

CAFEO 35 BANGKOK, THAILAND

Towards a Sufficiency Economy

Pathways to Sustainable Development

YOUNG ENGINEERS SECTION

reported by



Ms. Ong Chew Yi

The 35th Conference of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (CAFEO), organised by The Engineering Institution of Thailand (EIT) under H.E. The King's patronage, was held in conjunction with 24th YEAFEO and 6th WE-AFEO.

It was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 16 to 18 November, 2017, at Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre (QSNCC). More than 1,066 participants attended the event, mainly from ASEAN with FEIAP member economy, non-ASEAN countries such as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Tunisia, Canada, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, India, Australia and China. The biggest delegation was from The Philippines Technological Council (PTC) with 261 delegates, followed by Myanmar Engineering Society (MES) with 226 delegates, Persatuan Insinyour Indonesia (PII) with 158 delegates, IEM with 114 delegates, Board of Engineers Cambodia (BEC) with 66 delegates, The Engineering Institute of Thailand under The King's Patronage (EIT) with 58 delegates, The Institution of Engineers Singapore (IES) with 37 delegates, Pertubuhan Ukur Jurutera & Arkitek (PUJA) with 22 delegates, Vietnam Union of Science & Technology Associations (VUSTA) with 21 delegates and 114 Malaysian delegation led by IEM President, Ir. Dr Tan Yean Chin.

15 November 2017

Prior to the official beginning of the conference, EIT organised a friendly game of golf at Krungthep Kreetha Sport Club. IEM Deputy President Ir. David Lai Kong Phooi represented the Institution, together with some members from IEM Sarawak Branch. At 7.00 p.m., IEM YES met up with HKIE YMC for dinner, mainly to renew ties. After dinner, IEM YES moved on to the Rot Fai Night Market to hunt for street food and delicacies. Some IEM members who are the officials of AFEO/ AER and Secretariat arrived at noon and made their way to QSNCC to set up the rooms for the following days' meetings.

16 November 2017

On the first day of conference, registration took more than 2 hours due to the overwhelming response; nearly half of the participants were walk-ins. All registered participants received a door gift comprising a laptop bag, a scarf bearing the CAFEO 35 and EIT emblem and a programme handbook. Meanwhile, YES delegates were busy setting up the exhibition booth at the Plenary Hall of QSNCC to showcase and sell IEM-AFEO products.

The day started with three different Working Groups (WGs), namely "Transportation & Logistics", "Education & Capacity Building", and "Energy", which reconvened from the past AFEO.

These WGs focused on the discussions on the standards available in their respective countries, issues of concern, and proposals for new initiatives. It was also a platform for exchanging ideas as well as sharing information, knowledge and expertise. Held concurrently with the WGs was the WE-AFEO Governing Board meeting.

At 10.30 a.m., the boardrooms were re-arranged to accommodate another three WGs, namely "Disaster Preparedness & Mitigation", "Sustainable Cities" and "Environmental Engineering". The ASEAN Engineering Inspectorate Register meeting was also held at the same time. This sub-committee of the ASEAN Engineering Register looks into the setting up of an Electrical Inspectorate Register to unify the codes and practices in ASEAN and to have a register of Electrical Inspectors and Experts.

After lunch, the programmes were also divided into two sets. Officials of AFEO continued with another three important WG meetings, namely Award Meeting, WE-AFEO presenting Country Reports and ASEAN Engineering Inspectorate Register setting up guidelines for the registering of Boilers Inspectors and Building Inspectors. At the same time, YEAFEO delegates went to G-Tower for a technical visit. Upon arrival at the 9th Towers Grand Rama IX, they were briefed by the client, Grand Canal Land, on G-Land development, followed by a presentation by the Director of the KCS & Associates Co., Ltd, Dr Karoon Chandransu, who shared information on key structural components, challenges faced and lesson learnt from the G-Tower development.

At the YEAFEO Governing Board Meeting, discussions were held on how a better ASEAN collaboration could be forged. The discussions were then devoted entirely to the YEAFEO constitutional issues. The meeting was adjourned for the opening ceremony, with consent to re-commence the following day for discussions on the constitution amendment.

