

WE-AFEO Smiles at CAFE035... Till We Meet Again In Wiset 2018

WOMEN ENGINEERS SECTION

reported by



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WE-AFEO women engineers came together at CAFE035 in the "Land of Smiles" from 16 to 18 November, 2017. The annual event is held to promote goodwill, understanding and cooperation as well as to exchange ideas and experiences in the fields of education, science, engineering, technology, environment, human resource, training and registration of professional engineers.

CAFE035 was held at Queen Sirikit Convention Centre in Bangkok.

WE-AFEO was formed in 2013 to promote understanding, goodwill, cooperation and to empower women engineers in ASEAN countries.

During the country report segment, each WE-AFEO country representative reported activities and achievements which ranged from successful conferences, technical talks and even creative activities. One of the unconventional activities reported was a virtual race by IEM Women Engineers Section, in which participants mapped their own

race routes, for example in their neighborhoods, local trails, track or even on a treadmill and then reported their participation online.

An amazing Lakambing Inhinyera 2017 was held for the first time by The Philippines Technological Council to celebrate gorgeous women engineers and, at the same time, to help them build courage, confidence, passion and realise their full potential. As women engineers usually wear pants and little make-up, it was a rare occurrence to see them on the



Delegates at the Conference

catwalk in evening gowns, corporate attire and even PPE coveralls.

Many countries also highlighted their humanitarian activities such as providing assistance to victims of flood and landslide disasters.

WE-AFEO delegates also visited Jim Thompson House, the former house of a pioneer silk tycoon and CIA agent who settled down in Thailand after World War II but disappeared while hiking in Cameron Highlands. Thai silk is produced from the cocoon of Thai silk worms. It was interesting to see weavers hand-reel the silk threads onto a wooden spindle to produce raw silk at Jim Thompson House.

At the closing ceremony, CAFE035 delegates were treated to a truly captivating traditional Thai dance by WE-AFEO women engineers. The beautiful smiles and graceful movements reflected the Thai culture of hospitality, compassion, gentleness, fun-loving, open-mindedness and laid-back attitude.

CAFE035 marks another step forward in a building a diverse and inclusive work environment for engineers. Year 2018 has been declared Women Empowerment Year in Malaysia. IEM Women Engineers Section is honoured to be hosting the 2nd International Conference of Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Conference (WiSET 2018). The theme of the conference, Global Outlook of Women in Science, Engineering and Technology, explores new horizons, challenges and opportunities for women in the future.

The highly-anticipated event will be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre from 17 to 19 July, 2018, in conjunction with ASEAN's Premier Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Show 2018. It will feature speakers with diverse background and representations such as Ms. Gail Mattson, President of International Network of Women Engineers and Scientist (INWES), Eng. Valerie Agberagba, Chairperson of Women in Engineering Standing Committee of World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO), Prof. Dato' Noraini Idris, Chairperson of Malaysia's National STEM Movement, Datin Paduka Ir. Dr Siti Hamisah, Deputy-General of the Ministry of Higher Education (Malaysia), Sr. Dr Hjh Wan Maimun, President of WIBM, Dato' Sr. Lau Wei Seang, President of RISM, guest moderator Dr Marcella Lucas from Lead Women and more.

A strategic approach for inclusiveness, wellbeing and diversity in engineering is important to harness the full potential of women engineers.

An increased participation of women in the workforce is important as Malaysia edges its way towards becoming a developed nation where all citizens can contribute to its success. Let's position 2018 as the year of opportunities for the advancement and empowerment of women engineers! ■