

Courtesy Visit of the IChemE for Potential Collaboration

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING TECHNICAL DIVISION



by Ir. Prof. Dr Dominic Foo Chwan Yee

IEM hosted a courtesy visit by a delegation from the Institution of Chemical Engineers, UK (IChemE) on 3 October 2012 at Wisma IEM. IEM was represented by Deputy President, Ir. Choo Kok Beng, Executive Director, Ir. Cheang Kok-Meng, as well as representatives from the Chemical Engineering Technical Division (CETD), namely the CETD Chairman, Ir. Prof. Dr Dominic Foo Chwan Yee (then Deputy Chairman) and CETD Secretary/Treasurer, Ir. Thayananthan Balakrishnan (then Committee Member). The IChemE was represented by its Deputy CEO, Mr. Justin Blades; Chairman of IChemE Malaysia Branch, Ir. Prof. Dr Abdul Wahab Mohammad, and the Southeast Asia Regional Manager, Mr. Mohan Balasingam. The purpose of the visit was to identify the areas of interest for potential collaboration between these two organisations in the near future.

To kick start the discussion, Ir. Cheang Kok-Meng had first introduced the background of IEM to IChemE. Then, he gave a more thorough overview about IEM, such as its



From left: CETD Chairman Ir. Prof. Dr Dominic Foo Chwan Yee; IChemE Regional Manager (SEA), Mr. Mohan Balasingam; CETD Secretary/Treasurer, Ir. Thayananthan Balakrishnan; IChemE Deputy CEO, Mr. Justin Blades; IChemE Malaysian Branch Chairman, Prof. Ir. Dr Abdul Wahab Mohammad; IEM Deputy President, Ir. Choo Kok Beng; and IEM Executive Director, Ir. Cheang Kok Meng posing together after the IEM-IChemE meeting



IChemE Malaysian Branch Chairman, Prof. Ir. Dr. Abdul Wahab Mohammad, elaborating the agenda and purpose of the visit to IEM representatives in the meeting



IEM Deputy President Ir. Choo Kok Beng presenting a token of appreciation to IChemE Deputy CEO, Mr. Justin Blades

current membership which had reached 23,000 throughout Malaysia, with its 18 Technical Divisions and three Special Interest Groups, covering the four major (i.e. civil, mechanical, electrical and chemical) and minor engineering disciplines.

According to Mr. Justin Blades, IChemE is an international body representing chemical engineers worldwide with a total membership of 35,000 across 120 countries. He also explained that the branch in Malaysia had recorded the strongest membership growth in the past few years.

The two organisations have reached an agreement that it was timely to work together for the benefit of their members. Both Ir. Choo Kok Beng and Mr. Justin Blades have also agreed that an area of mutual benefit was the corporate membership of both parties, which needed to be explored in detail with the formation of a special committee. Ir. Prof. Dr Dominic Foo also suggested that various activities could be jointly organised between CETD and the IChemE. The visit concluded with a proposal to sign a Memorandum of Agreement between IEM and IChemE in the near future. ■

Ir. Prof. Dr Dominic Foo Chwan Yee is currently the chairman of IEM Chemical Engineering Technical Division (CETD). He is the Founding Director of the Centre of Excellence for Green Technologies, University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. Dominic won the 2009 Innovator of the Year of IChemE, 2010 Young Engineer Award of IEM, and also the recent Outstanding Young Malaysian Award 2012.