



The Concept of Unity in IEM

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MUCH has been said about unity. In a multicultural country such as ours, this topic is given the utmost importance. It even inspired the Prime Minister to launch the National Unity Consultative Council – tasked with seeking long-term solutions to promote unity among the various ethnic groups so that all Malaysians can enjoy the transformation programmes introduced by the Government.

Like a small nation, IEM is a professional body made up of members from diverse ethnic groups, races and cultures, who are practicing different engineering disciplines. IEM, born exactly 20 months after Merdeka, on May 1, 1959, has had a marked influence on the engineering profession in the country. It has grown and matured with the nation and the people. It started with only 18 members but in the past five decades, membership has increased to 30,000 today, making it one of the largest professional bodies in Malaysia.

In fact, diversity is exactly what IEM is all about. As an Institution, we have 14 branches all over the country, including Sabah and Sarawak. We are made up of a diverse group of engineers. By definition, engineering consist of the major basic branches of chemical, civil, electrical and mechanical engineering. There are numerous other engineering sub-disciplines and interdisciplinary subjects derived from concentrations, combinations or extensions of the major engineering branches.

Yet, IEM is fortunate, because diversity in IEM is celebrated. We have succeeded in harnessing the contribution of all members, to bring out whatever skills and abilities they have. In the diversity there is also unity, expressed in achieving a goal, teamwork and communication, so that what a group can do together is greater and better than just the sum of its parts. Unity in diversity means harmony of diverse views.

There are no borders in the way IEM is organised. In fact, IEM elects its office bearers in a very democratic manner and anyone, regardless of race or creed can stand for nomination to the IEM Council. Members are free to make their own decisions and free to elect whomever they choose. The spread of the races is reflected in the respective interest of the members.

In conclusion, in the 55 years of its existence, IEM has managed to inculcate harmony, respect and understanding between its members who hold such diverse points of view. This culture enables IEM to remain relevant to its stakeholders, namely the different communities, institutions and individuals.

In the bigger scheme of things, as the leading organisation of the ASEAN Engineering fraternity, IEM is able to lead the way for other organisations to follow. We hope that others will emulate us and the nation to remain forever united in harmony and peace for prosperity. ■

