

Why You Should Be an Engineer

reported by



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In 1951, the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) in the USA, launched National Engineers Week to coincide with President George Washington's birthday on 22 February.

George Washington was considered the first engineer in America and he was highly recognised for his engineering survey works. He became a professional surveyor at age 17. At that time (1749), surveying was a respectable occupation, one that was on par with law, medicine, the church or military service.



The purpose of National Engineers Week is to recognise the contributions that engineers make to society and to

highlight the importance of science, technical skills and mathematics. Spearheaded by NSPE, the annual celebration is endorsed and supported by 70 engineering societies and 50 corporations, with events and activities organised by schools, businesses and communities to motivate young people to pursue careers in engineering.

In Africa, Engineering Week was launched on 1-5 September, 2014, at the University of Johannesburg. This saw a series of educational activities in



schools across Africa to encourage students to enroll in the STEM curriculum and to highlight the need for diverse engineers to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

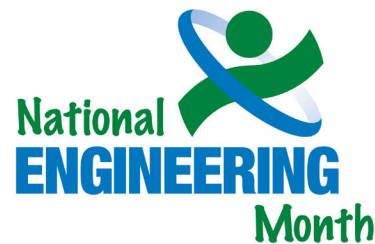
UNESCO supports the activities of UNESCO Africa Engineering Week, which is aimed at increasing the visibility of engineering and the role of engineers in sustainable development as well as to encourage more students to study engineering by supplementing primary/secondary curriculum with hands-on engineering activity kits. Educational, public awareness, university and mentoring activities are held throughout the African continent during the week.

In Ireland, nationwide events are held during Engineers Week where organisations, schools, universities and education centres hold activities to create greater

awareness of and enthusiasm for the engineering profession. Engineers in Ireland have a programme called STEPS (Science, Technology and Engineering Programmes for Schools), working with Science Foundation Ireland to promote STEM careers to post-primary students. This year (2017) will be its 12th annual nationwide celebration of Engineering Week.

In Australia, Engineering Week will be held on 3-10 August 2017 with national and international engineers attending events throughout the country. Engineers Australia also supports National Science Week and encourages its members to coordinate their own events besides participating in the activities being held.

The aim of National Science Week is to increase awareness of and to provide a better understanding of the role of science, technology and innovation in everyday life and our future. It is a great opportunity to celebrate the significant contributions that engineers make to society.



Engineers Canada holds its annual National Engineering Month in March with over 500 events hosted by the provincial and territorial engineering regulatory bodies. Young Canadians can

learn more about the exciting and rewarding careers in engineering while engineers share more about the various disciplines so that youths can see what will suit their skill set and interests. The youths can then pick the discipline that motivates and excites them the most. Parents, teachers, students, aspiring engineers and engineers also get involved as volunteers.

- It provides an opportunity for youth to learn about engineering.
- It helps kids understand the various things they can do as engineers.
- It can teach youth what it takes to become a professional engineer.
- It helps to profile for youth the accomplishments of Canada's engineers.

Engineers Canada National Engineering Month is in March

In India, the Council of the Institution of Engineers (India) observes Engineers Day on 15 September, the birthday of

Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (1861-1962) who was recognised as a wizard in engineering.

The 16th annual Egyptian Engineering Day, organised by the IEEE Young Professionals (YP) Egypt Section, is a shared hub for exchanging best practices and new ideas which promote both engineering science and profession. Graduating students also get the chance to market their projects and to explore the latest technologies and solutions which fit the current market needs.

For the Institution of Engineers Singapore (IES), the 8th National Engineers Day (NED) in July 2017, celebrated the achievements of engineers, inspired young engineers and intrigued the younger generation. There were fun and enriching activities which demonstrated the ingenuity of engineers and the many career possibilities in engineering. NED has grown to become the largest engineering festival in Singapore for students.



In Malaysia, the first IEM Engineering Week (initially named IEM Engineers Week) was held on 14-19 October, 1996. The event was launched by the-then

Minister of Energy, Telecommunication and Posts, Dato' Leo Moggie. The week-long programme, carried out at the IEM HQ as well as branches nationwide, comprised career talks at schools, an exhibition, Radio and TV talk shows and Press coverage.

IEM Engineering Week represents our continuing efforts to enhance the image of the profession among the community. Over the years, the programme had focused on promoting the profession and creating greater awareness of the contribution of engineers in nation building to the public, including children. Activities such as talks on careers in engineering were held in secondary schools, engineering-related games were held in primary schools and open forums on engineering as well as exhibitions were organised nationwide.



The students were building the "Future City" using the recycling material provided by the organizer

In 2012, IEM held a competition titled "Engineering Invention and Innovation Exhibition" (EINIX) where university students were encouraged to showcase their innovations and inventions. For the first competition, unlikely inspirations included worms, motorcycle accident statistics and rising electricity bills. The winning team from Universiti Teknologi Petronas used the vermi composting process to generate energy in its Vermi Battery. The competition is now an annual event.

IEM has also introduced IEM Engineers Run to promote healthy living as well as interaction between engineers and their families. There were only 200 participants for the inaugural event but today, this has grown. It is now not only held at HQ level but at various IEM Branches which are organising their own runs. In Sarawak last year, the event saw 2,000 runners taking part.

For its 22nd consecutive Engineers Week 2017, IEM has aptly picked the theme, "Engineering The World For A Better Future". The week-long programme will aggressively promote engineering and its various aspects, including challenges, professionalism, exciting work environment and wide career options.

This will allow Malaysians to understand and appreciate better how the profession can help provide them with higher standards of living. The target audience for these strategies would be parents, teachers and students.

With Engineering Week being celebrated annually around the world, IEM proposes holding an annual National Engineers Week in Malaysia, in collaboration with associations, institutions, corporations and schools to encourage youths to select a career in engineering, technology and science. ■



Winning team from Universiti Malaya

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