

Young Engineer Networks, Malaysia-Taiwan Exchange Forum 2019: Preparing to Face Future Challenges

YOUNG ENGINEERS SECTION

reported by



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This year, the Malaysia-Taiwan Young Engineer Exchange Forum saw an initiative for further collaboration to foster international ties among young engineers, to promote technical exchanges between young engineers and to provide students in the host country to interact with practising engineers from various industries. The event, organised by The Chinese Institute of Engineers (CIE), The Chinese Association of Engineering Consultants (CAEC) and The Taiwan Construction Research Institute (TCRI) and Young Engineers Section of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM-YES), attracted 14 delegates from Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Hong Kong. It was held in Taipei, Taiwan, on 15-17 March, 2018.

It started with a social networking session to meet new friends and to renew acquaintances, some of which originated from CAFEO (Conference ASEAN Federation Engineers Organisation). Delegates caught up with one another, while making new friends. The event then proceeded with "Global, Regional, Local Trends & Roles of Civil Engineers", shared from the perspectives of Taiwan and Malaysia, by Mr. Chen Yi Min (Taiwan) and Mr. Tan Zhi Howe (Malaysia). This was to give students in Taiwan an introduction to an industrial overview of the Taiwan-Malaysia engineering, expectations and practices.



Group photo session

Then, in "Keys to Success in Engineering Industry as a Young Engineer", Dr Chang Jung Feng from Taiwan as well as Ir. Yeoh Su Hong and Mr. Chin Woon Kheong from Malaysia shared hard-learned lessons collected over the years. Few key take-aways from this were that, to keep abreast of times, young engineers must update their knowledge in an effective manner, cultivate and integrate their knowledge across functional domain and blend the technical skills with diversity of knowledge to conduct engineering from a holistic approach. The trio's professional experiences gave young engineers and students valuable insight into a career in the construction industry.

Next, representatives from Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Hong Kong came together in an open panel discussion to talk about relevant issues and challenges they faced in their communities as well as

how they tackled these issues. They also offered early career advice and tips which would help motivate the students to take the next great leap into an engineering career.

Delegates were invited to join a technical visit to Danhai LRT System. Upon arrival at the site office in Danshui, the delegates were briefed on the project development by a representative from Project Management consultant Moh and Associates (MAA) and received a warm welcome from the Department of Rapid Transit System, New Taipei City. He shared with delegates a part of the history of the project, the challenges faced – such as land acquisition for the Danhai LRT development – and the construction technologies adopted for the construction. Later, the delegates toured the site and witnessed the testing of the first Taiwanese-designed-and-made LRT rolling stock.



Delegates at CIE office

The next day, the delegates visited the CIE office for a discussion session and country presentation, where the representatives of each country took turns to talk about their organisations, history, size, structure, past events, membership drive strategies etc. A post-mortem discussion was then conducted to gather feedback from participants for greater improvements at the next event.

IEM and CIE had launched this initiative to bring together young engineers of the engineering fraternity not limited to SEA but from around the world. The detailed objectives are to be further developed and refined as it progresses.

The 3-day event ended with a farewell dinner on 17 March at Madison Hotel Urban 331 Bistro, hosted by CIE and CAEC. Present were Dr Moh Za Chieh, a key person in Taiwan's engineering development, Mr. Wen Tai Hsin, Secretary General of Taiwan

Railway Reconstruction Bureau as well as Head of Department of the Civil Engineering at National Taiwan University (NTU) and National Taiwan University of Science & Technology (NTUST). It was an enjoyable evening and delegates left with fond memories of their time in Taiwan. IEM-YES would like to thank CIE and CAEC for hosting the event; we look forward to the next event hosted by HKIE in Hong Kong.

In conclusion, the event successfully gathered engineers from participating countries for exchanging ideas and networking. It is set to become a platform for professional network opportunities, a platform to engage and be exposed to new things, a platform to exchange ideas, share engineering best practices and expertise, for better cross-border relationships and for knowledge sharing in preparation to face challenges of the future. ■

IEM DIARY OF EVENTS

Title: 1-Day Short Course on Design of Piled Foundations

5 September 2018

Organised by: Geotechnical Engineering Technical Division

Time : 8.30 a.m. - 6.30 p.m.

CPD/PDP : 7.5

Title: Technical Visit to EWT Transformer Sdn. Bhd.

19 September 2018

Organised by: Mechanical Engineering Technical Division

Time : 9.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

CPD/PDP : Applying

Kindly note that the scheduled events are subject to change. Please visit the IEM website at www.myiem.org.my for more information on the upcoming events.