



IEM NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2015

Message from the President



Nadia DABY
SESARAM
IEM President
iem.president@intnet.mu

The Annual General Meeting 2015 of the Institution of Engineers (Mauritius) was held on 17th March 2015. It is a year already that your current Council has been working hard to serve the interest of the local engineering community.

The Objects of the Institution inscribed in our Constitution are:

- 2.1.1 To foster engineering science and its application in all engineering disciplines,
- 2.1.2 To ensure the highest standard of service in engineering, and
- 2.1.3 To improve the status and safeguard the interests of the engineering profession.

Yet many Engineers still wonder 'What does IEM bring to us?'

Let me remind members of **Just Ten Good Reasons why one should join IEM** (and by extension **why one should be an active IEM member**). These are based on a leaflet that was issued by IEM years ago.

1. Internationally recognised Association of Engineers; IEM is a full member of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations.
2. IEM keeps the engineering community abreast with developments in the sector through events organised and regular news circulated.
3. Through IEM engineers are able to voice their opinions effectively on matters affecting them and for safeguarding the interests of the Engineering Profession.
4. Through membership, members benefit from improved Recognition and Status as the institution maintains close links with both the public and private sector in Mauritius.
5. IEM is the ideal platform for networking with the local, regional and international Engineering Community.

6. Attendance and/or participation in IEM's regular seminars, workshops and conferences allow members to gain credits towards Continuous Professional Development (CPD).
7. Members take advantage of IEM's overseas exchange programmes and attend international seminars/workshops.



Anand Gungoosingh and Anwar Ramdin admitted as Fellow of IEM

8. Members have the opportunity to represent IEM overseas and have 40% of cost incurred or a maximum of RS. 30,000, whichever is lesser, refunded by IEM.
9. Members represent IEM on Boards and Committees of Government as well as Parastatal Bodies, on which IEM is legally represented.
10. IEM is participatory to the mutual recognition and accreditation initiatives that will lead Mauritius towards membership of the "Washington Accord".

On another note, for the benefit of our members who did not attend the AGM 2015, I would like to recall some key aspects that were reported.

ACTIVITIES OF IEM COMMITTEES

A summary of activities of the Institution is provided below:

Membership & Welfare committee

For the year 2014, IEM has registered 23 applications. Twenty members were admitted as follows: 2 Fellow, 6 Corporate, 7 Associate, 5 Student (3 applications are pending).

Events committee

IEM has organised eight seminars and one site visit over the year 2014.

In March 2015, the 10th International Brunel Lecture was brought to Mauritius by ICE in collaboration with IEM. It was delivered by Duncan Gibb, Executive General Manager SCIRT (Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team). The lecture is entitled "Collectively we are stronger - engineers generating collaborative solutions to strengthen community resilience post-disaster".

Institutional & Legal Framework Committee

The Engineering Council Bill, which has been at draft stage since 2009, is now at final stage of discussions. After being vetted by the State Law Office, the bill should hopefully be presented in National Assembly in the coming months.

Secretariat: You will recall that a budget had been voted to increase secretarial assistance the more so with increased needs with the setting up of our training institution. The aim of a secretarial assistance is twofold: one to take care of the secretariat in a timely manner and to operate from IEM house so that this place starts living. We hope to fill this post at the earliest.

Project of National Importance.

Mr Jadav and other members of the council had recommended that a memo be sent to the new government on projects of national importance. A call was made in December to members to participate in the process. I hereby reiterate my call. You will be happy to learn that the proposal made in 2008 by IEM for a super-elevated bridge through Port Louis has received some consideration and the Minister of MPI has asked for some more details. The chairman of RDA, C. Wong So will assist with all engineers who participated in the 2008 concept.



(From Page 1)

Members on boards and committees

I wish to thank all members of IEM currently serving on boards and committees:

MSB Council: Mr H. Jadav is IEM representative on MSB Council. It is in the process of being reconstituted and a new representative namely Mr Abdel Koodaruth has been proposed to the Ministry. We are waiting nomination

CEB Board: Mr C. Wong So is IEM representative on CEB Board

CRPE Council: Mr C. Wong So and S. Mukoon are IEM representatives on CRPE Board until next year. We have had constant feedback from our members since 2014 and this is very important the more so that CRPE and IEM need to be, and are, on the same wavelength as regards many matters including the Engineering Council Bill.

Energy Efficiency Committee: Mr D Daliah is IEM representative on EEC

CIDB Board: Mr J. Desai was IEM representative on CIDB Board until the CIDB Amendment Bill which reconstituted the board of CIDB.

