

After the FEIAP General Assembly 2018 in Ipoh, Perak - Reflecting on the Impact of International Meetings

The 26th General Assembly (GA) of the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) was held at Casuarina Hotel in Meru, Ipoh, from 11 to 13 July, 2018.

As an Ipoh resident, it was my privilege to take charge of this prestigious event immediately after I was elevated President of the Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM). I had to ensure it was a huge success and it was, all due no less to the ardent support given me by the many IEM volunteers. They spent a lot of time and effort to ensure everything went smoothly. My heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has, in one way or another, contributed to this event.

FEIAP GA 2018 drew delegates from as far away as Rwanda and Nigeria in the African continent, the Netherlands in Europe, Japan and Korea to the north and Australia down south.



IEM President introducing the President of FEIAP, Dr John Li to the guest of honour, Y.B. Dato' Seri Ir. Mohammad Nizar bin Jamaluddin

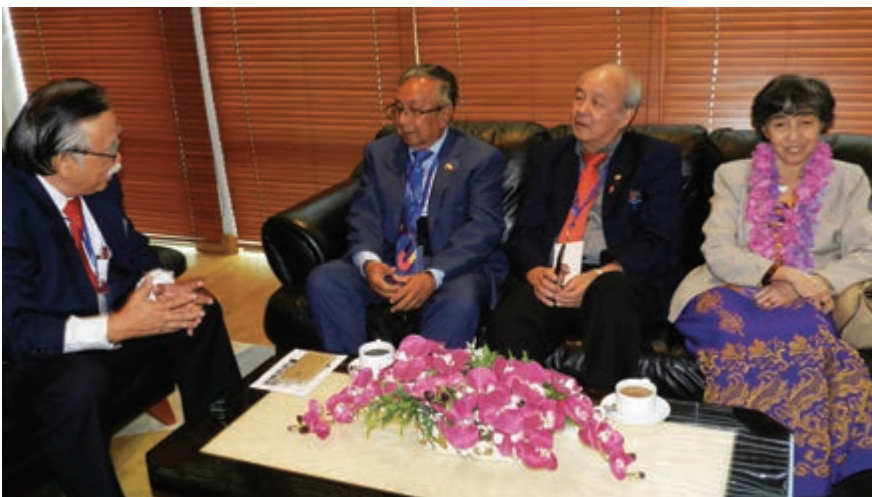
In total, there were 69 delegates from 25 countries as well as another 196 local delegates. The Perak state government was very supportive and donated generously to make sure the

event was a success and a pleasant occasion for all the delegates, both foreign and local.

The General Assembly was officiated by the Menteri Besar of Perak who was represented by Y.B. Dato' Seri Ir. Mohammad Nizar bin Jamaluddin, the State Exco for Investment, Industry and Corridor Development.

Dr Marlene Kanga, President of World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) took time off from her busy schedule to attend the event and to participate in various discussions on matters related to the engineering profession. We also had the privilege of having His Excellency Union Minister U Han Zaw from the Ministry of Construction, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to grace the occasion.

Besides the various meetings on the many policy issues required



Hosting His Excellency Union Minister U Han Zaw from the Ministry of Construction, Republic of the Union of Myanmar



The FEIAP GA Opening Ceremony – speech by IEM President Ir. David Lai and delegates in attendance

to keep the organisation in good shape, the 26th General Assembly also witnessed the admission of three economies into FEIAP – Nepal Engineers Association (NEA), Institution of Engineers, Rwanda (IER) and Iraqi Engineers Union (IEU). Myanmar Engineering Society (MES) and Technological Association of Malaysia (TAM) were admitted as Associate Members.

Apart from meetings, there were several talks by technical experts in their respective fields, a seminar on the 4th Industrial Revolution, an exhibition by various companies, a distinguished lecture by Y.D.H. Toh Paduka Setia Dato' Ir. Dr Safry Kamal Ahmad, a promotion by Matrade on the Services Export Fund and a briefing on the AEI Electrical Inspection Guidelines initiative.

True to the Malaysian spirit of hospitality, it was not all work and no play for the delegates. Tours to places of interest were organised to showcase the more relaxed side of Ipoh and to savor the many good food that the city is famous for. Judging from the happy faces that we see, we can assume that everyone had an enjoyable time; making new friends and developing strong bonds with fellow engineers from around the world.

With the curtains drawn on the FEIAP GA, I sit back and ponder on what has been the impact of such international meetings. What I can see is the sense of cooperation, motivation and camaraderie that



*FEIAP Meeting in session
L to R: FEIAP President, FEIAP Sec Gen, IEM President*



Visit to a relic tin dredge in Tualang – heritage of Malaysia's tin production days

exulted from people coming together to express their thoughts, share ideas and enjoy the company of each other. The innocuous way that international meetings can promote friendship, understanding and a

healthy respect for diversity in our world can make an impact on human relationships, on society at large and on making this world a better place. I find such thoughts reassuring – I hope you too feel the same. ■