A New Era for Engineering

I was recently approached by the Editor of *Jurutera*, Engr. Dr Yeoh Hak Koon as well as Ir. Tu Yong Eng to write a column in the Bulletin for the benefit of our members. As such, I would like to first and foremost thank them as well as the *Jurutera* Editorial Team for their kind invitation for me to pen a few words and to share some of my thoughts with IEM Members through this medium.

As stated in my Presidential Address upon coming into office in April 2009, I am of the view that as engineers, our ability to respond to change is the key to our survival. In this regard, I would like to express my hope and vision to see our members not only excel in their profession locally but also soar beyond our shores. The era of globalisation has opened up boundless opportunities in the mobility of technical expertise within the region. Therefore, we must grasp this opportunity before our counterparts in other countries and economies beat us to it.

On 18 June 2009, Malaysia (via the Engineering Accreditation Council of which IEM is a constituent party) has been admitted as a full member of the Washington Accord. The latter is an international accreditation agreement for engineering academic degrees between the bodies responsible for accreditation in its signatory countries. With Malaysia being a full member, engineering graduates of accredited programmes in Malaysia are recognised by other signatory countries as having met the academic requirements for entry to the practice of engineering from the date of Malaysia's admission to signatory status.

This opens up the opportunity for Malaysian Engineers to offer their services in signatory countries to the Washington Accord such as the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, Hong Kong, South Africa, Japan, Singapore and South Korea. Therefore, I would like to call upon all Members to grasp this golden opportunity to come forth, be exposed and be ready for the advent of globalisation and liberalisation of engineering services.

In this regard, IEM shall continue its commitment in bringing the engineering profession to greater heights, and to extend and strengthen our achievements and esteem around the globe in the interests of our members and the profession. In August 2009, a great boost towards this goal came in the form of a fund totalling RM472,100 under the Services Sector Capacity Development Fund (SSCDF) by the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) for IEM to conduct a series of Outreach and Capacity Building Training Programmes. The Programmes are designed to prepare IEM members for the advent of the liberalisation and opening up of the Domestic Services Sector by 2012 as a First Mover Advantage for IEM's commitments by 2015 as outlined by the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS).

In addition, IEM was also granted RM1 million by MIDA to provide IEM with an integrated ICT digital environment, which includes upgrading its Web Portal to accommodate the online CPD and Accreditation processing, as well as incorporating a Knowledge Repository for members' use. IEM has appointed Task Force Committees to look into each of the activities. We have now completed the planning stage of the activities and the two Task Forces would now proceed to implement the plans.

The year ahead is full of possibilities. I welcome ideas and feedback from IEM members on ways to improve the Institution and the Secretariat. Please do not hesitate to air your views and comments for the betterment of the Institution. Our channels are always open. ■

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NOTICE ON NOMINATION PAPERS FOR COUNCIL ELECTION SESSION 2010/2011

2nd Announcement

Notice inviting nominations for the Election of Council Members for Session 2010/2011 will be posted on the IEM Notice Board and on the website on **5 January 2010** for the information of all Corporate Members. Following the close of nominations on **29 January 2010**, the election exercise will proceed. All Corporate Members residing overseas are requested to take note of the requirements of Bylaw section 5.11.

> *The voting paper shall, not less than twenty-eight (28) clear days before the date of the Annual General Meeting be sent by post to all Corporate Members residing in Malaysia and to any other Corporate Members who may in writing request to have the paper forwarded to him. The voting paper shall be returned to the Honorary Secretary in a sealed envelope so as to reach him by a specified date not less than seven (7) days before the Annual General Meeting.*

Voting papers are expected to be mailed by 2 March 2010.

Corporate Members residing outside Malaysia, who wish to receive voting papers, are advised to write to the Honorary Secretary on or before 1 January 2010.

Thank you.