

Challenges on Mobility of Engineers in ASEAN and Beyond

ASEAN ENGINEERS REGISTER (AER)

reported by



Ir. Ellias bin Saidin

At the invitation of Pertubuhan Ukur, Jurutera dan Akitek (PUJA) Engineering Division, Brunei Darussalam, Ir. Ellias bin Saidin, the Head Commissioner of ASEAN Engineers Register (AER), flew to Brunei on 20 May, 2017, to give a talk on "The Challenges on the Mobility of Engineers in ASEAN and Beyond".

The talk was one of three held during the morning session at the Ministry of Development Training Centre in Bandar Seri Begawan; the other two talks were on "Challenges in Construction of the Ulu Tutong Dam" and "Sustainable Construction: Use of Bamboo".

Officiating at the opening in the morning was Dr Dayang Nor Imtihan binti Hj. Abdul Razak, Permanent Secretary (Technical and Professional), Ministry of Development Brunei. Over 60 people, including architects and surveyors as well as PUJA members comprising engineers, architects and surveyors, attended.

In his presentation, Ir. Ellias provided some background on the formation of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO) and the AER. He also shared information on the potential for business among ASEAN member nations which have a combined population of 600 million people, the 3rd largest population grouping in the world, after China and India.

Then he spoke on current international accords and agreements on the accreditation and competency, describing some of the commonality and differences between the requirements and prerequisites of the groupings.

In the standardisation of competency, which will lead to the mobility of engineers across international borders, the major organisations leading the way are:

1. The International Engineering Alliance (IEA)
2. The European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI).

Within ASEAN, the engineering regulatory bodies of member countries

are not common in the membership of the accords described above. This mobility within the context of the "Asean Mutual Recognition Arrangement On Engineering Services", signed in Kuala Lumpur on 9 December, 2005, may pose some challenges due to the accreditation within the accords issue.

At a meeting in Manila on 23 November, 1998, the AFEO Governing Board agreed to the formation of the ASEAN Engineers Register (AER) with the AER Secretariat set up on 3 September, 2002. Its objectives were to promote the recognition of ASEAN engineering team, to safeguard and promote the professional interest of engineers, engineering technologists and technicians, to promote cultural and professional links among members of the engineering profession within ASEAN, to enhance the wealth of ASEAN countries, to provide sufficient data regarding individual engineers, engineering technologists and technicians for the benefit of prospective employers and to encourage a continuous updating of the quality of engineers, engineering technologists and technicians by setting, monitoring and reviewing standards.

The event started with the reception committee at the airport, followed by a sumptuous dinner at the airport mall with a group of PUJA engineers led by Dyg Alice Lim SK.

Finally, members and the committee of PUJA hosted a farewell lunch at the airport lounge restaurant, with VIP Dr Dayang Nor Imtihan in attendance. ■



Ir. Ellias bin Saidin conducting the talk