

26th Conference of ASEAN
Federation of Engineering Organizations
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SUBMISSION TO THE HKIE EXECUTIVE

REPORT OF

26TH CONFERENCE OF THE ASEAN FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING ORGANISATION AND 15TH YOUNG ENGINEERS OF ASEAN FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING ORGANISATION CONFERENCE

26 NOVEMBER- 29 NOVEMBER 2008

BANGKOK, THAILAND



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The 26th Conference of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Federation of Engineering Organisation (CAFEO 26) in conjunction with the 15th Meeting of Young Engineers of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisation (YEAFEO 15) is the highlighted event of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisation (AFEEO).

AFEEO was commenced in 1973, from the engineering convention held between The Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM) and The Institution of Engineers Singapore (IES). The IEM/IES Engineering Convention was held primarily for the purpose of promoting interaction and relationship for their members in view of their common historical background and geographical similarities. IEM and IES took turn to host the convention. In 1976, while preparing for the 3rd IEM/IES Convention it was decided that all other ASEAN countries would be invited. In 1980, an agreement was signed for the formation of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisation (AFEEO). The formal date for the establishment of AFEEO was 8th August 1982. AFEEO is a non-governmental body affiliated with the ASEAN Secretariat. Its members are the national Institutions/Organisations of engineers of the ASEAN countries. AFEEO is an organisation of the national engineering/technological institutions of the ten ASEAN member countries including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

CAFEO has been held annually at the different member institutions in a rotating alphabetical order since 1982. CAFEO historically attracts more than 200 foreign and 300 local engineering professionals from various industries, fields and sectors. CAFEO 26, jointly hosted by the Engineering Institute of Thailand Under Royal Patronage and the Thailand Council of Engineers, was held in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2008.

Besides organising the annual conference known as CAFEO hosted in rotation by member Institution also held the yearly AFEEO government board meeting. The idea that AFEEO should also look into the interest of young engineers was first introduced at the 11th AFEEO government board meeting in Philippines in 1992. In 1993 the committee of young engineers was set up and in 1994, the Bylaws of the formation of a young engineer group were approved and the definition of the Young Engineer was agreed. The group name was Young Engineers of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (YEAFEO). Its mission is to be a dynamic and progressive organisation that leads to the development of young engineers in the ASEAN region. YEAFEO represent the young engineers of the national engineering organizations under AFEEO, comprising members engaged in the common professional

interest of engineering, aware of the important role of engineering to the advancement of the social, economic and industrial development of the ASEAN region; concerted in the effort to elevate and improve the quality of life of the ASEAN people's dynamic actions and productivity to increase employment opportunities and equitable distribution of wealth among the masses of the ASEAN nations, to participate actively in any industrial and technological programs of ASEAN, desirous of exchanging and sharing engineering technology; concerned in basic professional right, cognizant of the need to establish harmony and relationship among the members. This year is the 15th Meeting of Young Engineers of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisation (YEAFEO 15).

Our environment is at the threshold of survival due to the continuous destruction of all humankind. As such, an appropriate and timely theme has been chosen for CAFEO 26, "Interdisciplinary and Trans-boundary Engineering Opportunities in ASEAN", which aims to identifying the engineering solutions and enhancing communication and cooperation amongst ASEAN countries.

This year, five delegates namely Ms Lo Wai Ling, Arlene (Hon. Treasurer), Ms Leung Kar Yee, Carrie (Committee), Mr Lee Kwok Shing, Victor (Committee), Mr Chee Lap Gee, Regis (Committee) and Mr Chan Man Yin, Samson (Event Coordinator) represented the Young Members Committee of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE-YMC) to attend the CAFEO 26 and YEAFEO 15.

1.2 Objective

The purpose and objective of the conference are:

- To promote understanding, goodwill and co-operation among engineers in the member national engineering organizations
- To promote and exchange ideas, experiences and to discuss problems of common interest among national engineering organisations and their members
- To support and assist the purposes and objectives of the AFEO as stated in its Constitution and By-laws

2 CAFEO 26 & YEAFEO 15

CAFEO 26 was held from the 26th - 28th November 2008 at Sofitel Centara Grand Bangkok, Bangkok of Thailand. The details of the programme were referred to Appendix A.

2.1 26th November 2008

YEAFEO Country Report

On the first day of the conference, we registered at about 8:30am at the conference venue for the YEAFEO delegates. The first program that we attended was the YEAFEO Country Report presentation at the hotel from 9:00am. Young Engineers of all the ASEAN countries and guest countries have given a brief presentation of their organizations, past activities and the upcoming activities. Follow



Group Photos for HKIE-YMC Representatives

the past practice, the priority of presentation was according to the alphabetical order of each country and the host country (Thailand) was the last country to present. Owing to the closure of airport, many delegates of different countries could not arrive in Bangkok so were absent of the country report session. Delegates from Cambodia and Brunei were absent of this session.

To represent Hong Kong, our Honorary Treasurer, Ms Arlene Lo had given a brief introduction on HKIE-YMC such as the history, structure, activities held and organized in future. Oversea activities were stressed such as the YMC delegation to Australia in March 2008, World Engineering Conference in Brazil in December 2008 and the continuous participation of YEAFEO every year. The community service participation on 512 Sichuan (China) Earthquake was also highlighted to show that the young engineers of Hong Kong were caring to our society as well as our mother country. With our attendance of YEAFEO in past two years, we have created closed networks with young engineers of other countries; several formal and informal visits to Hong Kong from young engineers of other countries were held last year such as Japan, Malaysia, Philippine. We have received cordial welcome from the representatives of all other countries and we were looking for more visits among other countries to enhance closer links with other.

