# YOUNG ENGINEERS IN COMMUNITY SERVICE – "SHOW THEM WE CARE"

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This year, the Graduate & Student Section (G&S) of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) in collaboration with The Rotaract Club of Kuala Lumpur (RACKL), has embarked on our first community service project with the objective of improving the quality of life of less fortunate people. The G&S section, in collaboration with the RACKL, undertook the task of improving the living conditions of the residents of Stepping Stones Home by carrying out refurbishment and renovation works of their lavatory facilities. This was a dream project for the G&S as it created an opportunity for us to contribute our expertise (as young engineers) to the community.

Stepping Stones Home is a shelter home located in Taman Seputeh, housing 54 women and children. The women and children who live at the Home have been abandoned, neglected or were victims of abuse. The children's ages range from 3 to 22 years old. The residents of Stepping Stones Home currently live in an old bungalow, which is a rented premise.

During our initial visits to the home, we discovered the conditions of the lavatories were extremely poor. There was only one common bathroom and 2 toilets, one of which was exposed. This was undoubtedly insufficient for the large number of children staying at the home and furthermore, was incapable of providing privacy for growing children. At that time, all the wastewater was channeled to a pit sump located in a neighbouring house. This wastewater was overflowing the drain, creating unhygienic conditions and a foul smell.

The G&S volunteers decided that the construction of new shower stalls and lavatories were necessary and proposed that 3 new bathrooms and 3 toilets should prove sufficient for the children. After finalising the conceptual design of the toilets, we then decided a new septic tank would be necessary to cater to the large number of children. The cost of the project was estimated at about RM10,000.

As entirely non-profit organisations, the G&S and the RACKL kicked off the project by seeking sponsorship to fund this project. We were fortunate as we managed to quickly secure contributions from a few individuals and corporate organisations.

The construction work commenced on the 13 February 2004 and lasted till the 27 February 2004. The G&S volunteered to supervise the construction work and arrange for the construction workers. The construction work proved to be really challenging, especially when it came to installing the septic tank. We discovered that the water table level in the area was too high, causing a lot of problems. Five days were required to install the 6ft tank into the ground; with the help of grown up boys from the Stepping Stones Home, we managed to put the tank in place and backfill the hole with sand and cement.

Thence, the construction work proceeded smoothly:

- Plumbing works for sewerage
- Brickwork to raise up the floor
- Construction of the wooden frames
- Installation of metal sheets
- Plumbing work for the cold water
- Flooring and other touch up work

The final stage of the project was the official launching of the new lavatories and shower stalls. The session started off with a welcome address by the President of the Rotaract Club of KL, Miss Elyse Lee. Guests present at the launching ceremony included members from the Rotary Club of KL DiRaja; President A. Kanesalingam, New Generations Service Director Attan Akmar and Rotarian Abdul Halim. Also present were Ir. P.E. Chong (Vice President of IEM) and several contributors of the project. After Miss Lee's speech, the caretaker of the homes, Pastor Johnson, delivered a moving speech mentioning how touched he was by the work of the IEM G&S and the Rotaract Club of KL, which has improved tremendously the living conditions of the residents of Stepping Stones Home. Sdr. Suresh Yegambaram (of the G&S), the leader of the project, then briefed the audience on the challenges faced by the volunteers in completing the project.

After that, the session was a formalised with a simple Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and a short tour of the shower and lavatory area.

## CONCLUSION

Sdr. Suresh Yegambaram's simple speech during the launching ceremony has inspired the G&S to continue with our efforts to help those who are not as fortunate. Consequently, the Graduate & Student Section has decided to organise a G&S Charity Dinner & Dance in June 2004, whereby proceeds from the dinner will be donated to another charity-based project.

For those who would like to participate or contribute to the Charity Dinner, please contact Sdr. Suresh Yegambaram, (012-3059967), Sdr. Yau Chau Fong (012-3882570) or e-mail us at iemgs@yahoo.com

More information on the Stepping Stones Homes renovation works and the G&S Charity Dinner & Dance is available at our website at http://www.iem.org.my/external/g&s

## "SHOW THEM WE CARE"

PS: The G&S Committee would like to thank the RACKL, all volunteers, and all sponsors who have contributed to the success of the Stepping Stones Home project. ■

# ENIGMA INTERVARSITY ENGINEERING QUIZ 2004 – The Engineering Society Multimedia University (Melaka)

The Engineering Society of Multimedia University (Melaka campus) recently organised an Intervarsity Engineering Quiz by the name of 'ENIGMA Intervarsity Engineering Quiz' on 8 January 2004 from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. at the Main Hall, MMU (Melaka). The event was held in conjunction with E-WEEK and was open to all engineering undergraduates of public and private institutions of higher learning throughout the country.

The event attracted 37 teams, totaling 111 participants from six different universities/colleges. The participants were from International Islamic University Malaysia, Inti College Malaysia, University Teknologi Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur Infrastructure University College, Kolej Universiti Teknologi Tun Hussein Onn and Multimedia University. In the run-up to the event, the organisers sought help and assistance from The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM). The quiz was judged by three representatives from IEM, Prof. Madya Lt. Kol. Ir. Mohd. Hazani bin Hj. Shafie, Ir. Mohd. Khalid bin Nasir and SDr Tan Chee Fai, in order to ensure that the contest was fair and just. All the questions that were used in the quiz also underwent a verification process by IEM.

During the opening ceremony, Mr. Ong Ming Seng, Chairperson of the Enigma Intervarsity Engineering Quiz 2004, Prof. Madya Lt. Kol. Ir. Mohd. Hazani bin Hj. Shafie, the Chief Judge from IEM and Dr Lim Tuck Meng, Associate Dean of Faculty of Engineering and Technology from Multimedia University were invited to give speeches. Then, Dr Lim Tuck Meng, who represented Dr Peter Von Brevern, Dean of Faculty of Engineering and Technology of Multimedia University, officially opened the event.

During the preliminary round, the participants were given an hour to finish 100 questions. There were 6 supervisors and 1 chief invigilator to supervise the contest. Four teams, consisting of three teams from Multimedia University and one team from International Islamic University Malaysia successfully entered the second round. The top scorer of the preliminary round was Ong Siew Sin from MMU Melaka, who got 72 marks for his team and won the Best Performance Award.

In the second round, participants had to finish a puzzle within 45 minutes, which was finally won by the sole team from International Islamic University Malaysia and one of the teams from Multimedia University.

The final round consisted of oral questions. The questions were drawn by the participants from a box and the questions were announced by the emcee alternating between the two groups. Final winners: International Islamic University Malaysia. The team, consisting of Mohammad Hasan Jamal, Mohd Firdaus Abd. Wahab, and Ahmad Kamaluddin Abd. Fatah, won RM 400, individual trophies and the Enigma Intervarsity Engineering Quiz challenge trophy.

During the closing ceremony, Prof. Madya Lt. Kol. Ir. Mohd. Hazani bin Hj. Shafie, the Chief Judge from IEM, gave a review of the overall performance of the participants in the quiz and encouraged them to work harder in the field of engineering. Then, Mr. Ong Ming Seng, Chairperson of the Enigma Intervarsity Engineering Quiz 2004, thanked the teams for their participation. He also acknowledged the contributions given by the judges and working committees. The event ended at 6.00 p.m. ■