

Engineering The Last Lap



by Engr. Abi Sofian bin Abdul Hamid

Dear Readers

Happy New Year! Indeed, 2010 was quite a year for engineers. Almost all the major incidences that occurred in 2010 were related to engineering works in one way or another, except of course those caused by natural disasters. The Deepwater Horizon incident was one of the worst engineering disasters in the history of mankind. The jury is still out on the final cost of the failure. Could this kind of disaster have been prevented?

Another significant event, which might be considered as the pinnacle of engineering work during a disaster was the Chile mine incident. As it turned out, all the miners survived and were brought up to the surface by a specially designed capsule, which was the result of an engineering innovation, and well coordinated and managed rescue operation.

So, what is in store for 2011? Perhaps a closer look would bring forth the fact that 1 January 2011 is not only the start to a new year but also a start to the third decade of Vision 2020, which was launched in 1990. It is like being on the home stretch or the last lap, whichever way one looks at it.

As one of the essential components of nation builders, there are plenty of opportunities and challenges for engineers and the engineering society. The New Economic Model (NEM), the Economic Transformation Programs (ETP) and the 10th Malaysia Plan (10MP) are some of the key headlines. While the economist may have completed their number crunching for

these programs, the real work for the engineers is just starting.

Planning, designing, implementing and commissioning are probably the most obvious tasks. The issue of sustainability and environmental friendly engineering will become more prominent. The question is, can we engineers face up to the challenge to ensure all the ideas and concepts on the drawing boards are translated into reality? Our expertise in value engineering and project management will certainly be needed.

Malaysians who were born in 1990 and chose to be engineers are now in their second year of an engineering course. In two years, they will be actively involved in some kind of engineering works. Are we ready to lead and guide them to carry on the good name of the engineering profession towards 2020? With the ever and fast changing way of life, can engineers remain in the traditional domain of engineering or are they ready to impart and infuse engineering practices into other professions?

Let us be more inclusive. Share your thoughts in the coming editions of JURUTERA. Gong Xi Fa Cai to all. ■

Warm Regards

The Editor

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COUNCIL ELECTION FOR SESSION 2011/2012

Nomination papers for the Election of Council Members for Session 2011/2012 will be posted on the IEM website (<http://www.MyIEM.org.my>) and will be available at the IEM Secretariat office from 8 December 2010.

Thank you.
HONORARY SECRETARY

6th
Announcement