



## IEM Ladies Engineers Visit to Thai Women Engineers Alliance

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The IEM Ladies Engineers Sub-Committee, Session 2006/07 had organised a visit to Thai Women Engineers Alliance (TWEA) at the Engineering Institution of Thailand (EIT), Bangkok on 8 to 11 February 2007. The purpose of the visit was to enhance mutual collaboration between TWEA and IEM Ladies Engineers Sub-Committee. The chairperson of IEM Lady Engineers Sub-Committee, Engr. Chin Lee Leng and other committee members namely, Engr. Magdalene Tan Lee, Engr. Marlinda Abd. Malek, Engr. Dr. Maisarah Ali and Engr. Lau Yuk Ma attended this 4 days visit.

Our visit to EIT was welcomed by Dr Karoon Chandransu, the President of EIT and the committee members of TWEA. EIT under His Majesty The King's Patronage, was first established on 30 November 1943 with the aim of associating and unifying all Thai engineers. Several attempts had been made towards the association of Thai engineers; the first was in 1904, between Thai and expatriate engineers, but later



Figure 2: Dialogue between IEM Lady Engineers Sub-Committee and Thai Women Engineers Alliance

came to a halt. In 1928, a group of Thai graduates in Polytechnics from England established an association and registered it as "the Engineering Association of Siam". Later in 1935, the Chulalongkorn University Engineering Association was set up by the university's graduates. Finally in 1943, both were merged and became the Engineering Institution of Thailand (EIT).

In Thailand, the input of EIT in the field of engineering includes:-

- Fostering unity among members;
- Supporting engineering education and research, dissemination of knowledge, as well as collaboration with other engineering institution, both locally and internationally;
- Supporting the engineering profession and technological developments and the safety of the public;
- Developing standard engineering practices, design codes and references of technical terms;
- Providing consultation and guidance for major engineering projects for the benefits of the public;
- Developing code of ethics for engineering practices.

An overview introduction on EIT was presented to us in the form of video presentation.

A dialogue, chaired by Assoc. Prof. Phulporn Saengbangpla, Chairperson of TWEA was held between both women associations at EIT on 9 February 2007. TWEA was official launched in year 2006 and have managed to secure 180 lady engineers members. Identifying obstacles faced by young lady engineers in advancing their career, engineers segregated by gender, discrimination to low wages or by-passed



Figure 1: IEM Lady Engineers Sub-Committee and Thai Women Engineers Alliance in the presence of the President of Engineering Institution of Thailand (EIT)



Figure 3: IEM Lady Engineers Sub-Committee attending the Annual Meeting of Thai Women Engineers Alliance



Figure 4: IEM Ladies Engineers Sub-Committee attending the "Car of the Year 2007" competition in Bangkok

promotion are part of the issues raised during the dialogue.

Another important event during the visit was the TWEA Annual Meeting held at EIT, attended by members of TWEA. Talks by invited speakers on various issues pertaining to women engineers were discussed during this meeting.

The next day, we were guided by TWEA to attend the "Car of the Year 2007" competition, which was organised by the

Automobile Engineering Association of Thailand. The chairperson of TWEA was the founder president and now she holds the position of advisor. The ladies had the opportunity to be taken on test drives by experienced drivers in several made of the cars in competition. It was an extraordinary opportunity for most of us. Later in the afternoon, we left for a short visit to Pattaya.

The meeting between IEM Ladies Engineers Sub-Committee and Thai

Women Engineers Alliance TWEA in Bangkok was a great success. We managed to share our experiences, activities and aspirations in securing women in the engineering profession.

Their enthusiasm is indeed an inspiration for us to promote lady engineers to be successful and become a great force in our country in the near future. ■