

# A Challenge to Host an ASEAN Event



by Ir. Richard Khoo Nee Keong

## THE INCEPTION

The proposal for The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia, Negeri Sembilan Branch (IEM-NS) to host the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO) Mid-Term Meeting 2012 was initiated during the recent brain-storming retreat of IEM-NS's at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

As the retreat and brain storming sessions were something new to the branch, Ir. Choo Kok Beng, Deputy President of the IEM was invited to attend and to chair some of the meetings held during the retreat. It was during one of the brain-storming sessions that Ir. Choo Kok Beng suggested that IEM-NS should host the AFEO Mid-Term Meeting 2012. After much deliberation amongst the IEM-NS committee members, they finally decided to take up the challenge of hosting the regional event.

## THE IMPLEMENTATION

A prestigious hotel in Seremban was booked for the scheduled 2-day event, providing the delegates from the ASEAN countries with accommodation, meals and a proper venue for their meeting.

Some of the delegates brought along their spouses and arrangements were made with Tourism Malaysia, Negeri Sembilan Branch, to provide activities for accompanying persons. They visited the Handicraft Centre where they had the opportunity to see some traditional handmade crafts, in addition to getting some hands-on experience learning to weave the yarn. Later, the spouses were given some cooking lessons at the Pelegong Homestay, where they learned how to whip up some local cuisine before feasting on these delicacies.

In conjunction with the AFEO Mid-Term Meeting, AFEO and IEM took the opportunity to award Honorary memberships to some of the outstanding and deserving individuals from the engineering industry in the state. The following are the respective recipients:

### AFEO Honorary Fellow

- 1) YAB Dato' Seri Utama Hj. Mohamad bin Hj. Hasan

### AFEO Honorary Member

- 1) Y.Bhg. Dato' Ir. Roslan bin Md. Taha
- 2) Y.Bhg. Dato' Ir. Soam Heng Choon
- 3) Ir. Loo Way Men
- 4) Ir. Yong Kee Chiang
- 5) Ir. Hj. Baharuddin bin Ahmad Nasir



AFEO Honorary Fellow conferment on the Honorable Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan, Y.Bhg. Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohamad bin Haji Hasan, by Prof. Ir. Prak Min, AFEO Chairman



AFEO Delegates with the Honorable Menteri Besar, President of IEM, Ir. Vincent Chen, AFEO Chairman, Prof. Ir. Prak Min from Cambodia and IEM-NS Chairman

### IEM Honorary Member

- 1) Y.Bhg. Dato' Hj. Abdul Halim bin Hj. Abd. Latif
- 2) Y.Bhg. Dato' Baharuddin bin Sariman
- 3) Y.Bhg. Dato' Gan Boon Khuay
- 4) Pn. Salmah bt. Mohd. Taufik

To make the event more meaningful, IEM-NS had decided to hold its annual dinner in conjunction with the dinner for the AFEO delegates.

Our honorable Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan was invited as the guest of honour, together with the Director-General of Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran, Y.Bhg. Dato' Ir. Ahmad Husaini bin Sulaiman, who took some time off from his busy schedule to attend our dinner. Other VIPs and heads of department from the local authorities who were also invited to the dinner are indicated below:



Committee members of IEM-NS with AFEO delegates, President and Deputy President of IEM, and Director of JKR Negeri Sembilan



The Honorable Menteri Besar dining with some of the VIPs



IEM Honorary Member conferment with President of IEM and Chairman of IEM-NS



AFEO Honorary Member conferment with the Honorable Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan, Y.Bhg. Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohamad bin Haji Hasan, Prof. Ir. Prak Min, Chairman of AFEO, President of IEM, Ir. Vincent Chen, and Chairman of IEM-NS, Ir. Mohammed Noor bin Abu Hassan

| Name  | Post  |
|---|---|
| Y.Bhg. Dato' Hj. Tahar bin Hj. Sudin            | Pengarah Unit Perancang Negeri Sembilan               |
| Y.Bhg. Dato' Ir. Hj. Ahmad Husaini bin Sulaiman | Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Pengairan dan Saliran Malaysia |
| Y.Bhg. Dato' Mohd. Baharudin bin Mahfuz         | Pegawai Kemajuan Negeri Sembilan                      |



The Honorable Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan receiving a token of appreciation from the President of AFEO and the Secretary General of Board of Engineers, Cambodia

The AFEO delegates were each given a 12cm x 15cm x 4cm mineral crystal with an engraved picture of Dewan Undangan Negeri Sembilan building as a memento. As the Menteri Besar is known to appreciate cigars, a box of specially made chocolates in the shape of cigars was presented to him as a gesture of our appreciation.

Thanks to the many food critics amongst the organising committee members, who gave valuable comments during the earlier food tasting session, the eight-course Chinese dinner was praised by many to be outstanding.



*IEM-NS presenting a token of appreciation to the Honorable Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan*



*The cultural performance during the dinner*

## **CONCLUSION**

With meticulous planning, the AFEO Mid-Term Meeting was conducted successfully without a hitch. The response to the annual dinner was overwhelming. All the recipients of the honorary awards were grateful and had contributed generously to the annual dinner. A memento was presented to each of the AFEO delegates by our honorable Menteri Besar.

IEM-NS is extremely pleased that the event turned out well and hopes to host more events in the future on behalf of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia. ■