

CAFEO 34 at an Island Paradise



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The annual Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisation (CAFEO 34) was organised by the Philippine Technological Council (PTC) and held at a hotel in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, in the Philippines from 21-24 November 2016. Palawan is an archipelagic province of the Philippines, located in the Mimaropa region.



Asean handshake at the AFEO Board Meeting and after Palawan Declaration Signing Ceremony

The theme was "ASEAN Community: Engineering Shining Through". The Philippines held the chair of AFEO for 2016 until the conclusion of CAFEO 34.

CAFEO 34 attracted more than 1,000 delegates from ASEAN and the Asia Pacific region, the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO), ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology (AAET) and The Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP).

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES (20 NOVEMBER 2016, SUNDAY)

On the eve of CAFEO 34, some of the delegates played friendly games of golf in the early morning. However, the 9-hole golf course was not suitable for a competitive event.

CAFEO, WEAFO and YEAFEO delegates embraced a greener lifestyle while learning more about the natural environment of the tourism island of Palawan. WEAFO and YEAFEO delegations joined the Underground River Tour, and explored the magnificent Underground River and its natural wonders; this was the winner of The 2011 New 7 Wonders of Nature in the World. Some CAFEO delegates joined a day-trip to Honda Bay Islands on island hopping tours that visited Lu-li, Starfish and Cowrie Islands.

MEETINGS IN SESSION (21 NOVEMBER 2016, MONDAY)

During the conference, the hotel was buzzing with working

groups, workshops, technical seminars, country reports, discussions and forums taking place in parallel sessions.

IEM (Malaysia) chaired the Energy Work Group while Environment Work Group was chaired by PUJA (Brunei), Education and Capacity Building by IES (Singapore), Transportation & Logistics and Disaster Support by EIT (Thailand), Smart and Sustainable Cities Work Group by IES (Singapore) and Adhoc Committee Mobility of Engineers in ASEAN by PTC (Philippines).

Women engineer issues within the ASEAN countries were also discussed. The day ended with the ASEAN Engineers Register Commission Meeting in the evening.

WELCOMING RECEPTION & ASEAN ENGINEERING REGISTER CONFERENCE (21 NOVEMBER 2016, MONDAY)

The Welcoming Reception, held a day before the opening ceremony, allowed more than 1,000 delegates from ASEAN and Asia Pacific countries to meet, network and get to know each other. It was well attended with plenty of local cuisine and drinks for everyone.

The organising chairman of CAFEO 34 and PTC Vice President for External Affairs, Engr. Cesar S. De La Cruz welcomed the participants, and said they should put the spirit of friendship, cooperation and harmony in their hearts and minds to make the event a fruitful experience for everyone. It was PTC's hope that the delegates

could learn from the technical and plenary sessions and establish networks for the benefit of the ASEAN Economic Community.

In his speech, the Chairman of AFEO and President of PTC, Hon. AFEO Federico A. Monsada said that the theme of CAFEO 34 spoke well of the direction AFEO should be heading and that engineering professionals should continue to pave the path and move forward into the global market.

In the bigger Integrated ASEAN community, engineering is challenged to surpass its own performances which traditionally, had been limited by national boundaries. AFEO and its partners, such as FEIAP, have continued engineering's prominence and leadership, thereby sustaining their contributions to the peace and prosperity objectives of the ASEAN.

The ASEAN Engineering Register was the highlight of the evening's event, with AER certification being presented to 412 ASEAN engineers, technologists, technicians and related associates.

WORKING GROUPS AND MEETINGS (21-23 NOVEMBER 2016)

The Working Groups met to look into various issues affecting the ASEAN countries.

1. Sustainable Cities Work Group - chaired by The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES), discussed the integration of city-wide systemic responses to innovate and optimise existing resources, to harness the potentialities of the sustainable future and to steer the emerging futures of the cities to a sustainable, prosperous path.
2. Mobility of Engineers Forum - chaired by Philippines Technological Council (PTC) emphasised on the AFEO/AER database and directory for engineering expertise, education system, common engineering terms and engineering practices and standards.
3. Energy - chaired by The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) highlighted the ASEAN Green Energy white paper, AFEO Energy Technical Visit, energy expert directory and AEI guidelines on electrical installation.
4. Environmental Engineering Work Group - chaired by Pertubuhan Ukur, Jurutera dan Arkitek, Brunei (PUJA), touched on generating energy from waste as well as transboundary haze and pollution issues.
5. Education and Capacity Building - chaired by The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES) looked into the collection of information on education systems in ASEAN countries and CPD implementation.
6. Transportation and Logistic - chaired by The Engineering Institute of Thailand (EIT) discussed the collaboration with MIROS and ARSC. Reports on the ASEAN transportation structure maintenance culture and best practices were also presented.
7. Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management Work Group - chaired by The Engineering Institute of Thailand (EIT) touched on disasters that struck ASEAN countries in 2016 as well as the impact and emergency preparedness. It was generally opined that most ASEAN countries were not prepared for disasters but would take good remedial action in time of disasters.

