

# Women in Science, Engineering and Technology International Conference 2012



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**THE** Sub-Committee on Women Engineers of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM-WE) successfully organised the “Women in Science, Engineering and Technology International Conference 2012” (WiSET 2012) at Istana Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, from 14 to 16 June 2012. The conference was held in conjunction with the Asia and Pacific Nation Network Meeting (APNN 2012) and Mid-Term ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO) Governing Board Meeting 2012.



A group photo of Y.Bhg. Dato’ Sri Dr Ng Yen Yen, Ir. Vincent Chen Kim Kieong and the WiSET 2012 Organising Committee Members



Y.Bhg. Dato’ Sri Dr Ng Yen Yen presenting a lively speech during the conference

WiSET 2012 was organised in support of the initiatives taken by Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development of Malaysia, to achieve 30% representation of women in the board rooms. This is to redress the current situation where the number of women scientists, engineers and technologists in top management who are involved in key decision-making within engineering and technology companies is still significantly low, even though there has been indeed an increase in the enrolment of female students in these fields of study at the universities. This phenomenon occurs in almost all countries worldwide, including in Malaysia.

As a nation, we must realise that the technological capacity of our country will be strengthened through the greater participation of women in industry and society –

particularly in decision-making. Women may view issues from a different perspective which, when considered with other factors could result in better decisions and solutions. Therefore, we must all build the bridges that will lead not only to the increased participation of women in the fields of engineering, science and technology, but also to the greater involvement of women in the top posts of various organisations as important decision-makers. As institutions such as The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) play an important role in the effort to encourage more women to undertake the challenge to achieve higher ranking positions, and IEM-WE aims to be in the forefront of this challenge.

The objectives of WiSET 2012 are to:

- Raise the image of women in science, engineering and technology;
- Increase the awareness among women in science, engineering and technology and help to unlock their full professional potential;
- Acknowledge the role of women in science, engineering and technology in innovative nation building;
- Help develop the capabilities of women in science, engineering and technology to the fullest;
- Advocate the right balance between work, family and social life for professional women;

- Create women leaders in science, engineering and technology;
- Learn lessons from other countries in empowering women in science, engineering and technology; and
- Assist in capacity building and networking.

Through partnerships with Malaysian Oil and Gas Services Council (MOGSC), Academy Sciences of Malaysia (ASM), Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM), Persatuan Industri Komputer dan Multimedia Malaysia (PIKOM), the Malaysian Institute of Planners (MIP), and the Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM), and the support of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Association of Consulting Engineers, Malaysia (ACEM), Malaysia Convention and Exhibition Bureau (MyCEB), World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO). “Women in Engineering” Standing Committee, the Association of Korean Woman Scientists and Engineers (KWSE), International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES), ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO), WiSET 2012 had successfully attracted approximately 343 participants, mostly women scientists, engineers and technologists.

The distribution of the participants according to membership and country is shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

International participants included members of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO) such as:

- Surveyors, Engineers and Architects Organisation, Brunei (PUJA)
- Board of Engineers Cambodia (BEC)
- Persatuan Insinyur Indonesia (PII)
- Lao Union of Science and Engineering Associations (LUSEA)
- Myanmar Engineering Society (MES)
- The Philippines Technological Council (PTC)
- The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES)
- The Engineering Institute of Thailand (EIT)
- Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA).

AFEO being a non-governmental body, comprising members which represent the engineering institutions and organisations of ASEAN countries, has the following main objectives:

- To promote goodwill and mutual understanding; and
- To establish and develop an ASEAN baseline standard for the engineering profession with the objective of facilitating the mobility of the engineers within the ASEAN region.

The “Mid-Term AFEO Governing Board” meetings are held twice a year. IEM being one of the AFEO members was honoured to be given a chance to host this prestigious meeting for year 2012. IEM-WE therefore hosted WiSET 2012 to acknowledge the contributions made by women scientists, engineers and technologists at an international level. At WiSET 2012, inspiring experiences and the secrets to success of women scientists, engineers and technologists were shared. It was indeed a platform where all professional