Financial Decisions

At the last AGM we presented a budget for the year 2015 in which expenses exceed by far the incomes. Year after year, previous Councils have strived to balance IEM budget. This is however not the reality and we believe members should be conscious that IEM needs more income to achieve its commitments to its members in providing events, courses, etc. Ways and means of increasing IEM incomes have been debated during the AGM. One of the means to increase incomes is directly linked to IEM membership fees which have not increased for at least ten years.

We have during AGM 2015 proposed that IEM membership fees be increased as approved by the Council; no objection was raised. Accordingly, as from January 2016, the amended annual subscription fees shall be

Associate Member	:	Rs 900
Corporate Member	:	Rs 1200
Fellow Member	:	Rs 1800

No doubt that the registration of IEM as a Training Institution and the running of courses will be an excellent and justified source of income.

To conclude, I'll say that positive things have been achieved last year; more things could be achieved this year with the participation and active recruitment of more members.

IEM Professional Centre

Dr Andre Chan Chim Yuk
Manager, IEM Professional Centre
achan@uom.ac.mu

We are pleased to announce that in March 2015, the IEM Professional Centre was registered as a training institution by the Mauritius Qualifications Authority (MQA). The latter has also registered Mrs Nadia Daby-Seesaram as Programme Officer and Dr Andre Chan Chim Yuk as Manager of the Centre.

The Professional Centre will be the training arm of IEM with the aim of promoting life-long learning by engineers and reinforcing their competencies. In the short term, CPD short courses and seminars will be offered with the objective of updating the knowledge of engineers in their areas of practice. In the long-term, it is planned to mount advanced specialist courses and, if required, in collaboration with external institutions. A resource library will be set up at the IEM House for the benefits of its members.

MQA approval will be sought for all training programmes so that members can benefit from HRDC refund.

Members are invited to communicate to us subject areas in which they will be interested to follow a short course to allow us to plan according to the requirements of members. We also invite experienced engineers for expression of interest to act as resource persons.

Journal of the Institution of Engineers Mauritius

Call for Papers

Engineering for the Community
September 2015

The Brunel Lecture by Duncan Gibb in March this year illustrated the very basis of the Engineering profession, that of serving the community. Though his lecture focused on 'engineers generating collaborative solutions to strengthen community resilience post disaster', we realised the importance of networking with the community for addressing the needs of society before a disaster happens. We also realized the importance of engineering organisations, such as IEM, taking a lead role in advising the authorities, including the government on societal problems whether it is post disaster or pre disaster. There is no lack of examples of post disaster crisis: the Ring Road, the Terre Rouge Verdun highway, the Bagetelle Dam to name a few. The same applies to pre disaster crisis: Water crisis, Energy production and management, Alleviating traffic congestions, Engineering education, Housing issues, again to name a few.

For the forthcoming issue of the IEM Journal, we invite contributions on 'Engineering for the Community' within the context of pre and post disaster. Every engineer and engineering organization has surely pondered on these issues and worked on designs and solutions to the benefit of the community, over several years now. Some of these solutions have been shared while others have not. Through the IEM Journal, we wish to bring these to the limelight.

Target Dates

Authors submit Abstract (300 words): 31 May 2015
Final paper submission (maximum of 6000 words): 31 July 2015
Publication of the IEM Journal: 13 September 2015

Contributions with details of the author(s) should be sent to the Chief Editor by email on the address below.

Dr Dinesh K Hurreeram
Chief Editor, IEM Journal
Tel: +230 4037840
Mobile: +230 5256 6690
Email: dk.hurreeram@uom.ac.mu

The Editorial Committee reserves the right not to publish or to edit, in consultation with the authors, any contribution received.

IEM Think Tank

Raj H Prayag PDSM, B.Sc. M.Sc. C.Eng. MiCE,FIEM
 Vice-President IEM
 and Chair of the IEM Think Tank

Email: rhpdrnv@intnet.mu

IEM has set up a Think Tank Group comprising experienced members of IEM, experts in their respective fields to lead as opinion leaders in addressing major National Current Engineering Development Issues/Subjects which are pertinent to the Sustainable Development of Mauritius, in line with best available, adaptable, applicable, affordable technologies and practices.



The Think Tank Group aims at leading debates on Subjects of National Interests and to show that the Engineer, by virtue of his studies, qualifications and his/her experience with regard to sustainable development of Mauritius is

best placed to lead discussions and to propose sustainable solutions in a small island developing state context. Furthermore, it must be said that the Engineer is responsible for all infrastructures and services to make the world tick and is at the basis of developments.

It is recalled that IEM is an apolitical and professional institution that promotes best engineering practice for the benefit of the society. IEM is a member of the World Federation Engineering Organisations.

The IEM members are bound by internationally recognised code of ethics and propose the best engineering adaptable and affordable solutions for Mauritius.