DAY 2 (22 NOVEMBER, 2016, TUESDAY)

YEAFO (Young Engineers of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations): The Young Engineers Section (YES) attended the YEAFO meeting with young engineers of other countries. The representative of each country gave a short country briefing, focusing on the development of students and graduate engineers.

This year, young engineers from Taiwan and Japan also participated in YEAFO. The meeting was a success and there were many discussions on continuing to help the development of young engineers in the region.

On the third day of CAFO 34 (23 November), representatives from the Philippines organised a team building event at the swimming pool area, attended by some 40 delegates.

WEAFO (WOMEN ENGINEERS OF THE ASEAN FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING ORGANISATIONS)

Members from ASEAN countries discussed regional collaboration, research funding and future networking. All country representatives presented their annual activity reports and plans. There were many discussions on enhancing the mobility of women engineers in ASEAN. Women engineers will continue to be involved in the 3rd WEAFO Summit in Thailand next year.

Malaysia will be bidding for the International Conference on Women in Engineering and Science in 2020. The Philippines would be hosting the 2nd Women Summit 2017, while Singapore was encouraged to help ASEAN women engineers host International Women Day in March. WEAFO delegates were invited to the 2nd Women Engineers Summit to highlight outstanding achievements of WEAFO in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

The invited keynote addresses were presented by Ir. Leong Wai Yie (Malaysia), Dr May Rose C. Imperial (Philippines), Dr Evelyn Dofredo (Philippines) and Engr. Lea N. Delfnado (Philippines). The moderator was Engr. Estrellita Bordallo from PTC.

ASEAN AWARD MEETING

This event was chaired by the Deputy President of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM). The Awards Committee nominates and recognises outstanding projects and associated engineers from the region. This year, there were 13 nominees for the Engineering Achievement Project Award, 4 for the Engineering Achievement Individual Award, 1 for Honorary Patron, 7 for Distinguished Honorary Fellow, 34 for Honorary Fellows and 42 for Honorary Members.

OPENING CEREMONY (22 NOVEMBER 2016, TUESDAY)

The Mayor of Puerto Princesa, Mr. Lucilo R Bayron, officiated at the Grand Opening Ceremony. He welcomed the delegates to Palawan and hoped that the conference would open an avenue to lead the engineering profession to champion professionalism and academic excellence. Through the exchange of information, AFEO would discover novel ideas, solutions and knowledge that could reinforce the current capacity to design and build efficient infrastructures in the fields of construction, transportation and logistics.

Following the opening ceremony, country reports from each of the AFEO member organisations were presented by the respective Presidents or Heads of member organisations.

CONFERMENT OF AFEO DISTINGUISHED HONORARY PATRON AND DISTINGUISHED HONORARY FELLOW

The AFEO Distinguished Honorary Patron, the most prestigious and highest

AFEO award was conferred on the former President of the Philippines, His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos.

The following received the Distinguished Honorary fellows: Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Malaysia Datuk Ir. Dr Wee Ka Siong, Minister of Public Works and Housing, Republic of Indonesia Dr Ir. Mohamad Basoeki Hadmoeljono, Cabinet Secretary (Minister) Department of Energy of Philippines Zenaida Ygnacio Monsada, Cabinet Secretary (Minister) Department of Science and Technology (DOST) of Philippines Fortunato Tanseco de la Peña, Union Minister, Ministry of Construction, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Patron of Myanmar Engineering Council HE U Win Khaing, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Cambodia HE Tram Iv Tek, Executive Director, Operation Director and Chairman of Technical Committee on Distance Education via Satellite Foundation of Thailand and Director of National Space Policy Committee of Thailand Assoc. Prof. Dr Suthi Aksornkitti.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

CAFEO 34 provided the opportunity to share and exchange experiences and expertise as well as to create awareness and understanding of recent developments and trends in the field of engineering and technology in ASEAN. In total, there were 33 technical papers, including papers from keynote speakers and invited speakers.

