

IEM Delegation to the Netherlands NLD2007

By : *Engr. Kok Hee Poh, Grad. IEM and Ms. Wong Yoke Mei*



The Netherlands, also known as Holland, is a sinking country bordered by rising sea levels with 25% of its land area lying below sea level. At daily high sea and river levels, 65% of the country would be flooded without its dikes and polders. Despite all these, the Netherlands is able to maintain nearly 70% of its land area as cultivated land and 10,000 year return periods for storm surges in its dense populated areas.

Also, most of the Netherlands' drinking and industrial water supply is from the River Rhine after it has passed through eight (8) other countries and forms one of the world busiest shipping-ways. The Netherlands is also famous for its tulip season in May-June and its many waterways that draw countless tourists from all over the world every year without fail.

Further to the successful delegations to Tokyo (2005), Beijing (2001) and Hong Kong (1999), the Graduate & Student Section (G&S) of the IEM is organising a visit to The Netherlands – the country of water, dykes and polders. The Young Engineers have started planning since mid-2006 and plan to visit places of both engineering and social/cultural interests from 27 May to 2 June 2007. The aim is to learn more about their successes in areas of relevance to our nation.

The delegation intends to visit Maeslant Dam (part of the famous Delta Works), Delft University of Technology, Delft Hydraulic Institution, Volendam and River Rhine. There will also be courtesy visits to relevant departments such as the Dutch Water Board and Rijkswaterstaat, the national agency of the Ministry of Transport and Public Works. Multi-disciplinary engineering site visits will be encouraged. There will be opportunities to witness flora exhibitions and other seasonal or cultural attractions as well. The delegation also seeks to promote greater interaction and

institutional exchanges between the Royal Institution of Engineers (RIE) in Holland and IEM, especially among the young engineers, and through the signing of a MoU eventually.

Collaboration of this sort should generate more interest in future to allow further exchanges in more areas. The Organising Committee will document all the experiences gained throughout, with comparisons made to similar projects in both Malaysia and Holland. We seek to examine the best practices in both countries in terms of technical, cultural and social achievements, and to highlight and appreciate the differences that can help ourselves to improve in the future.

Participation Fee (preliminary):

G&S Members	RM6,000
IEM Members	RM6,600
Non Members	RM7,000

Registration is on first-come-first-served basis; seats limited to 20 people max. Details are available at <http://www.iem.org.my/external/g&s/NLD2007.html> or send fax to IEM Secretariat at 03 – 7957 7678. Sponsorship and advertisement opportunities are also available, kindly email to iemgs@yahoo.com (Attn. Holland Delegation 2007).