We were glad to know more about the structure, achievement and culture of different engineering organizations in different countries. For example, in Malaysia, Young Engineering Section (YES) of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) have established a Young Professionals Group with other professional bodies such as the Secretaries & Administrators, Planners, Accountant, Pharmacist



Ms Arlene Lo introduced HKIE-YMC to all other delegates

and Lawyers. They have many joint activities with other professions such the Young Professional Nights. They also have good coordination between different branches in Malaysia such as Penang, Perak and Sabah. For Singapore, the organizer of YEAFEO and CAFEO 2009, the representatives have introduced some major engineering achievements in Singapore and invited all young engineers of other countries to participate the YEAFEO in coming year.

YEAFEO Board Meeting

In Afternoon, we attended the YEAFEO Board Meeting in the same room of the hotel. This meeting was attended only by the engineers of the Young Engineers organization of the ASEAN countries. The Hong Kong delegates together with delegates from Japan, acted as observers to attend this meeting. During the board meeting, various issues had been discussed such as website maintenance, entrance fee of YEAFEO for student member, yearly technical tours, etc. It was confirmed to have technical tour to Myanmar in 2009. After the meeting, we noted that how young engineers from different countries discussed various issues and how problems were resolved through effective communications.

At the end of the meeting, souvenirs were exchanged among all countries. Most of the countries prepared their souvenirs that could best represent their countries culture and landmarks of their countries. We also brought some crystals, information CD and Beijing Olympic gifts as souvenirs for all the countries. Ms Arlene Lo represented HKIE-YMC to give souvenirs to other countries. All the young engineers had taken group photos before the end of the session.



Ms Arlene Lo represented HKIE-YMC to exchange souvenirs from Malaysia



Group photos for all YEAFEO Delegates

2.2 27th November 2008

CAFEO Welcoming Speech

The opening ceremony of CAFEO 26 was officiated in the morning of 27th November 2008 followed by the welcoming speech by AFEO Chairman. The opening ceremony also symbolized the opening of the 2-day exhibition where engineers and specialists from ASEAN member countries shared their transboundary experiences and latest technologies on engineering aspects ranging from alternative energy development and application to efficient natural disaster preventive measures.



CAFEO Welcoming Speech



HKIE-YMC Representatives at CAFEO 26

CAFEO Country Report

The opening ceremony was followed by presentation of the Country Reports prepared by the 10 AFEO Institution Members. Each of the members firstly presented their current population, GDP and recent developments, and then shared on their latest interdisciplinary and transboundary engineering experiences. With regard to the numerous massive natural disasters happened in the ASEAN region during the past few years, most of the AFEO countries shared the common vision in the urgency and necessary of setting up transboundary taskforces to share the knowledge in natural disaster prediction and preventive measures again disasters like cyclones and tsunamis.

Technical Seminars

Keynote Presentation – Engineering Perspectives on Global Warming

Speaker: Dr. Bindu N. Lohani, Vice-President (Finance and Administration) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Manila, Philippines

In this keynote presentation, the speaker alerted the audience against the continuous rapid rise of energy consumption in the world where which the estimated energy consumption in general terms would increase by 120% in year 2030 when compared with the current level. As predicted by the speaker, unless there was a drastic change in the energy consumption habit of the human beings, the global temperature would take a huge climb of 1.4-5.8°C when reaching year 2100. Therefore, it was of the utmost believe by the speaker that only transboundary cooperation within the world village could bring effective solution to global warming and other environmental issues in the world. Energy efficiency could be promoted via improved lighting systems, engineering codes and design while the actual carbon emission could be reduced by promotion of carbon standards in the industries.



Afternoon Session – Future of Energy Speaker: Dr. Piyasvasti Amranand, former Thai Minister of Energy

In this session, the speaker estimated that the green house gases emission would at least take a drastic increase of 46% between 2006 and 2030 unless effective measures had been taken in force to tackle the problem. Apart from increasing

Technical Seminar at CAFEO26

energy efficiency via improved building codes, the speaker suggested that the crucial tipping point would be in the change of public behavior towards daily life energy consumption as well as the awareness and action by the governments. Controversial policy like the reduction of government subsidies towards energy prices or increase in energy prices was also raised out by the speaker as possible effective solutions to gathering public awareness towards energy consumption and global warming issues.

Panel Discussion – Regional Cooperation on Disaster Preparedness

Speaker: Dr. Pennung Warnitchai, Associate Professor, Structural Engineering, Asian Institute of Technology),

Speaker: Prof. Suphat Vongvisessomjai, TEAM Consulting Engineering and Management Co. Ltd., Thailand)

Speaker: Mr. U Than Myint, President of Myanmar Engineering Society, Myanmar



Panel discussion at CAFEO26

The afternoon session was concluded by a panel discussion on Regional Cooperation on Disaster Preparedness, co-chaired by the three speakers whom took turn to share on their view to the topic followed by an open discussion with the floor.

Mr. Myint took the lead in expressing his observation that over 88% of the natural disaster victims were from Asia, where the major cause of this phenomenon

could be due to the gaps found within governance, risk identification and knowledge management towards natural disasters by ASEAN countries. According to Mr. Myint, a typical disaster cycle would be in the ring of disaster, response, recovery, mitigation, risk reduction, prevention and preparedness, of where the contribution of engineers in each of the stage would definitely help in reducing the eventual lives and capital loss due to the natural disasters.