The Think Tank Group presently comprises five senior and experienced IEM council members but at the same time it is **an open-ended group**. If **you** feel that you can contribute to the enhancement of the Engineering profession and can more specifically assist in the forthcoming national debate on **ENERGY**, please contact the undersigned and you will be invited to the next meeting of the Think Tank Group at IEM house.

TOR for Think Tank: Each group of experts looks closely at its sector, analyze present situation, identify ways and methods to bring major improvement, based on the concept of what are best for Mauritius. The following are the points that each group looks at:

1. Identify current shortcomings in the chosen Sector
2. Brain storm on ways to improve services in that sector

3. Propose an all-inclusive holistic way forward by defining key drivers in broad lines
4. Promote with sound arguments best practices/solutions for Mauritius
5. Lead national debates on New and Innovative Engineering Solutions through articles in IEM journal, Media (both written and spoken) to bring public awareness on the subject
6. The resulting consensus arrived at after each debate is widely circulated and aimed at enlightening the authorities and decision makers.
7. The first national debate was organised jointly with the University of Mauritius on the 11th October 2014 at the Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium, Reduit and was attended by some 450 persons. The subject that day was: **Water Crisis? What Water crisis?** IEM believes firmly that the water problems can be resolved in the short to medium terms by Mauritian Engineers, who have the necessary experience and know-how.

The subject of the next debate in April 2015 will be on **THE ENERGY** sector. Hereunder are some points that will be thoroughly discussed during the debate:

1. What are the options that are open and available to Mauritius?
2. What is the National Energy Master Plan?
3. What are the National Energy policies?
4. Future Demand and how to meet this demand?
5. What are the traditional and new sources of energy available to Mauritius?
6. What is the most affordable energy available to Mauritius?
7. Should we promote use of renewable energy at any cost?
8. Can the price of Renewable Energy be made affordable to the citizen of Mauritius?
9. What energy is best for Mauritians?

By joining this national debate you will be contributing to the enhancement of

- (1) The Engineering profession,
- (2) Raising the profile of the Professional Mauritian Engineer and
- (3) Demonstrating that the Mauritian engineers are best placed to provide the best solutions appropriate for Mauritius.

The Construction Industry Development Board Act

1. Composition of the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB Acts 1997 and 2008)

The Construction Industry Development Board was set up through Act 25 of 1997 to provide for the development of the construction industry.

The Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) consisted of the following members

- (a) a Chairman who shall be appointed by the Minister;
- (b) 2 representatives of the ministry of Public Infrastructure;
- (c) a representative of the Mauritius Standards Bureau
- (d) a representative of the ministry of Human Resource Development
- (e) 2 persons appointed by the Minister to represent contractors;
- (f) one representative of the Mauritius Association of Architects;
- (g) one representative of the Institution of Engineers;
- (h) one representative of the Mauritius Institute of Surveyors.

The Institution of Engineers (Mauritius) was since the very beginning a members of the Board.

The CIDB Act 25 of 1997 was repealed and replaced by **the Construction Industry Development Board Act 2008**, an Act proclaimed with effect from 11 February 2009, to provide for the consolidation and improvement of the law relating to the regulation of the construction industry.

In the new Act, the Board is administered by the Construction Industry Development Council which consists of

- (a) a Chairperson, who shall be appointed by the Minister;
- (b) 2 representatives of the Ministry responsible for the subject of public infrastructure;
- (c) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of human resource development;
- (d) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of employment;
- (e) a representative of the Mauritius Standards Bureau;
- (f) a representative of the Mauritius Association of Architects;
- (g) a representative of the Institution of Engineers Mauritius;
- (h) a representative of the Mauritius Institute of Surveyors;
- (i) a representative of the Mauritius Association of Quantity Surveyors;
- (j) a representative of contractors' association to be appointed by the Minister;
- (k) a person to be appointed by the Minister to represent the interest of small and medium enterprises of the construction sector.

The Institution of Engineers (Mauritius) is still represented on the Council of the CIDB.

2. The Objects of the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB Act 2008)

As per section 5 of the Act, the objects of the Board shall be to –

- (a) promote the development and improvement of the construction industry;
- (b) promote sustainable growth of the construction industry;
- (c) promote and encourage the participation of the small and medium enterprises in the construction industry;
- (d) promote and assist in the export of services relating to the construction industry;
- (e) promote and stimulate quality assurance in the construction industry;
- (f) promote the awareness of the need for a safe and healthy work environment in the construction industry;
- (g) promote and establish best practice in the construction industry;
- (h) promote research and development relating to the construction industry; and
- (i) facilitate communication between stakeholders of the construction industry.