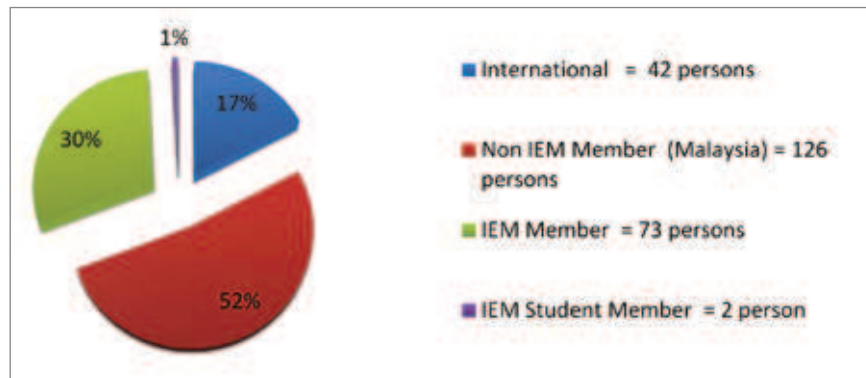


Figure 1: Participants

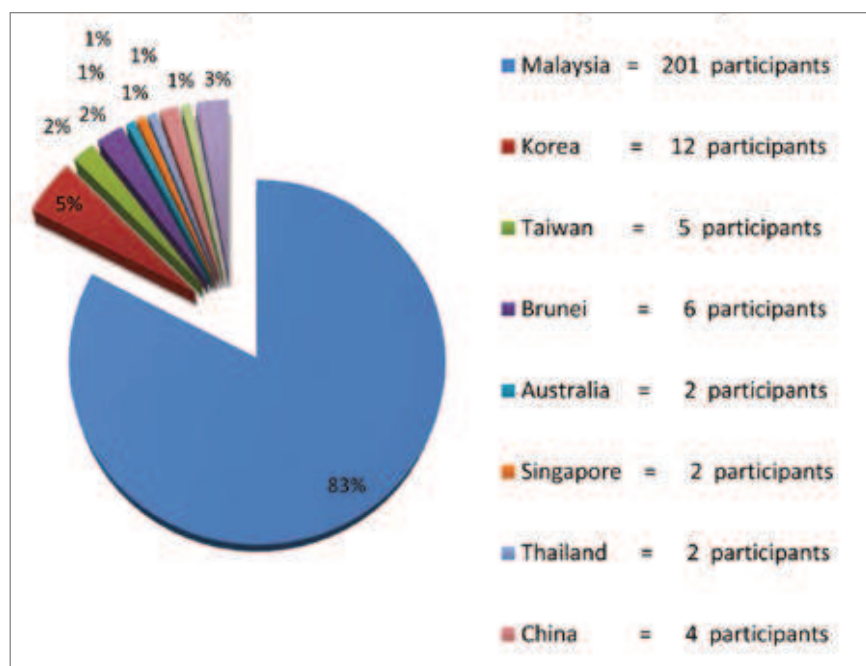


Figure 2: Participants distribution by country



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women look forward to. Members of the Asia and Pacific Nation Network (APNN) such as Australia, Kuwait, Africa, Korea and China were also present at WiSET 2012.

The overall programme of WiSET 2012 was carefully designed to suit the conference's theme, objectives and the cultural background of participants. It comprised contemporary topics which allowed the speakers to engage in forum discussions with the participants. Apart from the conference proceedings, a gala high tea with cultural shows, and visits to interesting engineering sites and memorial venues, were also included in the programme.

Members of WiSET 2012 Sub-Committee and IEM-WE would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to all who were involved in organising WiSET 2012. It is hoped that WiSET 2012 will achieve success in its mission to raise the image of women in science, engineering and technology and encourage them to further develop their full professional potential.

WiSET 2012 was indeed a timely event. It presented a unique opportunity for professional women to come together as a fraternity for fellowship and networking. Heartiest congratulations to the Sub-Committee on Women Engineers (WE) of IEM for its laudable efforts in elevating the status of women engineers, scientists and technologists in the country. ■



Participants at the conference listening attentively to the speaker



IEM President, Ir. Vincent Chen Kim Kieong, presenting a token of appreciation to the Guest of Honour, Y.Bhg. Dato' Sri Dr Ng Yen Yen. (From left to right) Y.Bhg. Datuk Ir. Rosaline Ganendra, Ir. Assoc. Prof. Dr Marlinda bt. Abdul Malek and Ir. June Lau Yuk Ma

Presentation slides, programme, information on speakers and panellists, opening, site visits, photos and other details of WiSET 2012 can be further obtained from [www.mywiset.org](http://www.mywiset.org) or [www.iemwomenengineers.org](http://www.iemwomenengineers.org).

### CONGRATULATIONS

The IEM Council would like to congratulate **Y.Bhg. Dato' Ir. Ng Ah Kow** and **Y.Bhg. Dato' Ir. Fong Tian Yong** for being conferred the "Darjat Indera Mahkota Pahang (D.I.M.P.)" which carries the title Dato' in conjunction with the 82nd Birthday of Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku Sultan Pahang, DYMM Sultan Ahmad Shah Sultan Abu Bakar at Istana Abu Bakar, Pekan, Pahang on 24 October 2012.

*IEM Awards Committee*



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