Prof. Vongvisessomjai shared his view in that tsunamis, cyclones and earthquakes had been the most severe yet frequent natural disaster in the ASEAN region. It was therefore important for ASEAN countries to joint force in sharing the database and knowledge on these natural disasters in order to establish better prevention toward them.

Dr. Pennung drew the attention of the audience towards the Wenchuen Earthquake where

numerous buildings vulnerably had collapsed due to factors like strong-beam-weak-column frames and torsional irregularity. According to the speaker, this alarmed in the need of a more sophisticated earthquake resisting design of new buildings which could be achieved by updated seismic code, effective code enforcement, familiarization of engineers with seismic design and addition of construction cost to seismic resistant measures.

The discussion was opened to the floor after the sharing by the speakers while all of the audiences shared the common vision in the need of regional cooperation when tackling with natural disasters. It was agreed that cross-boundary database, monitoring and warning systems should be established against tsunamis, cyclones and seismic movements in the ASEAN region. Knowledge exchange in the prevention and preparedness towards natural disaster should also be continuously encouraged through the CAEFEO platform.

Welcoming Reception

In the night of 27th November 2008, the Engineering Institution of Thailand graciously hosted a welcoming reception at the Sofitel Centara Grand Bangkok Hotel to welcoming all CAFEO and YEAFEO delegates. The reception was programmed with gorgeous traditional dancing followed by energetic live music where various CAFEO delegates were invited onto stage to sing a tune for the floor. Together with the fruitful sharing and exchanges with the delegates from other countries, there is no doubt that we had a very enjoyable and memorable night in the welcoming reception.



Performance during Welcoming Reception





All YEAFEO delegates have a wonderful time at the Welcoming Reception

2.3 28th November 2008

There were different technical sessions relating to the five main themes of the conference, including trans-boundary trade in energy and petrochemicals, modernization of engineering education, interdisciplinary and trans-boundary engineering topics, engineering perspectives on global warming and regional cooperation on disaster preparedness, mitigation and management. We attended different sessions relating to the middle three main themes.

Theme 1 - Modernization of Engineering Education

Topic 1 – JABEE’s Role and Future Challenges

Speaker – Yusuke Honjo, Japan Board of Engineering Education Accreditation, Japan

In this session, the speaker first gave some background information of JABEE, like the stakeholder, membership and organization of JABEE. He also introduced the education system of Japan, with emphasis on the difference between accredited high level engineering education programme and other general education programme. From this information, I identified that graduates from general education programme needed to sit for a primary examination before they could join the engineer training programme while those taken accredited programme could directly join the engineer training programme.

After that, the speaker explained JABEE's accreditation criteria in detail. Basically, the criteria were that any education should show continual improvements of education. This could be achieved by ensuring that an education programme followed a "plan-do-check-act" cycle. Firstly, educational objectives should be set. Secondly, quantitative curriculum requirements, educational methods and environment could then be determined. Thirdly, there should be evaluation on students' achievement against the educational objectives. Lastly, improvement on the current programme should be carried out according to the evaluation.

Theme 2 – Interdisciplinary and Trans-boundary Engineering Topics

Topic 1 – CCwA Wall Panels – Mitigation of Waster into Wealth

Speaker – Ir Dr Siti Hawa Hamzah, Associate Professor, UiTM, Malaysia

The speaker introduced the use of crushed concrete waste aggregates in Malaysia. In Klang Valley of Malaysia, concrete waste became abundant and was escalating in volume as many old buildings were demolished for re-development of high-rise buildings. In view of this, the speaker investigated the possibility of using recycle aggregates made from broken concrete and hence reducing the waste generation.

As there was increasing use of reinforced concrete wall in Malaysia, the speaker mainly focused on using the recycle aggregates in steel fabric reinforced concrete wall in her research. From the speaker's investigation, CCwA wall panel was as good as those cast using normal aggregate in terms of the carrying capacity, displacement profile, mode of failure and crack pattern.

Topic2 – Project Risk Management at Delaney Tires Storage; The combination between PMI Approach and PT Inco Project Management Procedures

Speaker – Habibie, Ir., IP and Agung Setyawan, Ir, PT Inco, Indonesia

As the start of this session, the speakers introduced their company, PT Inco Indonesia, and it's commitment to environment in the delivery of their nickel producing contracts. For the post mining sites, environmental measures such as mechanical and vegetative erosion control, land stability control and productivity improvement works were carried out. In processing plant site, the company had installed Gas Cleansing System in the furnaces to reduce the air pollution problem of the facilities.

The second part of the session focused on the project risk management of their tire storage facilities. The speakers combined and compared the Project Risk Management process between PMI approach and PT Inco Project Management Procedures. Key performance of

this project, including quality, quantity, time frame, resources usage, costs and safety performance during project life cycle were presented.

Theme 3 – Engineering Perspectives on Global Warming

Topic 1 – Vietnam’s Action Plan to Cope with Global Warming and Poverty

Speaker – Nguyen Manh Don, Ph. D, Director of Department of Science, Technology and Economics, Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations

In this session, the speaker showed the influence of global warming to Vietnam and Vietnam’s efforts to cope with this matter. The speaker first introduced that Vietnam was a developing and agriculture country with two third of population living in rural area. Agriculture production activities were greatly affected by global warming and sea level rising. I learnt a terrible fact that if the sea level rise by 1m due to change in earth temperature, 12% of land and 23% of houses of the country would be seriously affected and led to food security and poverty problems. To deal with such possible outcomes, the Government of Vietnam had set up various national target programs, including the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam (Vietnam Agenda 21), the National Program for Coping with Climate Change and the National Program for Anti-desertification and so on. The speaker mentioned some major measures, including renovation of policy and institution, increase of public awareness, development of science and technology and improvement of international cooperation and negotiation, which were carried out to meet the targets.