The opening ceremony of CAFEO 35 took place in the evening in the QSNCC Ballroom. Only a limited audience was allowed admission into the hall due to security reasons. The ceremony officially precluded with the Thai Royal Anthem, followed by the arrival of The King's representative, General Bundit Malaiarisoon; who is also President of the Thai-Korean War Veterans Association Under Royal Patronage. After the General took the Royal Seat, EIT President Assistant Professor Dr Thanee Weerasiri, gave his welcome speech.

General Malaiarisoon then gave the Royal Opening Remarks and concluded the opening ceremony by cutting the opening silk band. He declared the exhibition opened and visited the exhibition booths.

The day ended with a welcome dinner at Retro Live Café where a live music band entertained everyone.

17 November 2017

On the second day, the morning started with the AFEO Country Report Presentation by presidents of the respective member organisations. Before that, Thailand's Director-General of Energy Policy and Planning Office (EPPO), Dr Twarath Sutabutr (representing the Minister of Energy), presented the Keynote Address of CAFEO 35, followed by the Streaming of Colours, with Presidents of all member organisations walking on to the stage with the ASEAN flags to perform the famous ASEAN Handshake. Delegates from YEAFEO, WE-AFEO and FEIAP witnessed the event.

A welcome speech was given by the AFEO Chairman, followed by a keynote address from Dr Sutabutr on the theme of the conference, "Towards a Sufficiency Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development". All member countries were given 10 minutes to present their country reports, covering the introduction of their respective organisations, major engineering events, on-going and upcoming megaprojects and the challenges faced. The Malaysian country report was presented by IEM President Ir. Dr Tan Yean Chin.

Parallel to the Country Report Presentation was the technical paper presentation, with a total of 74 papers presented under 10 themes such as, sustainability in engineering education, energy, environment, transportation as well as occupational health and safety. Some 100 Malaysian delegates attended this session, presenting technical papers and sharing ideas with fellow participants.

The Committee of the FEIAP Education Engineering Task Force also held two meetings at the same time to discuss guidelines for engineers, engineering technologists and engineering technicians. After the morning session, everyone adjourned for a buffet lunch at Zone C1 of QSNCC.



Delegates at the discussion



Group photo session

After lunch, the AER certificate presentation took place. Delegations from the ASEAN countries collected their membership certificates and medallions; the biggest group was from the Philippines.

Parallel to the AER certificate presentation was the YEAFEO country report presentation, during which representatives from each country took turns to present their respective reports. As per past practice, YEAFEO also recorded the participation of young engineers from Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan. The symbolic exchanging of souvenirs was carried out at the end of the meeting as a pledge of friendship between nations.

The day concluded with a networking dinner at Asiatique The Riverfront for the Young Engineers. The highlight was a puppet show performed by five talented puppeteers who later posed for pictures with the Young Engineers. Meanwhile, the various Presidents and AFEO officials were treated to a river cruise dinner hosted by the EIT President.

18 November 2017

On the third day, the programmes were relatively free and easy. EIT had organised special outdoor activities for YEAFEO and WE-AFEO. Delegates were allowed to join in the special activities.

Most of the Young Engineers took the opportunity to stroll around Bangkok's city centre. That was not so for AFEO and FEIAP as delegates from ASIA and the Pacific took part in the FEIAP Exco, followed by dialogue with the China Association of Science and Technology (CAST) to discuss Belt & Road issues in ASEAN, and the AFEO Governing Board meeting.

The event continued with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration to call for mobility of engineers within ASEAN and to champion economic growth among ASEAN member states. The event continued with Business Networking sessions with speakers Er. Chong Kee Sen from Singapore, Ir. Elias Saidin, the AER Head Commissioner, and a speaker from Thailand who provided information on business opportunities in their respective countries.

The time had come to say goodbye. The farewell banquet was held in the evening in the Ballroom of QSNCC and most of the delegates came in their respective national costumes. The ceremony kicked off with a Thai cultural dance performance. Then the AFEO Chairman and Presidents of Member Organisations marched in. EIT President Assistant Professor Dr Thanee Weerasiri then declared CAFEO 35 closed. The AFEO Flag and the President's pin were presented to Singapore to signify the handing over of the event to The Institution of Engineers, Singapore, the host for CAFEO 36 in 2018.

Each country then gave a performance and the Malaysian delegation sang "Aku Negaraku".

On the whole, everyone had an enjoyable evening and left with fond memories of the time in Bangkok. IEM YES and its Excomm would like to thank EIT for organising CAFEO 35 and we look forward to CAFEO 36 in Singapore! ■