

IEM - An Engineer's Roadway Within and Beyond Malaysia



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President,
IEM Sessions 2014/2015
& 2015/2016

Dato' Ir. Lim Chow Hock, was formerly the Director of the Division of River Basin and Coastal Zone Management with the Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia (JPS).

Only two years younger than the nation, The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) has been holding fort for Malaysian engineers for more than half a century.

While many parents continually harbour dreams of their children being engineers, very few realise that no engineer (and in fact, no one) succeeds as an individual. No one improves himself by being entirely on his own. Often, success and personal improvement come from learning from those who are more senior and more experienced.

This is where IEM comes in. When it was established in 1959, its primary function was (and still is) to promote and advance the science and profession of engineering in all disciplines. More than that, it also aims to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas related to engineering.

Within the country, IEM has sought partnerships and MoU's (Memorandum of Understanding) with the government as well as the private sector where necessary, to promote opportunities for IEM's members. It regularly organises events, meetings, discussions and conferences that will assist its members' in Continuous Professional Development (CPD) through its 17 Technical Divisions and 3 Special Interest Groups. The CPD points is not only recognised for the annual renewal of the registration as Professional Engineer (P.Eng) by the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM) but is also recognised for international engineer register consideration.

IEM has also made a name for its 36,189 members, not just within Southeast Asia but all over the world. It believes that all its members are capable of scaling great heights through IEM if they are willing to innovate and work hard together.

One of such example was when IEM member Dato Dr Ir. Gue See Sew was elected Deputy Chairman of International Professional Engineers Register. We were just as proud when another member, Dato' Ir. Lee Yee Cheong, became President of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) for 2003-2005.

Currently IEM President Dato Ir. Lim Chow Hock is the Chair for the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO) and

academician Dato Ir. Prof. Dr Chuah Hean Teik is Chairman of Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP).

Yet, in spite of their achievements, they remain active in IEM as humble members who are willing to share and pass their knowledge down to the younger generation of engineers. This, we believe is necessary in shaping the next generation of engineers who will certainly shake the nation.

As a professional organisation that serves engineers who will ultimately serve the very foundations of the nation, IEM is the Secretariat for the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO). It is also the Secretariat of the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP).

IEM is also authorised by regional and international bench marking bodies to implement two engineering registers, namely APEC Engineer Register and the International Professional Engineer Register (IntPE) in Malaysia, aimed at facilitating trade between the participating economies.

As such, joining IEM offers tremendous opportunities to excel, not just in Malaysia but beyond the country too. This is the direction that all engineers should be heading. We need to dream big but, of course, we should first establish a firm footing in Malaysia.

The IEM Corporate Membership is also recognised by BEM as a pre-requisite for registration as a Professional Engineer.

With the liberalisation of trade within ASEAN coming up, especially through the ASEAN Economic Community, being a part of IEM has become even more pertinent.

One of IEM's biggest events for 2015 is the upcoming Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (CAFEO) 33. Themed 'From Light To Bytes', it will be held in Penang on 22 - 26 November.

At the event, we aim to look at ASEAN's engineering evolution and future challenges. These are exciting times for the engineering fraternity in Southeast Asia.

Through past activities and those in the pipeline, IEM strives to ensure that our education, training and qualifying standard for professional engineers is on par with the best in the world. Beyond any doubt, IEM is the roadway and link for engineers within and beyond Malaysia. ■

The article was published in the STAR on 15 April 2015 under the title - Malaysia Engineers Among Best.