Topic 2 – The Sinking Chapel of Wat Khun Samut Chin Buddhist Temple and the Solutions to the Erosion Problem of Coastal Mud Plain of Thailand

Speaker – Nguyen Manh Don, VUSTA, Thailand

In this session, the speaker discussed the soil erosion problem of coastal mud plain of Thailand. The speaker first showed some photographs of the Chapel of Wat Khun Samut Chin Buddhist Temple. The Temple, originally situated 2km inland, was found to stick out 1km from the present shore line and sunk into the sea to its windows. The speaker mentioned that the major cause of the sunk of the Chapel might be the drastic reduction of alluvial sediments of mud plain, resulting from the construction of dams, rapid destruction of protective mangrove forests and substantial regional land subsidence due to deep well pumping.

I learnt that there was a rigorous multi-disciplinary study program to study some possible solutions, including usage of sand sausage barrier, installation of triangular concrete posts at intervals for dissipating the wave energy, construction of concrete panels supported by sheet piles and so on at the Temple’s area, to stop the soil erosion and to reclaim the land for human activities

The technical sessions of the conference were very meaningful as we learnt more about the engineering considerations on dealing with global warming matters, cooperation among different disciplines as well as modern engineering education of different countries. This session broadened my view on these topics and encouraged me to study more about the engineering perspectives on the above topics.

3 HKIE-YMC's PARTICIPATION IN YEAFEO 15

In the past few years, delegates from the HKIE-YMC have attended the conference as guests and observers. Other invited guests and observers include engineering organisations of young engineers from Japan, Australia and Canada. Over the past years, many of the young engineers represented HKIE-YMC to attend conference, gaining valuable exposure to international conference as well as sharing experience with young engineers from the ASEAN countries and the other countries of the world.

In YEAFEO 15, we have attended the YEAFEO board meeting as observers and several issues (such as holding technical site visit amongst ASEAN countries) were discussed. The YEAFEO Country Report Session was held after the board meeting. Representatives from all countries (including Hong Kong) took turn to give a brief introduction on their organizations. Our Honorary Treasurer, Ms Arlene Lo grasped the opportunity to introduce HKIE and HKIE-YMC to the audience. Besides, Arlene also presented the structure of HKIE-YMC, the past HKIE-YMC activities and upcoming events to all other countries and invited them to visit Hong Kong and HKIE in the future. We received cordial welcome from other delegates. Some countries such as Myanmar and Vietnam had shown immediate interest to visit Hong Kong and we have exchanged the lovely experience in Hong Kong.

We have also attended the opening ceremony and the 5 paper sessions of the conference. Different famous speakers were invited to present the topics related to trans-boundary trade in energy and petrochemicals, modernization of engineering education, interdisciplinary and trans-boundary engineering topics, global warming and regional cooperation on disaster issues. We have known more new technical knowledge/ideas in sustainable development in these areas.

In the original programme, there was a closing ceremony and the farewell dinner of the conference on 28 November night and a one-day tour on 29 November. Due to the political situation in Thailand, we had to take the coach organized by the Institution of Engineers, Malaysia to Kuala Lumpur to take a flight back to Hong Kong.

4 BEHIND THE CONFERENCE

4.1 Social Gathering with YEAFEO members

The official activities on 26 November 2008 were finished after the exchange of souvenirs. In accordance to the conference program, we will have free time in evening. We had been invited by the YEAFEO delegates to have dinner in the famous food court of Bangkok, Suan-Lum Night Bazaar. We took the railway from our hotel. As we knew the airport was closed by the protester, we had sought the opinion from hotel that we should avoid to visit some sensitive areas such as the government buildings. It should be OK in the night market. When we reached the night bazaar, the situation was stable and we could enjoy a happy night.

The bazaar was very big and we had enjoyed the good Thai's food. During the dinner, we had a social gathering with other delegates of different countries in a relax situation. After the dinner, we had a leisure walk in the open market near the food bazaar. It was a good experience of gathering with other YEAFEO members.



Social Gathering with YEAFEO members at Suan-Lum Night Bazaar

4.2 Crisis Management

During our delegation trip, there was a political crisis happening in Thailand with pro- and anti-government rallies held. The assert that the People's Power Party (PPP) government lead by Somchai Wongsawat was too close to fugitive ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra lead to the political issue. In the anti-government camp, supporters of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) massed at the airport on our 1st day of arrival and the airport was blocked by the protestors and subsequently closed which had affected many tourists from around the world. On the first three days of the delegation, we had been hearing news that rally was expected to disperse and the airport would not open soon. This seriously influenced our scheduled trip and flight back to HK. At last, we could not leave Bangkok on our scheduled flight and we had to come back to our home through Malaysia. We managed this crisis through various group decision making and coordination with the Malaysian counterparts, which was a very good experience to we young engineers on the crisis management issue.

Airport Situation

On 23 November 2008 night, we, full of excitement and expectation originally, took our flight to Bangkok, Thailand. When we arrived at the airport, we saw a large crowd of yellow-shirted protesters possessing the roads around the airport and blocking the way to the airport. Luckily, we were on the way to the city and the traffic was not blocked. When we arrived at the hotel, we heard that the airport had been closed. That was so lucky that we managed to leave the airport and arrive at the hotel safely.

