

One-Day Seminar on “Succeeding as an Engineer”

IEM SOUTHERN BRANCH



by Ir. Dr. Eow John Son

THE IEM Southern Branch recently invited Er. Dr. Lock Kai Sang, the Principal of PQR Consultants Singapore, to present a one-day seminar on how to succeed as an engineer. Er. Dr. Lock is also Past President of the Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES). The seminar was held at the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL), UTM Skudai, on 7 January 2012. The talk was chaired by Ir. Dr. John Eow, and was attended by 22 participants.

The seminar was primarily structured for young engineers, to guide them with proven tips and ideas that are essential for succeeding as an engineer. However, the event was also attended by a number of not-so-young engineers who saw a benefit from attending the seminar.

The speaker began by defining the meaning of success as being that wonderful feeling of self-esteem derived primarily from helping others towards a better and more comfortable life. During the first part of the seminar, Er. Dr. Lock discussed the attributes of successful engineers, including technical competence, conceptual knowledge and the awareness of interdependency.

The importance of first-things-first or time management was particularly emphasised. This was further supplemented by his sharing of personal experiences and thoughts on the critical success elements for engineers. The participants gained an understanding of the key attributes and professional competency profiles of successful engineers. From this discussion, the participants were inspired to plan and draw up their roadmaps to become successful engineers.

The key elements for successful engineers are expounded in the 6-letter-word **ACTION**:

- A – **ATTITUDE**, adopt PMA; **Pro-Active**
- C – **CHARACTER, COMMUNICATION** skills
- T – **TARGET** – set personal goals to be achieved in measurable **TIME**
- I – **INNOVATE** – dare to change and treat failures as a learning process; **INTEGRITY**
- O – **OFFER** and contribute – give your best, and the rewards will come naturally; take **OWNERSHIP** (responsibility)
- N – **NOW**, take **ACTION** for changes and self-improvement

The second part of the seminar focused on writing good technical reports. A quick survey of the seminar participants revealed that engineers spend more than half of their work hours on writing various reports and proposals. Er. Dr. Lock explained that writing a good report should commence with an understanding of the purpose, scope and readership of the report. Some pointers were given for writing clear,



accurate and concise technical documents. Common mistakes made were examined in the afternoon session with exercises in reviewing and correcting some published technical documents.

During the seminar, the participants gained an appreciation of the various aspects of writing techniques and skills which could help to produce clear, accurate and concise technical documents. The pointers provided should enable them to further improve their writing skills through self-learning.

Last but not least, IEM Southern Branch is very grateful to Er. Dr. Lock for his invaluable contribution to the knowledge and benefit of our young engineers. Ir. Mohd. Khir, the Chairman of IEM Southern Branch, thanked and presented Er. Dr. Lock with IEM souvenirs. For more information on the seminar topics, Er. Dr. Lock can be contacted at lockks@singnet.com.sg. ■

CHEQUE PRESENTATION TO IEM BUILDING FUND

IEM wishes to thank Gamuda Berhad for its generous contribution towards the IEM Building Fund. The cheque was presented to IEM at a short ceremony held at Gamuda's office in March 2012.



Gamuda's Head of Group Public Affairs, Ms. Josephine Wong, handing over the cheque to IEM's Deputy President Ir. Choo Kok Beng. Also present at the ceremony were IEM's Executive Director Ir. KM Cheang (left) and Gamuda's Senior Executive for Communications, Mr. Pang Hong Yee (right)