



Berita IECA Malaysia
First Quarter, 2003



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
(Prof. Dr. Noraini Mohd. Tamin)

Dear Members,

IECA Malaysia continues to play small but significant roles locally as well as internationally. We lend moral support towards relevant environmental issues particularly large-scale projects such as heli-logging that could lead to serious soil erosion and sedimentation problems. As a Chapter Leader, I have been invited to be a member of the IECA International Scholarship Committee and have participated in selecting candidates for the IECA Scholarship Award for 2003. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were poorly represented at the 34th Annual IECA Conference at Las Vegas in February. I hope the economic and political situations worldwide will pick up this year, and that more members from Malaysia can attend the next IECA Annual Conference in Philadelphia in February 2004. We held the 8th Committee Meeting on 5th March 2003 and members suggested that we work harder this year to recruit all categories of members. We also need to organize a social event this year, where members can meet and exchange information. With best wishes.

FORTH-COMING EVENTS

The Department of Environment has invited IECA Malaysia to organize an Advanced Training Course on Soil Erosion and Sedimentation this year. The Training Sub-Committee, chaired by the President, and including Ir. Ariffin and Tew Kia Hui have been involved in strategic planning with senior DOE officers since early this year.

MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to inform you that we have earned two Complimentary Professional Membership for 2003, as our membership number has increased by more than 10% over the previous year. The Committee is currently trying to identify a suitable candidate, and members are invited to name a suitable person as Professional Member, who can help promote IECA Malaysia at the local or international levels.

Datar Raya Sdn. Bhd., our first Emerald Member has been approached by 'Erosion Control' for a member's feature write up. So do look up forthcoming issue of this magazine to find out why this small company joined IECAM as Emerald Member.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS AND ISSUES

The proposed heli-logging project at the Ulu Muda Forest Reserve in Kedah, by a Sarawak-based logging company, has been in the news recently. The Detailed Environmental Impact Assessment for this project is being reviewed by an independent EIA Panel. This is a very controversial project, as the proposed heli-logging activities will open large areas of lush virgin forests within water catchment reserve, where forest conversion is prohibited. In addition, the proposed construction of a massive network of logging roads will further cause irreversible environmental impacts, particularly soil erosion and sedimentation that could adversely affect existing dams, including the Muda and Ahning Dams that supply water to the northern states of Kedah, Perlis and Penang. IECA Malaysia has lent moral support to 'FRIENDS OF ULU MUDA', an informal group of concerned NGO's that will assist in the promotion of environmental awareness and accountability at all levels of society.

34th IECA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The IECAM President has been invited to join the IECA International Scholarship Committee and subsequently participated in the selection of winners for the 34th IECA Annual Conference at Las Vegas, USA. on 24th-28th February 2003. Mr. Leong Kwok Wing from CHT-Natural Solutions Sdn. Bhd. attended the conference and participated in the Roundtable Forum on 'A Gathering of Global Solutions – International Perspectives on Erosion and Sediment Control' on 26th February.

TALK OVER HIGH-TEA

Emerald, Corporate and Professional Members are invited to give a talk on a topic and date of their choice over high tea at The Ascott Kuala Lumpur. We appreciate topics related but not restricted to erosion and sedimentation. This seminar will be opened to all members and also the public, through invitation. Please contact the IECAM Secretariat if you wish to participate in this social-cum-business event.

For further enquiries, please contact

IECA Malaysia

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