The change of situation over the days

On the first day of the delegation on 24 November 2008, there were only about 60-70% attendance by various ASEAN countries to attend the programmes. Many of them were not able to arrive at Bangkok due to cancelled flights. The programme was not as crowded as in previous years.

We had been hearing news and rumours about the worsening situation in Bangkok in the first two days such as grenade attack and injuries of the people in the city (see Appendix B for information extracted from newspaper). Worse still, there was terrorist attack in Bombay which scared us a lot on our safety. Also, there was no updates on the re-opening of the airport. Therefore, we decided to leave Bangkok as soon as possible.

Decision of following IEM to Malaysia

In the morning of the third day on 26 November 2008, all five of us held a meeting to discuss how we could leave Bangkok. Some of the options discussed were i) to take a coach to Phuket and then take a flight back to HK, ii) take a coach to Penang of Malaysia and then take a flight to Kuala Lumpur (KL) before going back to HK, and iii) take a direct coach to KL and then to HK. After evaluating the pros and cons of each option and with the assistance and advice provided by The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM), we decided to take a direct coach to KL such that we can leave Thailand as soon as possible and with IEM's assistance provided throughout the trip, our safety could be ensured. Before we left Bangkok, we bought tickets for our flight from KL to HK through the internet as well.



After a group discussion amongst ourselves, we packed up and start with our long escape.

Long Escape

We made a prompt decision on 26 November 2008 morning at 11am and we had to gather at the lobby for the escape on the same afternoon at 3pm. Therefore, we immediately had our lunch and packed our luggage so that we could catch the coach on time.

It was a harsh though special experience for us because altogether, it took us 26 hrs, which included those resting time, to arrive KL from Bangkok. During the 26 hrs, we stopped by the interim points for rest, eating and toilets for about every 3-4 hours. It was really tired and uncomfortable to sit on the coach for such long hours and we only had instant noodles or simple meals to fill up our stomach. Though it was a harsh experience, the assistance provided by IEM through the trip and the friendship developed with the young engineers of Malaysia impressed us a lot.



Some “activities” we did at the stops of this long journey



Thailand & Malaysia Bounder

Since the duration of the travel by coach was more than expected, we finally missed the flight we booked through the internet before we left the hotel on the third day. Despite this, during the trip in the coach, the IEM young engineers helped us search for more information for the flight to HK and also helped us book a hotel so that we could sleep for one more night before we caught another flight to HK.

Throughout this escaping experience, we learned how to assess the extent of the crisis, propose and assess different options, go with the chosen option with confidence and finally we managed to overcome the difficulty and took our flight to HK. The network required and assistance provided by different parties including support by HK and also the Malaysian who were with us throughout the trip were all very important.

4.3 Social gathering and cultural exchange in Malaysia

We arrived KL of Malaysia in the evening of 27th November. Although the Malaysian young engineers were so tired after 26 hrs of escaping experience, they still accompanied us to the hotel and took us for a dinner and drink at the night. Throughout the night, we chatted and exchanged a lot and we thanked them so much for their assistance provided during the escape.



Social gathering and cultural exchange in Malaysia

5 CONCLUSION

Delegates from HKIE-YMC have fulfilled the following objectives when participating the CAFEO 26 and the YEAFEO 15:

- To gain exposure to large scale international conference;
- To nurture the leadership and communication tactics of our younger generations;
- To gain knowledge on sustainable development and the current practice of other countries;
- To broaden knowledge through sharing with young engineers from other countries;
- To have technical knowledge /ideas / cultural exchanges with engineers worldwide;
- To extend the network of our young engineers with delegates from other countries;
- To increase the horizon of young engineers through the participation;
- To promote the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) to other countries; and
- To promote the Young Members Committee of HKIE to other countries.

The initiative of the participation of CAFEO 26 and YEAFEO 15 of HKIE-YMC was in line with the President in his HKIE Presidential Address 2008/2009, “to encourage our young members to participate in overseas visits and international conference”.

In the past few years, delegates from the HKIE-YMC have attended the conference as guests and observers. Though the conference was affected by the political situation in Thailand this year, CAFEO 26 and YEAFEO 15 is a very good experience for the professional engineers, especially for the young engineers. All the delegates have gained exposure to large scale international conference, increased the depth of knowledge, improved the communication skills and developed personal qualities for the society needs. CAFEO 26 and YEAFEO 15 would be held in Singapore in November 2009, we will continue to encourage more young engineers to attend this meaningful event.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to HKIE by sponsoring our delegates when attending the CAFEO 26 and YEAFEO 15 held in Bangkok of Thailand.

We would like to give thanks to the Engineering Institute of Thailand Under Royal Patronage and the Thailand Council of Engineers for their good arrangement of conference. They have planned a good itinerary for all the delegates to enjoy a wonderful and memorable conference.

Last but not least, we would like to express our special thanks to the Institution of Engineers Malaysia for providing assistance so that we all could come back to Hong Kong safely.

7 FEEDBACK

Arlene Lo's Feedback



It is the first time I join the YEAFEO conference, the first time I represent HKIE-YMC to present HKIE, YMC as well as Hong Kong to 10 ASEAN countries, the first time to meet the closure of airport, the first time to take a 26 hours ride ...

Being the leader for this delegation, I need to handle the situation, carry out discussion amongst the 5 delegates and making decision. It is a really good and unforgettable experience.

