



# IEM NEWSLETTER

P. O. BOX 464 Port Louis

February 2010

***IEM will hold its AGM on 1 March 2010. Under section 6.4.1 of the IEM Constitution, IEM should have a new President in Office following the AGM***

A Notice convening the Annual General Meeting on 1 March 2010 at 18.30 Hrs at Gold Crest Hotel, Quatre Bornes, has been published in the dailies and circulated to members.

The event should normally see a renewal of the Council which ends its two-year in office. The President Mr J Soobarah should normally step down as President since the Constitution of the Institution does not permit the President to hold office beyond two consecutive Councils or 4 years. At the time of writing it is known that most of the members on the previous committee have signified their intention (as at closing date for nominations) to seek re-election to the Council. Members will recall that the Constitution provides for a Management Committee of 12 members, comprising 8 elected members, and 4 co-opted members two of whom are appointed with a view to enhance the public image of the Institution. The remaining two co-opted members are normally appointed to provide for a fair representation of engineering disciplines which could otherwise be under-represented.

The following Corporate Members have notified their intention to stand for election to the Council; their candidatures will be subject to their being compliant, i.e. are not in arrears as regards their membership fees as at closing date for nominations:

1. Mr Aboo Bakar Peermamode (**Electrical**)
2. Mr Shyam Ramsurrin (**Electrical**)
3. Mr Clement Sam Soon (**Electrical**)
4. Mr Sarupanand Kinnoo (**Radio Engineering**)
5. Dr Dinesh K Hurreeram (**Mechanical**)
6. Mrs Nadia Daby - Seesaram (**Environmental**)
7. Mr Dhanraj Gungadeen (**Mechanical**)
8. Mr Hirji V Jadav (**Structural**) [**Fellow IEM**]
9. Mr Donald L Dhondee (**Mechanical**)

***Where are we with the draft Engineering Council of Mauritius Act (draft) Bill?***

It is expected that outgoing IEM President will elaborate on this issue in his Report to the AGM. IEM President has been actively involved both at the stage of drafting of the proposals on the Board of the Council of CRPE as well as during discussions within a Committee at the level of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure. A revised draft is awaiting further processing.

Readers may be aware that besides the routine provisions that provide for the administration of the proposed

Engineering Council, the draft includes a proposal for accreditation of engineering degree programmes along the lines of international engineering institutions and regulating bodies. While the Engineering Council would retain its prerogative to develop and promulgate a Standard of Professional Engineering Competence, the draft proposals include provision for establishing a Board of Engineering Accreditation which will have the responsibility, on receipt of an application for accreditation from any University, to undertake the accreditation of any of its engineering programme which it desires to be accredited against the Standards of the Council.

This proposal, apparently, is viewed with strong disapproval by the Tertiary Education Commission, which because of an amendment made to the Tertiary Education Commission Act in 2005, considers that it is the sole body with authority to accredit any course offered by any Tertiary Educational Establishment, including engineering. The views of the CRPE are not known to us at this stage, but we expect that the issue of accreditation (viz. its meaning and purpose, and whether or not such a process can be undertaken by the Engineering Council or not) will need to be resolved before the draft goes to the next move.

It is to our knowledge that the draft proposals represent a serious attempt by CRPE Council to align Council's standards and recognition/accreditation procedures with those that would bring the proposed Engineering Council nearer to qualifying as a member of the Washington Accord or obtaining the "recognition" of the European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education in due course.

Also included in the draft text are proposals to issue a Professional Engineer's Licence, with authority to use the title Professional Engineer, and its abbreviation P.Eng by persons meeting the requirements proposed by the Council for such a status, and to register Engineering Technologists.

***Accrued Role for IEM***

The Editorial Committee wishes to reiterate a possible accrued role for IEM in the environment that will ensue, in the event the draft Engineering Council Bill makes its way to Parliament and receives the approval of the House. IEM may wish to review its membership structure and membership procedures to ensure a greater representation of the major disciplines of engineering and equally permit the key sectors of the profession to play their respective roles within the institution. It may also wish to work towards new working relations with the eventual Engineering Council, and work towards elaboration and implementation of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programmes; for members who may need to submit evidence of undergoing CPD programmes, either in connection with their current

professional registration with overseas institutions, or the proposed Engineering Council of Mauritius. Whether or not IEM makes CPD a requirement for renewing membership of the Corporate Classes or not should not detract from devising CPD schemes and providing CPD opportunities to its members.

