

Visit to Akademi Laut Malaysia (ALAM) in Malacca



MARINE ENGINEERING AND NAVAL ARCHITECTURE TECHNICAL DIVISION

by Ir. Hj. Rani bin Mohd. Raji

THE Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture Technical Division (MNATD) organised a visit to Akademi Laut Malaysia (ALAM) on Monday, 21st Oct, 2013.

On arrival we were received by Captain P.C. Nadkar, Director of Academic Affairs and Advisory. He has been with ALAM since its inception in 1977. First, we were briefed on the history of ALAM and given an overview of the training academy.

ALAM was initially known as the Maritime Training Centre (MTC). In January 1981, MTC was upgraded to Academy status with the award of Government Charter by the then Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed. In January 1997, ALAM was privatised by a consortium of MISC, Petronas, PSC (now known as BHIC) and Klang Port Management.



Group photo



IEM delegates being briefed by Captain P.C. Nadkar

FACULTIES

The main faculties in ALAM are Marine Engineering and Nautical. Other courses include Maritime and Offshore Safety Training, Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping (STCW) as well as Maritime Management.

The Marine Engineering Faculty trains future engineers for the real-life challenges. It provides the rigours of academic knowledge with the discipline of hands-on practical training. The faculty also conducts research in various fields, from Marine Engineering Technology to FPSOs.

We were also informed that ALAM is working to get its Engineering qualification recognised by IEM and the Board of Engineers. In countries such as the United Kingdom, courses offered by its Maritime Academy are recognised by its Engineering Council.

TOUR OF WORKSHOPS AND SIMULATORS

We were then taken on a tour of the academy, in particular the Marine Engineering workshops, the hostel and the simulators. ALAM's Maritime Simulation Centre consists of full mission ship handling simulator, full mission engine room simulator and liquid cargo operations simulator. These are installed with state-of-the-art software that provides high fidelity hydrodynamic effects, hence providing a realistic marine environment.

CONCLUSION

The visit to ALAM was a fruitful event that enabled the participants to gain knowledge on how it conducts its training. Simulators, for instance, are not cheap but their use allows students to better appreciate the real life situation of handling ships at sea. ■

Captain I. Haji Rani (age 67) is currently Chairman of Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture Technical Division (MNATD) of IEM. He was Director of Engineering with the Royal Malaysian Navy and later as Director of Shipbuilding Division at MISE (now known as MMHE).