There is really so many first time happened in the YEAFEO conference this year. Due to the political situation in Thailand, I could not experience the whole YEAFEO conference. I must say that it is really a very good experience for young engineer to join this kind of conference.

Carrie's Feedback

It has been the second time I have joined the YEAFEO. Despite the political crisis in Bangkok, I enjoyed a lot on the programme including the seminars and the cultural exchange with young engineers from different countries. The exchange of souvenirs which represented each country impressed me a lot. I found all of them loved their country a lot and it was glad to



send our HK souvenirs to them as well. We also experienced the harsh but memorable escape trip by the 26-hr coach from Bangkok to KL. All of us learned a lot from this crisis management experience. I will treasure the friendship developed among we HK delegates and between the Malaysian delegate and us.

Regis' Feedback



As granted as having the chance to live through the millennium year, my participant in YEAFEO and CAFEO this year had been a life-long unforgettable experience. I had not only gained invaluable insights from the technical seminars and lectures on interdisciplinary and transboundary engineering opportunities in the ASEAN region, but also received

warm welcome and hospitality from the ASEAN countries as well as witnessed the keen cooperation among the ASEAN countries to bring and build together a more sustainable and friendly living earth. Not to mention the once-in-a-life experience in evacuating from Bangkok due to the suddenly ruffling political situation.

In fact the entire YEAFEO delegation was clouded with continuous decision-makings – and there was where we applied our engineering attitude – making correct decision in the nick of time. The choice in deciding to join the delegation, the choice to continue our trip upon the airport closure announcement after the landing of our plane and the choice to take action in the evacuation plan ahead of the official closing of YEAFEO and CAFEO were all proved to be the best decisions.

Above all, there is no doubt that YEAFEO and CAFEO are the invaluable platforms for us to participate in international engineering conferences and it is of my utmost pleasure to encourage more and more young engineers continuing the participation in these conferences.

Last but not least, it had been my biggest enjoyment to teaming up with Arlene, Carrie, Victor and Samson for the delegation. The generous help from Malaysian delegates in arranging us with the shuttles bus from Bangkok to Kuala Lumpur followed by the warm hospitality in the city had also deeply moved my heart. May I take this chance to dedicate my most sincere thank to all of them in bringing me such an unforgettable experience in my life.

Victor LEE's Feedback

I was please to have chance to attend the CAFEO and YEAFEO again in Bangkok of Thailand in 2008. It was my 3rd consecutive participation of the conference since 2006. With the success of the conference in Malaysia and Philippines in last two years, I looked forward to join in Bangkok in order to broaden my knowledge through the technical papers sessions and technical visit. Also, it gave me a chance to meet my friends of other countries.



Unfortunately, we had met the serious protestation in Bangkok that the airport was closed after we had arrived. We had designed to leave early on 28 November 2008 afternoon so we missed the afternoon session of technical papers as well as the farewell dinner at night. Our performance could not be shown to other delegates. Also, we missed the technical visit on the coming Saturday.

Anyway, we had joined the YEAFEO for about 2.5 days and we could still meet other delegates and attending opening ceremony of the conference. Some delegates could not arrive due to the close of airport, I looking to have gathering with them in future exchange. I felt that organization of conference was quite good and the helpers were helpful. It was exciting to take the bus for almost 26 hours from Thailand to Malaysia. It was my first time to sleep in the bus for whole night. Although I was very tired when I reached the Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia, it was a wonderful experience to visit Malaysia during trip. It was unexpected but I was pleasure to meet the friends of Malaysia.

We had trained our risk management skill through this special experience. I noted that as an engineer it was important to handle some risks and unexpected circumstances. I though all out teammates had done a great job. At last, I liked to give my sincere thanks to the delegates of Malaysia. With their helps, we could leave Thailand safely as the political situation in Thailand was unstable at that time. Also, we could arrive in Hong Kong on schedule. We have 5 delegates from HKIE-YMC to attend the CAFEO and YEAFEO. I hope more young engineers would participate in the international conference in future. I hope our relationship with the ASEAN engineers could continue and have more exchange activities. I am looking forward to attend the next YEAFEO in Singapore 2009.

Samson's Feedback



There is no doubt that this year's YEAFEO delegation has been an unforgettable experience to me. This is not only because of the warm hospitality that we had received from the host and other ASEAN countries but also of the invaluable knowledge on interdisciplinary and transboundary engineering opportunities that we had gained throughout the

conference. Furthermore, being my first experience in joining an international conference as well as witnessing a political crisis has further made this year's YEAFEO memorable.

I had particularly treasured the cultural exchange among the ASEAN and visiting countries throughout the YEAFEO as it had provided me the opportunity to learn about the background and current achievements of engineering discipline in each country. At the same time, the common vision shared by the ASEAN countries in establishing a transboundary natural hazard monitoring system around the ASEAN region has also enlightened me in the art of engineering application towards the goodness of human beings.

Finally, I would like to take the chance to dedicate my vote of thanks to the Malaysian delegates who had generously arranged us with the transportation from Bangkok to Malaysia for our return trip due to the closure of the Bangkok Airport. It has also been a great enjoyment in teaming up with Arlene, Carrie, Victor and Regis for this delegation. It is definitely my pleasure to encourage more and more young engineer participating in YEAFEO in the future.

