to pursue a career in engineering. ■



The nasi lemak corner



A photo session with the organisers



Sweet memories



It is all about engineering