Spreading Our Wings

I would like to wish all members of the Institution a very Happy New Year and another successful year ahead. For many years IEM has focused and continue to remain focused on membership needs and activities locally. Perhaps it would be timely now to reflect upon our members who are working overseas these recent years. It is also timely to revisit our Constitutions and Bylaws so as to permit the formation of IEM Branches overseas wherein some of our members reside and work. To enable these to happen, the Council may need to get together for another brainstorming session to further chart the spirit of the IEM Constitution so as to effect such a development.

Looking back at the October 2004 Council brainstorming session, the Council addressed four major issues namely: what are the future roles of IEM as a membership driven society; empowerment and delegation; council effectiveness and governance and products/services to meet membership needs. The one item which I feel is of utmost importance to IEM is to provide continuity in its leadership, preferably selected from amongst Vice Presidents (both current or who have served) across the whole spectrum of engineering disciplines if possible. As I have highlighted on many occasions, our strengths and weaknesses lie in our diversity of disciplines and as President of the IEM, I am required to address all issues which affects the membership. To enable this, I have on my part practised collective leadership via empowering those Vice-Presidents in addition to the Deputy and Past Presidents to issue well-researched statements on behalf of IEM each in their own area of expertise. I must thank them and the IEM Council too for enabling such a practice. We are indeed putting into practice some of the findings identified in the strategic plan drawn up from the October 2004 Council brainstorming session.

Year 2006 shall be an extremely busy year ahead for IEM. Not only are we hosting at least four regional and international conferences each with an international advisory board, we are also to host the twenty-fourth Conference of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Institutions, CAFEO-24, IEM being both the Chair and Secretariat of AFEO.

The recent CAFEO-23 hosted by the LAO Union of Science and Engineering Associations (LUSEA) in Vientaine, Laos, December 05, saw the participation of more than 500 engineers from 10 ASEAN countries as well as those from USA, Canada, China, Australia, Korea and Japan. Among the delegates are 70 young engineers of AFEO appropriately identified as YEAFEO who conducted parallel meetings addressing common issues among YEAFEOs within the region. The President of LUSEA, Professor Khamphong Phanvongsa, chaired the AFEO board meeting whilst the ASEAN Engineers Register (AER) Head Commissioner, Ir. Dr Gue See Sew (FIEM), presided over the AER meeting. IEM should be truly proud of our Graduate and Students Section for putting up a captivating sketch plus dances at the farewell dinner.

The Vientaine Resolution was signed and issued as a follow-up to the Yangon Declaration at the 2004 CAFEO held in Myanmar. Details of the Vientaine Resolution reinforced the theme of the meeting, namely "Enhancing ASEAN Co-operation in Engineering for Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development." Further details of the Vientaine Resolution can be sought from IEM's website. Several awards were given out at this meeting including those for the ASEAN Engineers. Under the category of ASEAN Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award, M.E.I. Project Engineers Sdn. Bhd. was nominated and received the ASEAN Outstanding Engineering Award for the design and construction of the Two-Storey Bio-technology Facilities and Office Building at ENSTEK Industrial Estate.

At the home front, it is that time of the year again when elections are held to fill up vacant council seats for the next session. In this respect, I hope more volunteers can step forward to contribute their energy and time towards the advancement of the science and practice of engineering. On a personal note, I hope to see a better spread of representation from amongst the various disciplines within IEM council although this may not always be possible. To all IEM members who celebrated the Deepavali, Hari Raya Aidil Fitri and Christmas, I wish all a belated happy occasion and the same for the coming Chinese New Year. ■

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ERRATA

In the **December 2005** issue of **JURUTERA**, on **page 22** under the article "*Percentage of Loss of Articulation for a Worship Place*", we incorrectly attributed Ir. Chuah Chin Hoon's professional affiliation. It should read:

Ir. Chuah Chin Hoon, P.Eng., FIEM, AMN
Member of Malaysian Senior Scientists Association

Also, in the first table, Paragraph 6, the horizontal table row label "Q "should read "RT 60 (second)"

Our apologies to Ir. Chuah for the oversight.