

Retreat and Brainstorming Workshop

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHNICAL DIVISION



by Ir. Chok Yuk Yun

THE annual Retreat and Brainstorming Workshop of the Mechanical Engineering Technical Division (METD) for Session 2012/13 was held on 15 December 2012 at Raintree Club, Ampang. The main objectives of the retreat session were to assist the new committee members to familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) as well as to develop the divisional action plan for year 2013.

The very first retreat session of METD was mooted back in year 2005, as the committee members felt that the monthly meeting in the evening was too short and not conducive enough for the committee to chart out the annual plan and activities. Since then, the retreat session has become an annual event for METD, and it has been proven that such event is of great help in generating new ideas as well as putting together an effective annual plan for the new term.

As a result, several new activities (in addition to the regular talks, courses and visits) have been successfully rolled out to promote networking among its members as well as to share knowledge or technology updates. It may also be worth mentioning that as a result from such systematic planning, METD has won the IEM Presidential Award of Excellence for six consecutive years.



The retreat session for 2012/2013 was well attended by the METD Committee Members. The session started at 8.30 a.m. with a welcoming speech given by the Chairman Ir. Noor Hisham. In his welcoming speech, Ir. Hisham explained the main purposes and objectives of the retreat session as well as the key areas of focus for 2013 to the attendees.

The retreat session was then handed over to the Deputy Chairman, Ir. Fam Yew Hin, who acted as the session facilitator. He presented the general policies and procedures for organising activities in IEM and elaborated on the proposed direction of the technical division in the key areas of focus. The attendees were then divided into four different groups, each of which was assigned to handle a specific area of focus respectively.

Lively discussions were held to brainstorm and propose activities for year 2013. Subsequently, a 'challenge session' was held where respective group representatives were given the opportunity to present their proposals to all the attendees for constructive comments and debate.

As in previous years, the retreat ended with the finalisation of a comprehensive action plan for the coming term, comprising both new and regular activities. Let us all hope that 2013 will be another interesting year for METD and its members! ■

Ir. Chok Yuk Yun possesses a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from University of Wales, Swansea, United Kingdom (2001) and a Master in Business Administration (MBA) from University of Malaya (UM) (2008). Currently he is a Process Safety Engineer in Talisman Malaysia Limited, with the main responsibility of providing support to the company's operations and facilities engineering team in safety related tasks. He is a Committee Member of the IEM Mechanical Engineering Technical Division for the 2012/2013 session.