

One-Day Energy Series Course: Registered Electrical Energy Manager (REEM) – Challenges and Barriers



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THE first part of the Energy Series Course was organised by the IEM EETD on 12 January 2011 at Wisma IEM, Petaling Jaya. Attended by 50 participants, this part of the course focused on "Registered Electrical Energy Manager (REEM) – Challenges and Barriers". The facilitator for the course was Ir. Lam Sing Yew, an experienced REEM who has completed numerous REEM energy assessments. He shared his experience on how to be effective in carrying out the duties and role of a REEM. Also discussed were the challenges and barriers faced at the customer plants, which he elaborated with a case study.

He commenced the course by highlighting the provisions of Section 23 of the Electricity Supply Act 1990 that has led to the 'Efficient Management of Electrical Energy Regulations 2008' being gazetted on 15 December 2008. He explained the various parts and sections of the 'Efficient Management of Electrical Energy Regulations 2008' relating in particular to the requirements for compliance by parties related to the supply and consumption of electrical energy equal to or exceeding 3,000,000kWh over a period of six consecutive months.

He then described the functions and duties of a REEM and explained how the engagement of the REEM as an energy facilitator could help create value for business operations in the areas of management, production output, customers and suppliers. In order to be effective, it would be important for the REEM to possess the required capabilities and apply appropriate methodologies in executing his tasks.

Ir. Lam described the methodology that he has used by summarising it in six steps:

- 1) Planning and Organisation
- 2) Assessment
- 3) Identification of Options
- 4) Feasibility Analysis of Options
- 5) Implementation and Monitoring of Options
- 6) Continuous Improvement

The effectiveness of the REEM would help a company in the following areas:

- 1) Minimise energy wastage
- 2) Reduce production cost
- 3) Protect the environment
- 4) Green - Corporate Social Responsibility (G-CSR) Efforts

He then shared the challenges and barriers that he had encountered at customer plants in four different aspects:

- 1) Customers perception
- 2) REEM challenges
- 3) REEM barriers
- 4) Tough market conditions

He concluded the training session with a case study on the thought-provoking topic "Is the Registered Electrical Energy Manager (REEM) competent in the market to win customer engagement?"

Participants then engaged actively in the 'Question and Answer' session. Some participants highlighted the concern of how much consultancy fee should be charged and whether the market is willing to pay the auditing fee. The trainer responded that there is no standard guideline that governs the fees charged for consultancy work in the market. It is subject to the level of knowledge and the time involvement required for different energy audit tasks. Finally, he reminded the participants to look out for the second part of REEM – "Overview of Electrical Energy Equipment Management and Application" of the three-part Energy Series to complete the whole series of the training course. ■

Answer for 1Sudoku published on page 20 of this issue

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