Appendix A

Programme

CAFEO26 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Updated 24 July 2008

Monday 24 November 2008

Arrival to Bangkok, Thailand

Check-in & Free day

Tuesday 26 November 2008

Meeting of Federation of Engineering Institution in Asia and the Pacific – FEIAP)

Morning

09.00 – 09.45	FEIAP Accord & Environmental Work Group Meeting
09.45 – 10.00	Coffee Break
09.45 – 12.00	FEIAP Accord & Environmental Work Group Meeting
12.00 – 14.00	Lunch (for FEIAP)

Afternoon

14.00 – 15.30	FEIAP Governing Assembly
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee Break
15.45 – 17.00	FEIAP Governing Assembly

Evening

18.00 – 21.00	FEIAP 30 th Anniversary Dinner Celebration
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Wednesday 26 November 2008

(CAFEO26 - Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organization)

Morning

06.00 – 12.00	Friendship Golf Tournament (Pinehurst Golf & Country Club., lunch)
08.00 – 17.00	Registration (for CAFEO26 Conference participants)
09.00 – 12.00	Ladies program (2 Program choices)
09.00 – 11.30	AER Board Meeting
11.30 – 12.30	AFEO Award Committee Meeting
09.00 – 12.00	YEAFEO Board Meeting
09.45 – 10.00	Coffee Break (for AFEO, AER and YEAFEO)
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch (for AFEO, AER and YEAFEO)

Afternoon

14.00 – 15.30	YEAFEO Country Report Presentation
14.00 – 15.30	AFEO Governing Board Meeting
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee Break
15.45 – 17.00	YEAFEO Country Report Presentation
15.45 – 17.00	AFEO Governing Board Meeting
17.00 – 17.30	--- Country Present Exchange (for 10 AFEO country members)
17.30	Press Conference (for AFEO)

Evening

18.00	Light dinner (for AFEO Board members)
18.00	Free Evening (for others)

Thursday 27 November 2008

(CAFEO26 - Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organization)

Morning

	(In Plenary Hall)
07.30 – 17.00	Registration for CAFEO26 Conference participants.
09.00 – 09.45	Opening ceremony to be chaired by The Prime Minister. Conferment of Honorary Fellowships of AFEO. Token of appreciation to sponsors. Opening of 2-day Exhibition.
09.45 – 10.15	Coffee Break (served in Plenary Hall)
10.15 – 11.00	Keynote Lecture by Secretary General of ASEAN
11.00 – 12.00	Panel Presentations of Country Reports from AFEO Institution Members
12.00 – 13.30	Lunch

Afternoon

	(In Plenary Hall)
13.30 – 14.20	Plenary presentation on "Future of Energy" Speaker: Dr. Piyasvasti Amranand, former Thai Minister of Energy"

14.20 – 15.10	Plenary presentation on "Engineering Education" Speaker : Dr. Marshall M.Lih, the National Science Foundation, Washington DC
15.10 – 15.25	Coffee Break
15.25 – 16.05	Plenary presentation on "Engineering Perspectives on Global Warming" Speaker : Dr. Bindu N. Lohani, The Asian Development Bank
16.05 – 17.30	Panel Discussion on "Regional Cooperation on Disaster Preparedness"
Evening	
18.00 – 21.00	Official Conference Welcoming Reception at Hotel.

Friday 28 November 2008
 (CAFEO28 - Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organization)

Technical Presentations on the following Themes :-
 (G1) *Modernization of Engineering Education*
 (G2) *Trans-boundary Trade in Energy and Petrochemicals*
 (G3) *Interdisciplinary and Trans-boundary Engineering Topics (Including Engineering Challenges for Urban development, Technical Inspection for Professional Engineers, Structure Assessment for Buildings, Risk management for Engineering Projects*
 (G4) *Engineering Perspectives on Global Warming*
 (G5) *Regional Cooperation on Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management)*

Morning	
07.30 – 17.00	Registration (for CAFEO28 Conference Participants)
08.00 – 09.45	Technical Sessions
09.45 – 10.00	Coffee Break
10.00 – 12.00	Technical Sessions
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
Afternoon	
13.00 – 14.45	Technical Sessions
14.45 – 15.00	Coffee Break
15.00 – 16.45	Technical Sessions
Evening	
17.00 – 18.00	CAFEO28 Closing Ceremonies
18.00 – 21.00	Farewell dinner party Conferment of ASEAN Distinguished Engineering Awards Country cultural performances

Saturday 29 November 2008
 (CAFEO28 - Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organization)

Morning & Afternoon	
07.30 – 17.00	Technical Visits followed by Cultural Tour (Lunch to be provided)
Evening	Free

Sunday 30 November 2008
 Departure from Bangkok, Thailand

Check-out & departure

Appendix B
Information extracted from Thai Newspaper



Number 1 in Asia
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THE NEWSPAPER YOU CAN TRUST



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PAD shuts Suvarnabhumi

Thousands stranded as outbound flights cancelled

Army refuses to step in to boost airport security

Somchai to call emergency meeting of security agencies

POST REPORTERS

Suvarnabhumi airport and the travel plans of thousands of tourists were in turmoil last night after PAD supporters stormed the terminal. Security authorities shut down most operations.

Outbound flights were suspended from 9pm and the terminal building was closed when People's Alliance for Democracy breached a thin line of police officers. Suvarnabhumi terminal director Sorirat Pravatanoon said.

Inbound flights will not be allowed to land at the airport last night. Officials said it was up to the airlines whether they would continue to allow flights to land today.

The decision left thousands of passengers stranded inside the terminal. Night time is one of the peak periods for the airport as many flights to European cities take off after dark.

Airports of Thailand (AOT) officials tried in vain to persuade the PAD protesters not to enter the terminal.