3. The Construction Industry Development Board (Registration of Consultants and Contractors) Regulations 2014

On 1 August 2014 came into operation the CIDB (Registration of Consultants and Contractors) Regulations. As per section 3(2) of the Regulations,

(2) For the purpose of section 19 of the Act, an application for registration as a —

- (a) consultant in the field of architecture, civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, project management in construction or quantity surveying, as the case may be, shall be made in such form as the Council may approve;
- (b) contractor in the classes of works of building construction works, civil engineering construction works, mechanical works or electrical works, as the case may be, shall be made in such form as the Council may approve.

4. The Construction Industry Development Board (Amendment) Bill (No. II of 2015)

The main object of this Bill is to amend the Construction Industry Development Board Act to, inter alia, provide –

- that a firm or person that or who was providing consultancy services, or undertaking construction works, in Mauritius immediately before 1 August 2014 may continue to provide consultancy services or undertake construction works for such period as may be prescribed, without being registered as a consultant, contractor, foreign consultant or foreign contractor, as the case may be;
- for a change in the definition of “foreign contractor” and “foreign consultant”;
- for the review of the composition of the Construction Industry Development Council.

The composition of the Council of the CIDB is now as follows:

- (a) a Chairperson, who shall be appointed by the Minister;
- (b) a representative of the Ministry;
- (c) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of environment;
- (d) a representative of the Ministry responsible for the subject of local government;
- (e) a representative of the Professional Architects' Council established under the Professional Architects' Council Act;
- (f) a representative of the Professional Quantity Surveyors' Council established under the Professional Quantity Surveyors' Council Act;
- (g) a representative of the Council of Registered Professional Engineers of Mauritius established under the Registered Professional Engineers Council Act;
- (h) a representative of the small and medium enterprises of the construction sector, to be appointed by the Minister;
- (i) a representative of an association of contractors for building and civil engineering works, to be appointed by the Minister;
- (j) a representative of an association of contractors for mechanical and electrical works, to be appointed by the Minister;
- (k) a person having wide experience in the construction industry, to be appointed by the Minister.

With this amendment, learned societies of Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Engineers are replaced by the respective Regulators. **As such IEM has no more direct representative on CIDB Council.**

The Bill was presented in Parliament on 14 and 20 March 2015 and subsequently passed.

5. Causes of Concern

IEM has several causes of concern in the passing of this amendment, and wish to share same with its members and professionals at large.

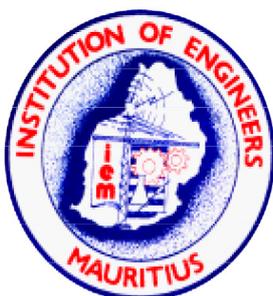
A. Composition of the Board

- a) The amendment of the composition of the Council of the CIDB has been prepared without any consultations of stake holders and without IEM Representative on the Council being informed. This unilateral decision is certainly not in line with some of the objectives of the CIDB in as much as (g) promote and establish best practice in the construction industry and (i) facilitate communication between stakeholders of the construction industry.

- b) IEM has been a major contributor to the CIDB through its various representatives on the Board that have helped the CIDB to evolve over the years. The effort of IEM in the drafting of the CIDB Act and its Regulations is a testimony of the contributions of IEM and through it the Engineering Profession at large.
- c) We have no objection in the reconstitution of the new board by including a representative of the Council of Registered Professional Engineers, but would like to recall that the latter is a regulatory body and its role is limited to the registration of professional engineers as opposed to IEM which is a learned Society with local and international affiliations having amongst its Members, Engineers who have excelled in the Engineering Profession and contributed on a regular basis to uphold the image of the profession
- d) We have no doubt that the regulatory functions of the Board in respect of the construction industry will be fulfilled; however, we express our doubts as regards its promotion of the construction industry (development and improvement, sustainable growth, export of services, research and development are some of the objects of the Board).
- e) It is highly desirable to have a balance between public and private sector among the members of the council of CIDB. The new amendment bill seems to make total abstraction of such consideration.

B. Provision of consultancy services or undertaking construction works for such period as may be prescribed, without being registered as a consultant, contractor.

- a) Consultants in engineering fields and contractors who have duly registered cannot be on the same level as those who have not bothered to register. Due consideration must be given to differentiate between registered and non-registered consultants and contractors.
- b) "for such period as may be prescribed". The lack of a proper timeframe for registration seems to indicate that consultants and contractors can continue operating indefinitely without being registered. This defeats the very purpose of the CIDB and is prejudicial to those who have indeed already registered.



Institution of Engineers Mauritius,

Cnr Ollier & Hitchcock Avenue

Quatre Bornes

E-mail : iem@intnet.mu

www.iemauritius.com/



IEMauritius