FEIAP EXCO MEETING

Besides the conference sessions, the working group meetings and ASEAN Engineering Register Commission meeting, the Federation of Engineering Institution of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) also held its Exco meetings in conjunction with CAFEO 34. The Young Engineers of AFEO (YEA-FEO) and Woman Engineers of AFEO (WE-AFEO) meetings also went on as scheduled. All findings and proposals from the meetings were presented to the AFEO Governing Board which summed up the activities on 23 November 2016. The Board members then signed the Palawan Declaration after the Board meeting, followed by the exchange of tokens of appreciation and photography sessions.

AFEO BOARD MEETING (23 NOVEMBER 2016)

The AFEO Board meeting discussed reports by AFEO Awards Committee, AER Head Commissioner, AFEO Working Groups, YEA-FEO, WEAFEO, AFEO 2017 budget and Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of AFEO Governing Board 2017.



AFEO Board Meeting in Session

CLOSING CEREMONY (23 NOVEMBER 2016)

The CAFEO 34 Closing Banquet was attended by over 1,200 delegates, fellow engineers, distinguished local guests and those from ASEAN and other parts of the world. There were activities such as the presentation of AFEO Engineering Achievement Awards for best engineering projects, feats and well-known or eminent individuals from ASEAN countries.

List of Awards at Cafeo 34 – AFEO Winners (Malaysia)

AFEO Distinguished Hon Fellow	Ir. Dr Wee Ka Siong, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Malaysia
AFEO Hon Fellow	Dato Ir. Lim Chow Hock, AFEO Immediate Past Chairman & IBV Immediate Past President
AFEO Hon Member	Ir. Lee Weng Onn, IEM Country Registrar 2015 and IBV Vice President (Upgrade from Hon Member)
	Ir. Lee Boon Chong, IEM Vice President (Upgrade from Hon. Member)
	Ir. Prof. Dr Ruslan bin Hassan, IBV Vice President (Upgrade from Hon. Member)
	Ir. Lai Sze Ching, IBV Vice President
	Ir. Ong Sang Woh, Ex-Excomm Member
	Ir. Kim Kek Seong, Ex-Excomm Member
	Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Norlida binti Buniyamin, Excomm member and Vice President Southern Branch
	Ir. Assoc. Prof. Hayati binti Abdullah, Southern Branch Chairperson and Ex-Excomm member
	Ir. Fam Yew Hin, METD Chairman
	Ir. Dr Tan Chee Fai, Melaka Branch Chairman and Excomm member
Ir. Elias bin Saidin, IEM Vice President, AER Head, Commissioner	

Outstanding engineers and eminent personalities were also conferred honorary titles. These were followed by cultural performances, singing and dancing, with special performances by CAFEO delegates, women engineers and young engineers from the various countries.

The handover ceremony was also held during the Grand Gala Dinner. By rotation, after the Philippines, it now falls on Thailand to hold the AFEO Chair and to host CAFEO 35 in 2017. To mark the end of CAFEO 34, PTC President Engr. Fred Monsada handed the AFEO flag to the Engineering Institute of Thailand (EIT), which was represented by Assoc. Prof. Dr Suttisak Sorulump, the Head of EIT delegation and Organising Chairman for CAFEO 35.

The event carried on with lots of singing and dancing, marking and celebrating yet another successful conference.

EXHIBITION BOOTHS AND MINI BAZAAR

Break times provided respite from the serious business of the day and gave delegates time to network and catch up with colleagues and peers. The exhibition booths and a mini-bazaar added interaction and allowed spouses and delegates to go on a shopping spree.

CAFEO 35 IN BANGKOK, THAILAND

The President of PTC, Hon. AFEO Federico A. Monsada, thanked all AFEO heads of delegation for their enthusiastic participation. He also expressed his gratitude to the generous sponsors, without whom CAFEO 34 would not have achieved such great success.

“Thank you very much and see you all at CAFEO 35 in Bangkok, Thailand,” he said in closing. As had been the practice for a while now, CAFEO 34 also afforded priority to young engineers and women engineers from the region, providing them with a platform for establishing rapport for future engineering activities and collaborations. ■

Authors' Bio data

Ir. Dr Leong Wai Yie, is currently the Chairman of Women Engineers Section. She is involved in biomedical signal processing analysis and wireless communications.

Kok Jing Shun, is currently the Chairman of Young Engineers Section. He is a senior mechanical engineer at Duriane Consult.