A decision to request the airport would be decided later after officials assessed the situation, he said.

An report of PAD supporters heading to Suvarnabhumi reached Samut Prakan governor Kwanchai Wangitthorn, he contacted army chief Gen Anupong Paojinda to send troops to help police prevent them from storming into the airport's main area.

The governor told Mr Sorirat he had sought help from the army chief. But there was no response from the army, leaving an inadequate police force on site.



New blow to tourism with airport chaos

POST REPORTERS

The tourism sector, already reeling from the global economic downturn, suffered a fresh blow yesterday as People's Alliance for Democracy anti-government protesters forced Suvarnabhumi airport to suspend outbound flights.

Tens of thousands of travellers faced the prospect of missed flights last night as protests blocked the main motorway from the capital to the airport and later stormed the terminal to disrupt operations.

Charm Chaiyaporn, the deputy prime minister overseeing economic policy, acknowledged that the PAD protests would undermine the country's image abroad and hurt investor confidence.

"They (PAD) have the right to protest, but they must consider the rights of others, and they should also consider the damage caused to the centre country," he said.

Airlines and tourism executives warned that the political tensions would deal another heavy blow to the ailing industry and the country's international image.

PAD rallies in late August forced the shutdowns of Krabi, Phuket and Hat Yai airports had already put the country's "Land of Smiles" image in jeopardy.



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ENVOY SUMMONED

Indian navy asked why its ship sank Thai trawler

THANDA TANSUBHAPOL AND AP

The Foreign Ministry is demanding an explanation after the Indian navy attacked a Thai fishing trawler off the Somalia coast, after wrongly assuming it was a pirate vessel.

One crew member was rescued and 14 others remain missing after the Indian frigate INS Tabar sank the trawler, the *Zestara Nova 5*, in the Gulf of Aden on Nov 18.

The Indian navy says pirates had boarded the vessel at a had first gunnades at the frigate.

Indian ambassador to Thailand Latha Beldy was summoned to the ministry yesterday. Bangkok has also sought an explanation from the Indian government through its embassy in New Delhi, Foreign Ministry spokesman Thair Charungwong said.

The main question was whether the Indian navy complied with the rules of engagement before shooting, and whether it helped survivors, he said.

Ship owner Wicharn Sinsirakulmet could demand compensation from the Indian government if its navy was at fault.

On board were one Cambodian and 14 Thai crew. The Cambodian crew member was rescued six days later by a ship in the Gulf of Aden but the Thai are still missing, according to Mr Thair.

The ship was heading to Yemen from Oman to deliver fish equipment when it was approached by Somali pirates in two speed boats.

India's navy sailed last week that the INS Zuhar, which began patrolling the Gulf on Nov 2, fired at a pirate mother

PAD, Somchai say no to Anupong's compromise



Governments warn citizens against visits to Thailand

ACHARA ASHAYAGACHAT AKORABAT MAHITHEEROCK CHATRUDEE THEPARAT

Many countries have issued travel advisories to their citizens who are planning to visit Thailand following the storming of Suvarnabhumi airport.

Among them, China has advised its citizens to review travel plans to Thailand.

Singaporeans have been urged to postpone non-essential travel here.

The Australian embassy has highlighted caution in its advisory and advised its citizens to avoid protest areas.

The US embassy has also warned Americans to stay away from Suvarnabhumi airport.

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union has expressed serious concerns about the deteriorating political situation in Thailand, in particular with the siege of Suvarnabhumi airport, where air traffic has ground to a halt and thousands of passengers have been stranded or arrested.

It reiterates that any anti-constitutional attempt to interfere in the democratic process would harm EU-Thailand relations.

The closure of Suvarnabhumi by the People's Alliance for Democracy since Tuesday has cost Thai Airways International (THAI) and Airports of Thailand (AOT) Co more than 500 million baht a day, with over 400 flights cancelled.

THAI operates 140 flights on average and serves over 30,000 passengers daily through the airport.

Its cargo service normally generates about 60 million baht a day for the airline.

The carrier is working to find accommodation for stranded passengers and provide them with meals and alternative transportation.

Protesters settle in at airport, PM won't quit

PAD dad killed in North

have taken action against the PAD demonstrators who had clearly violated the law by storming the airport.

But the prime minister refused to take action against the army chief, de-

On other pages

- **BUSINESS BACK A DISSOLUTION** Page 3
- **FLIGHT TO NOWHERE IN PICTURES** Page 4
- **STRANDED AND ANGRY (UNSURE OR JUST RESIGNED)** Page 5
- **Opinion: WHERE IS THE PAD COMING WITH THIS?** Page 19
- **AIC FUND FOR TOURISM PLANNING** Page B1

Appendix C
Financial Report

Financial Report

Item	Description	No.	Unit Cost	Amount (Currency\$)	Amount (HK\$)	
Original Cost						
1	<i>Travelling and Accommodation</i>					
	Travelling and Accommodation Package	1	-	HK 20,985	20,985	
	Local Travelling	BK airport Local Transportation to BK city	1	-	HK 300	300
		Travelling within city	-	-	THA 370	81.4
2	<i>Registration Fee</i>					
	Early-bird registration	1	60	US 60	462	
	Normal registration	4	70	US 280	2,156	
3	<i>Souvenirs</i>					
	HKIE-YMC's souvenir	Crystal paper stand	10	120	HK 1,200	1,200
		Chopsticks	30	10	HK 300	300
4	<i>Miscellaneous</i>					
		-	-	THA 1,220	268.4	
				Sub-total:	25,752.8	

