

Inspire Me Talk by Ir. Prof. Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik

ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING TECHNICAL DIVISION



reported by
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It was a sunny day on 21 April 2016 in Penang. The Electronic Engineering Technical Division (eETD) organised an Inspire Me talk by Prof. Chuah Hean Teik, president of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) in Penang Science Cluster @ Heritage (PSC), Wisma Yeap Chor Ee, Georgetown, Penang.

Before the talk, eETD committee members had a fellowship lunch at Hai Nan Town Restaurant, Weld Quay, to get better acquainted since eETD is the only technical division established outside IEM headquarter.

The talk, titled "My career as an Engineer and Educator - A Malaysian Experience" was attended by some 50 participants comprising IEM members from Penang branch, members of PSC and college/secondary school students.

The talk started at 2.10p.m. with eETD chairman Dr Leow Cheah Wei giving his welcome speech. He also introduced eETD, drove home the objective of the Inspire Me talk, motivated students to consider taking up engineering and then to join IEM upon graduation. Subsequently, the CEO of PSC, Mr. Ooi Peng Ee introduced PSC and invited engineers to become mentors for its various activities.

Inspire Me Talk is a series of talks in which prominent technical leaders in the electronics and electrical industry are invited to share their experiences and to inspire students to pursue engineering study and young engineers to develop a career in engineering. Previous Inspire Me speakers were:

- Dato' Simon Wong, former vice president of Dell Asia Pacific Sdn. Bhd.
- Dr Hari Narayanan, managing director of Motorola Solutions Sdn. Bhd.
- Mr. Chu Jenn Weng, CEO of ViTrox Group
- Mr. Kit Yong, R&D director of National Instrument

Prof. Chuah reminisced his humble journey in engineering education, starting with attending Hu Yew Seah Primary School and Chung Ling High School (钟灵中学) in Penang. He then continued his undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. Inspired by his physics teacher in secondary school, he developed a deep interest in physics as well as teaching. With these two interests, he said, becoming a lecturer in engineering was the best combination.



eETD chairman Dr Leow Cheah Wei presenting a souvenir and certificate of appreciation to Prof. Chuah Hean Teik. On the left is PSC CEO Mr. Ooi Peng Ee

As a 100% Malaysian-trained engineer, Prof. Chuah is on par with his overseas-trained peers, for example, the publishing of research findings in international journals and conferences.

To be successful in engineering, he said one has to know the 3 ICs: Integrity & Competence, Integration & Communications and Internationalisation & Cooperation.

But beside work, engineers also face a multitude of other challenges such as inequality of wealth distribution, unavailability of clean water, inequality of food distribution, increasing energy consumption, global warming and climate change. Therefore, engineering education must be the source of human capital, a means to overcome poverty, a catalyst to change and innovation as well as a driver of economic growth.

Engineers, scientists and technologists play an important role in supporting industry and contributing towards economic growth. Prof. Chuah added: "The declining numbers of students in science has reached worrying proportions."

He urged eETD committee members to organise talks in primary and secondary schools to motivate students to opt for the science stream. Otherwise, he said, our nation will be short of science and technology human capital to sustain its development in the future.

Prof. Chuah concluded his talk with the story of a cocoon and a butterfly. The moral of the story was that struggle was part of the growth experience. Together with PSC CEO Mr. Ooi, Dr Leow presented a souvenir and a certificate of appreciation to Prof. Chuah. ■