

Engineers, EmPOWERing Our Nation

SARAWAK BRANCH - YOUNG ENGINEERS SECTION

reported by



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The IEM Engineering Expo was initially held in conjunction with Pi Day to commemorate Pi (π), a constant that is essential not only in mathematics but also in engineering. It used to be held on or around 14 March each year, in line with the value of Pi which is 3.142.

However, in 2017, the event concept was revamped to place more emphasis on engineering itself. The expo now features more than just companies exhibiting engineering products and services; it includes companies looking to recruit engineers, universities, government agencies and other learned societies related to the engineering field.

This year's event, themed "Engineers, EmPOWERing Our Nation", was held on 14-15 April at The Hills Shopping Mall, Kuching. It was launched by Batu Kitang State Assemblyman, Y.B. Cr. Ir. Lo Khere Chiang, who is also a civil engineer, together with IEM Sarawak Branch Chairman, Ir. Tang Chok Khing and other IEM Sarawak Branch and YES Sarawak committee members.

There were 37 booths, including that of Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Electrical Inspectorate Unit (EIU), institutions of higher education and engineering companies. Exhibits included the latest safety standards and regulations by the authorities, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes by universities and sophisticated engineering technologies by engineering companies.



The organising committee with Y.B. Cr. Ir. Lo Khere Chiang

Technical talks are a main highlight at the annual IEM Engineering Expo. Due to the overwhelming response received in 2017, parallel sessions were held this year to accommodate more than 20 talks, with topics ranging from the engineering field to occupational health and safety related issues.

CPD points were awarded to participants of technical talks on the latest engineering trends and technologies. A talk on "An Overview of the Professional Engineers' Interview" was held for the benefit of graduate engineers planning to obtain their Professional Engineer status.

In conjunction with the event and to promote safety awareness, especially in the construction field, IEM Sarawak Branch also collaborated with CIDB to offer a mandatory course, "Course on Safety Induction Construction Workers (SICW)-CIDB", for construction site personnel. Others who participated included contractors and other parties in the construction field.

IEM Sarawak Branch also invited Sarawak Veterinary Association and Sarawak General Hospital to give safety awareness talks related to the recent rabies outbreak, both

on human and animal aspects. Updates on the outbreak as well as precautionary actions were discussed during these sessions.

IEM Sarawak Branch, in collaboration with Malaysia Red Crescent Stampin Chapter and Borneo Medical Centre, held a blood donation drive during the event this year as part of its social responsibility programme. This received an encouraging number of turn-ups as in previous editions of the activity.

Other programmes included "Networking High Tea" and "Build & Break Competition". The networking session was aimed at encouraging close interaction and exchange of ideas among exhibitors, technical talk participants and exhibition visitors, while the second programme was aimed at promoting creative thinking and engineering problem-solving skills among participants who were only given the problem and tools on the spot.

Overall, the event was a huge success. IEM Sarawak Branch would like to thank all parties involved for their kind support. ■