46th IEM Annual Dinner & Awards Night (Theme: Members' Recognition Night)

By: Gary Wong

It was a night of gala and glitz as IEM members and luminaries converged at the Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre in Bandar Sunway for the 46th IEM Annual Dinner and Awards Night. The theme for the event was "Members Recognition Night". The dinner also marks the official presentation of the incoming Excomm for the 2005/2006 IEM Session, headed by the new Session President, Ir. Prof. Dr Ow Chee Sheng, and the appreciative acknowledgement for the outgoing Council for the 2004/2005 IEM Session, marshalled by Ir. Prof. Abang Abdullah bin Abang Ali.

The dinner was graced with the presence of the Guest of Honour, the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Y. B. Dato' Sri Ir. Dr Jamaluddin bin Dato' Jarjis.

The opening address was presented by Ir. Prof. Dr Ow Chee Sheng. Ir. Prof. Dr Ow stressed that "it is vital to the future success of the country that the Government listens to the nation's professional engineers on sound and timely advice on engineering matters." IEM's mission "to promote and support excellence, creativity and professionalism among engineers, and to work diligently to increase their effectiveness, their image and contributions to society, as civilisation's infrastructure creators and builders" is the driving message for the IEM office bearers, both current and potential, to stand by and bring honour to the profession and the country.

The speech by the President of IEM was immediately followed by the presentation for the IEM Gold Awards, the Best Technical Papers (across the various engineering disciplines), the Presidential Award of Excellence and the Longest Serving Members of the Institution award.

The Guest of Honour, Y. B. Dato' Sri Ir. Dr Jamaluddin bin Dato' Jarjis elevated the proceedings with an impassioned speech regarding the industrialisation of the nation and the key roles that engineers played in that endeavour. A long-standing and successful engineer himself, Y. B. Dato' Sri Ir. Dr Jamaluddin stressed the develop-ment and management of the nation's R&D policy in order to "address the pressing needs of our industries and service sector". Y. B. Dato' Sri Ir. Dr Jamaluddin also highlighted that the "advantages of good infrastructure and 'cheap' labour, which have helped the country in its earlier pursuit of industrialisation, are now insufficient or fading away in the light of strong competition from our neighbouring countries. Future progress and achievement in industrialisation are expected to be science and technology driven."

The evening's proceedings continued with the conferment of the IEM Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award and the conferment of the first IEM Lady Engineer Award 2005 to Ir. Prof. Dr Siti Hamisah bte Tapsir, a first time award acknowledging the contribution of lady engineers in the industry. This was followed by the final two awards, the IEM Award for Contribution to the Engineering Profession in Malaysia and the IEM Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award.

At the end of the program, many engineers were invigorated by the recognition of their contribution and by food for thought of continuous improvement and advocacy of the engineering profession. ■