

# YOUNG ENGINEERS NATIONAL SUMMIT PENANG 2019

YOUNG ENGINEERS SECTION, PENANG BRANCH



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The IEM Young Engineers National Summit (NATSUM), an annual event for young engineers, was held in Penang this year.

NATSUM, a traditional annual event for young engineers, has a history dating back to over a decade. It is highly anticipated by young engineers who come together from all over Malaysia to network and exchange ideas, experience and knowledge as well as to discuss current issues encountered by graduate engineers and students in the university, workplace and society.

The host this year was Young Engineers Section (YES) of IEM (Penang Branch) which received the baton from YES (Pahang Branch) last year. NATSUM 2019 was held on 4 - 7 July 2019 in KOMTAR and M-Summit 191, bringing new conference experiences to 150 participants at the highest tower on Penang Island.

The guest of honour was Penang State Executive Councillor for public works, utilities and flood mitigation, Y.B. Zairil Khir Johari, who officiated at the opening ceremony in the KOMTAR Auditorium. In his speech, he expressed hope that more youths will be inspired to pursue engineering as a career.



IEM-YES (Penang Branch) bagged the award for Outstanding IEM-YES Branch Session 2018/2019

Penang, being the Silicon Valley of the East, has a large number of global technology corporations located in Bayan Lepas Free Industrial Zone, Penang Science Park and Batu Kawan; these employ thousands of engineers. "We need more engineers, not only in Penang but also in the whole of Malaysia, to work together towards making us an advanced and developed country with highly skilled workers and professionals," he said.

## TECHNICAL VISITS

For NATSUM 2019, two technical visits were organised, to ViTrox Corporation Berhad and Penang Island City Council (MBPP) Smart City Surveillance Centre.

The first technical visit was to the ViTrox Campus 2.0 headquarters in the new Batu Kawan Industrial Park; ViTrox specialises in developing machine vision systems and automated optical inspection systems for applications in semiconductor and electronic packaging industries, such as printed circuit board assembly inspection and back-end integrated circuit assembly inspection.

The visit started with a plant tour to see operations of the various departments, including product assembly and testing, packaging, warehouse as well as R&D and administration. This was followed by a briefing on the company background.

The visit was a great learning experience, especially for young engineers and students who had never worked in a



Group photo at the opening ceremony of NATSUM 2019

factory. They were also given the chance to explore the working culture in high-tech industries which Penang is famous for.

The second technical visit was to MBPP Smart City Surveillance Centre (CCTV Operation Room) on the 4th floor of KOMTAR. Here, Penang launched its facial recognition system with a total of 767 CCTVs installed on the island, making it the first in the country to introduce the technology. The system uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to recognise faces captured by CCTVs and it's linked to the police operations room; this helps police to track wanted criminals and reduce crime rates in the state. This is an initiative by the Penang state government, MBPP and police to improve public safety in the state.

## FUTURE ENGINEERS ENGAGEMENT SESSION

On the second day, the highlight was the Future Engineers Engagement Session (FEES). This marked the first time that participation in NATSUM was opened to secondary school (Forms 4 & 5) and pre-university students (Form 6). This was aimed at cultivating their interest in engineering.

In-line with the NATSUM theme, *Connecting the Inspiration and Creating A Better Nation*, an inspiring talk was delivered by Dato' Ir. Lim Kok Khong who said the transformation to becoming a high income nation was bound closely with good working attitudes and positive mindsets. Good vs bad practices in construction sites and the drainage system comparison between Malaysia and Japan were used as examples to instill strong work ethics in young people and to emphasise why they should always work in a systematic and proper manner.

The secondary school and pre-university students also had the chance to attend the opening ceremony of NATSUM 2019 and to join in the technical visit to MBPP Smart City Surveillance Centre. FEES also exposed students to the challenges of being a young engineer in today's fast-paced industry through listening to the presentation and experience sharing by the IEM-YES branch and university student section. FEES ended with evening with a tea break and interactive session with young engineers. Students took the opportunity to ask practising engineers more about engineering courses, engineer's life-styles, working environment, remunerations etc.

## INTERBRANCH YES & STUDENT SECTION MEETING

At every NATSUM, YES branches and Student Sections gather for a meeting among themselves. This year, the following were highlighted:

- NATSUM will be hosted by the Southern Branch in 2020 and by Sabah Branch in 2021.
- Discussions on several issues regarding the common NATSUM fund such as funding by branches and withdrawal by the host.
- Branches agreed on a common month every year for holding NATSUM.
- Number of membership drives by each branch were presented.

- A common YEAFEO fund to subsidise participation costs for each branch was set up.
- A previous proposal where council seats would be filled by representatives from other branches was scrapped due to by-law restrictions.
- Engineering Run by all branches proposed to be held on the same date with common suppliers.
- Standardised e-cards among all branches to continue.
- Branches raised the issue of low YES volunteer participation and discussed various methods to resolve this.
- Student sections brought up the yearly issue of IEM student membership cards. IEM YES HQ was advised to directly liaise with their committee.

## DISCOVERY, DISCOVERY, DISCOVERY

NATSUM 2019 participants took part in the NATSUM Heritage Hunt, held in conjunction with Georgetown World Heritage Day. Participants had to search for stations all around Georgetown and to perform respective tasks to collect points.

These tasks included traditional activities such as playing gasing (top spinning) while others involved cultural and historical aspects like taking photographs at colonial buildings, searching for clues and answering questions. Apart from the rewards at the end, the event allowed participants to interact with the locals and to immerse themselves in a culture tinged with colonial influences.

## CLOSING DINNER & AWARD CEREMONY

The closing dinner was held at the highest spot in the Georgetown Heritage Site, Top View Restaurant on levels 59/60 of KOMTAR Tower. There, guests enjoyed the international buffet while admiring the beautiful sunset and stunning panoramas of Penang at night.

The evening started with a speech by Mr. Loh Kwan Jou, organising chairman of NATSUM 2019. He thanked the sponsors for their invaluable contributions which helped make the event a success and presented them with tokens of appreciation.

An award presentation ceremony was the highlight of the closing dinner. Every year, awards are presented to YES branches and student sections in recognition of their outstanding efforts and hard work. See table for awards list.

Outstanding IEM-YES Branch Session 2018/2019	Outstanding Student Section Session 2018/2019
YES Penang Branch YES Sarawak Branch YES Miri Branch	Universiti Malaysia Sarawak Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Universiti Sains Malaysia

NATSUM 2019 ended with the handing over of the host baton to IEM-YES Southern branch for NATSUM 2020. See you in Johor next year. ■