



Be Magnanimous Engineers

by Ir. Choo Kok Beng, FASc

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

– Cesar Chavez

WE can be magnanimous and happy engineers if we seek to better ourselves and care for the community. This is an issue close to my heart. For the longest time, I've always felt that our calling to be engineers is meaningless if we are not able to give back to our own community.

I think that the best way for an engineer to make good uses of his/her knowledge and skills is to do things that will benefit the community we live in, making the world a better place to live in tomorrow.

NO ROCKET SCIENCE

Doing things for the community will help an engineer receive the highest form of respect and recognition and enhance one's integrity which is so important for wealth and career development.

How exactly can we get involved that will benefit our community? I think the easiest way to get started is to provide solutions to the urban community we mostly live in.

Why the urban community? It has the most opportunities and visibilities. The urban population in Malaysia about 72.8% in 2011 and increasing rapidly.

As engineers, we can interact with the urban authorities to help create a sustainable, urban living environment for all to enjoy.

WORKING WITH CITY HALLS

If you are concerned about the practicality of this action, take heart in that IEM has already laid the foundation, at least within the Klang and Kinta valleys.

IEM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya (MBPJ) in September and Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh in December, 2013. The reception from the two city halls has been beyond our expectations.

IEM members in these two locations can now volunteer or provide services to be part of the many initiatives to solve the problems of an urban society.

Within a month of the MBPJ MoU, we jointly organised a consultative forum on Urban Transportation, held at the PJ Civic Center and attended by over 200 people including community representatives.



Signing ceremony between IEM and Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya (MBPJ)



Signing ceremony between IEM and Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh (MBI)

Meanwhile, MBI is looking forward to IEM conducting relevant training programmes to up the skills of its engineering team, especially in preventive maintenance.

I hope that when my term ends in April 2014, future leaders will continue to steer IEM forward to be more than the excellent learned society it is as well as a useful civil society and the largest in the country.

DO YOUR PART

You are encouraged to fulfill your unique role within the community, and to grow the relationship between the engineering fraternity and the community we live in.

If you have ideas that will benefit the community but are not sure where to begin, I am only a call or e-mail away. Let's do our part for our community. ■