The Editorial Committee is of the view that IEM may need to look around and draw from the experience of its overseas counterparts. As the professional association which provides support to the CRPE through its representatives on the Council of the latter body, it should complement the efforts of CRPE. IEM may of course content itself with its present structure, but it could with time work towards taking over, under delegation of authority from CRPE, from the eventual Engineering Council, part of the assessment responsibilities of CRPE.

### ***Co-operation Agreement with ICE (UK)***

We are pleased to announce the signature on 22 January 2010 (at the seat of the British Council in Rose Hill, Mauritius) of an Agreement on Mutual Cooperation between the Institution of Civil Engineers (UK) and the Institution of Engineers (Mauritius), in the presence of Mrs Dawn Long, Director of British Council. As stated in its preamble, the agreement provides for the development of a closer working relationship, to the mutual benefit of members of the institutions and in the interests of the engineering profession.

IEM is thankful to Fellow Member Ram Bahadoor, Chartered Engineer and member of the ICE for bringing about this Agreement, and of course to the ICE President himself, Professor Paul Jowitt, BSc(Eng) PhD DIC CEng CEnv FICE FIPENZ FRSA FCGI FRSE. The ICE was represented by Mrs Ruth Dennet, Senior Manager International Affairs Department of ICE, Ram Bahadoor himself and many ICE Members. The President (J Soobarah) and Secretary (Donald Dhondee) signed the document on behalf of IEM. Our President responded to the congratulatory message from Mrs Ruth Dennet. The programme ended with a cocktail.

The Agreement has now been ratified (on 17 February 2010) by the Council of IEM, and should be available on the IEM website in a couple of days.

While the Agreement does not extend to issues such as recognition of qualifications, memberships or professional titles, etc, it does make it possible for members of each institution to "rub shoulders" at activities that are organised by each other, or even jointly organised or sponsored, i.e. members who are temporarily resident in the other country would be able to attend meetings of the host institution (other than Annual and Special General meetings which are concerned with institution business), use the host institution's buildings including the Library, catering and other facilities, (where these are available), in line with conditions applicable to members of the host Institution. They may participate in the activities of any regional branches in the host country. The Agreement gives them the possibility of obtaining publications and periodicals at

members discounted rate (where possible). The Agreement will initially run for three years, and thereafter it will be renewed automatically for a further three years if not terminated by either institution.

Now that it has been ratified by IEM Council we shall await news of ratification by ICE Council before it takes effect.

Editorial Committee believes that the new Council should see to it that IEM members are issued with a membership card to facilitate their availing themselves of the privileges accruing through the Agreement.

### ***IEM's website***

Members will have observed that the IEM website is back-on-the-air at <http://www.iemauritius.com>. We are still in the process of improving and updating it. Regrettably we have not had much response from members about inaccuracies that have crept into our records. Your comments and criticisms are necessary and will be most welcomed if they can contribute to transforming our web pages into a much accessed source of data and information about engineering and technology in Mauritius.

### ***Essay Competition***

IEM Council has already embarked on its 2010 edition of Essay Competition among the Form VI (lower) college students. The theme proposed this year is "The Contribution of Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) to the realisation of Maurice Ile Durable.

### ***IEM Journal***

The IEM Journal aims at being a primary source of multidisciplinary information for the engineering community in Mauritius. The Journal provides a forum for practicing engineers, academics and technologists to share their experiences, novel concepts and technologies in the engineering field to the benefit of the national economy.

IEM is pleased to invite contributions for the forthcoming issue of its Journal to be released in September 2010. This year the focus of the Journal will be on Sustainable Development in the context of Maurice Ile Durable, and we will welcome contributions in the forms of case studies, research outcomes, or views of our Senior Engineers on the subject area. IEM has approved that it may, in respect of articles that are retained for publication, envisage a refund of expenses to the authors of such articles, of an amount up to Rs5 000. This will not apply to articles that are considered to be mere compilation of information and data retrieved from other sources, even if they are accepted for publication

Details of the Call for Papers are available on our website at [www.iemauritius.com](http://www.iemauritius.com). The deadline for paper submission is 17 June 2010.

