

IEM-Korean Concrete Institute (KCI) Dialogue Meeting

CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING TECHNICAL DIVISION



by Ir. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Low Kiew Sai



THE IEM-Korean Concrete Institute (KCI) Dialogue Meeting hosted by the Civil & Structural Engineering Technical Division of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) was held on 20 July 2012 at Wisma IEM, Petaling Jaya.

The IEM delegation which consisted of six members was headed by the Vice President, Dato' Ir. Lim Chow Hock, together with four secretariat staff. The Korean Concrete Institute (KCI) team was represented by nine delegates led by Prof. Jongsun Sim, the President of KCI. Out of the nine members whom were present, four of them were from KCI itself and the rest were chosen from the concrete-related industries in Korea.



Prof. Jongsun Sim and Dato' Ir. Lim Chow Hock in action

Soon after the arrival of the KCI delegates at 1.30 p.m., the event started by Dato' Ir. Lim Chow Hock welcoming the KCI delegates to IEM. This was followed by a mutual introduction amongst members from the two institutions

beginning from by Dato' Ir. Lim, followed by the IEM delegates and secretariat staff, and subsequently, the KCI members led by Prof. Jongsun Sim and the rest of his delegation.

Dato' Ir. Lim went on to thank the KCI delegation for initiating this dialogue meeting. He mentioned that as an institution in Malaysia that represents and is constantly looking after the interest of engineers in this country, IEM welcomed this commendable move by KCI and believed that it would foster a closer working relationship between the two institutions.

After delivering his short speech, Dato' Ir. Lim then handed the session over to the Executive Director of IEM, Ir. Cheang Kok Meng for a presentation on IEM. This presentation aimed to instill a clearer picture of IEM as a professional institution in Malaysia to the KCI members.

In return and upon the invitation of Dato' Ir. Lim, the head of the KCI delegation, Prof. Jongsun Sim, too gave a presentation on KCI and its activities. He then informed the participants that KCI actually consists of professionals drawn from various concrete related fields. Subsequently, he went on to explain about the structure, activities, membership and other details of his organisation.

On the subject of collaboration and joint activities, both IEM and KCI had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 14 November 2011. This MoU is for three years, with automatic renewal for another three years. Based on this document, the two institutions have agreed to collaborate on activities for the benefit of their members. For example, KCI would conduct evening talks at IEM premises, engage in the mutual exchange of publications and journals with IEM and hold other similar activities.

Before the meeting ended, Dato' Ir. Lim Chow Hock informed KCI member of a few events of IEM which included "The Asia-Pacific Conference 2012 (APC2012) entitled, "Cradle to Cradle Structures in Transport Engineering" (10 September 2012), Engineering Week 2012, and the Engineering Invention and Innovation Expo (EINIX). The latter was to promote the engineering profession to the public via exhibition of creative inventions and innovative products of undergraduates from the local universities in Malaysia. KCI was warmly encouraged to participate in such activities and other future events of IEM.

The meeting ended with a note of thanks to the Chairperson. This was soon followed by a brief group photography session and an exchange of souvenirs before



A group photo taken after the dialogue session

the meeting was adjourned and later reconvened as the 'Afternoon Forum' at Wisma IEM, an event that was open to both IEM members and invited guests.

The 'Afternoon Forum' started off with a 15-minute presentation given by a committee member of the Civil and Structural Engineering Technical Division of IEM on "*Concrete Engineering Practice and Seismic Design Standards Development in Malaysia*". This was followed by five consecutive presentations delivered by five different KCI delegates on various concrete-related subjects or fields. Including the time for questions and answers (Q&A), each of these five presentations lasted for about 30 minutes. Judging from the good response as well as the active interaction between the speakers and the participants, especially during the Q&A session, it was fair to conclude that it had been a meaningful event with most, if not all, of its objectives being achieved.

The dialogue meeting concluded as members from both institutions adjourned for dinner at a nearby restaurant where a more casual and cordial atmosphere prevailed and helped to foster closer friendship among the delegates. ■

Ir. Assoc. Prof. Dr Low Kaw Sai is currently the Deputy Chairman of the Civil & Structural Engineering Technical Division, IEM.