## **World Federation of Engineers Organisation (WFEO) News**

The IEM is now a full member of WFEO since January 2010

1. Mr R Moothien Pillay attended the WFEO Train the Trainer Workshop on 'Promoting Individual Integrity towards Preventing Corruption in the Construction Industry' held in Tunis from 19-22 April 2009.
2. Mr D L Dhondee attended a course on 'Ethics and Business Integrity Management in Infrastructure and Procurement' from 28-31 October 2009 in Tunis. The workshop was held under the aegis of the WFEO Standing Committee on Anti-corruption.
3. Mr D L Dhondee had the opportunity to meet with officials of the WFEO from 01 Nov to 06 Nov 2009 in Kuwait during the WFEO General Assembly. He also participated on the WFEO Standing Committees meetings which were organised back to back with the Kuwait Society of Engineers' (KSE) international congress on 'Alternative Energy Applications - Options or a necessity?'
4. The 'Kuwait Declaration Statement' which was declared jointly by WFEO and KSE on the 06 November 2009 after the Congress had been sent to UN Copenhagen Conference on 'Climate Change'.
5. Mr A B Peermamode attended the 'Africa Engineering Organisations Workshop' in Cairo from 22-23 January 2010 organised by the WFEO President Elect of the Mr Adel Al Kharafi. The main purpose of the workshop was to have African Engineering organizations in WFEO to be better represented and involved in the activities of the federation.

In this context, IEM Council members and IEM members are invited to volunteer and become active members of the WFEO standing committees. Details are available from IEM Secretary.

## **Kuwait Declaration Statement from WFEO and KSE**

On the eve of the Copenhagen discussions on climate change, the World Federation of Engineering Organizations in partnership with Kuwait Society of Engineers assembled engineers from 100 countries worldwide to debate on alternative energy options and the challenges associated to sustainable development. The engineering community will continue to update achievements in this front in its future meetings in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October 2010 and in Geneva, Switzerland in September 2011.

As part of the statement forwarded to the Copenhagen Summit, the WFEO, which through its seven international members and eighty national members representing over 15 million engineers worldwide, pledges:

1. To actively engage with government policy makers to ensure that the latter have relevant information on all feasible options.
2. To inform decision makers about risks and how best to adapt civil infrastructure in order to avoid negative impact of climate change.
3. Through its national members to strongly pursue options that will mitigate risks and reduce carbon emissions.
4. To promote young engineers participation and fully engage women engineers to assure their effective involvement at all levels.

## **IEM New/Upgraded Members**

IEM welcomes and congratulates the following new/upgraded members:

### **Honorary Fellow**

Mr L A Darga was admitted as Honorary Fellow of the Institution on the occasion of the IEM Annual Dinner function held at Villa Caroline Beach Hotels on 10th October 2009.

Mr L A Darga was introduced by IEM Fellow R H Prayag as the current Managing Partner of StraConsult (wef 1996); Chairman of Enterprise Mauritius (wef 2006); Member of Managing Committee of UoM Trust (wef 2006), Chairperson of Industrial Task Force (wef 2008); and Co-Chairperson of Mechanism for Transitional Support to Private Sector.

Mr L A Darga was the Minister of Housing, Lands, Town and Country Planning (1993-1995); Mayor of Curepipe (1990-1992), and Member of Parliament (1976-1995). He has been very active on several Boards and Committees at National, Regional and International level, and has numerous Reports, Studies and Consultancies to his credit. IEM proudly welcomes him on Board where he joins several other illustrious 'fils-du-sols' who have contributed to the economic, political and social development of the country. Our congratulations to him.

### **Corporate Members**

Mr R. Maran; Mr N. Bhayro.

### **Associate Members**

Mr.K.Ponnusawmy, Mr.N.Tacouri, Mr.M.Lahoaree, Mr.V.Engutsamy, MrA.Ramlugun, Mr.S.K.Heerah, MsW.Auckburally, MrD.Dusoruth, MrD.Dhawotal, Ms R.Oogur, Mr K.Ishri, Mr.O.Gobin.

### **Student Members:**

Miss M.Mungra, Mr L.Tengur

Your views and comments should be addressed to the Editorial Committee at [iem@intnet.mu](mailto:iem@intnet.mu)

J Soobarah  
D K Hurreeram  
For the Editorial Committee