



2009 Executive board

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Chair's report on the first Public Policy Conference and PEO AGM

Raju Chander, MS, P.Eng.

The first conference on Public Policy was held on May 8, 2009 and was hosted by the Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy (OCEPP), which is supported by PEO. The centre's intent is to involve professional engineers in the public policy formation process. Political personalities, university professors, university students, PEO staff, council members and chapter leaders participated in this one-day conference. All speakers repeatedly stressed the need for participation of professional engineers in the

Chapter Activities (Summary) – January to May 09

23 Jan 09 – Volunteer Appreciation
31 Jan 09 – Annual General Meeting and Fuel Cell
07 Feb 09 – Licensing Seminar – COSTI
28 Feb 09 – Woburn Collegiate Career Fair
28 Feb 09 – Popsicle Stick Bridge Building Competition
28 Feb 09 – Career Fair – Centennial College
07 Mar 09 – Licensing Seminar – CPAC
21 Apr 09 – Financial Seminar – 2nd Opinion Investor Services
07 May 09 – Goodwill – Licensing Seminar
09 May 09 – PEO AGM, training of officers/executives
09 May 09 – Visions of Science – Mathletics
16 May 09 – Fuel Cell Plant visit
26 May 09 – Certificate Presentation Ceremony
26 May 09 – Licensing Seminar – CPAC

Planned Events:

June – Volunteer Training – Excel as a Data Base
October – Mathletics

public policy formation process. This need is becoming more and more important in the current economic environment. Engineers can contribute significantly in the public policy formation in critical areas like infrastructure, green energy choices, climate change policies or innovative R&D areas.

Participation of engineers in public policy development is minimal, since engineers in general are not good at articulating their ideas within the greater societal context. This lack of

appreciation or understanding of the complexities of society needs to be bridged. Dr. Amit Chakma, who will take over as the President of the University of Western Ontario, stressed that engineers need to become interdisciplinary by getting educated in more humanities courses during their undergraduate study. He did indicate that some of these radical changes in the engineering curriculum would require a major shift in the thinking of the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board. On the other hand, some members also indicated the lack of rigour in mathematical education during engineering study at the undergraduate level.

At the end of the day, conference participants did understand that this is the time for engineers to become more active in all fields. They need to read, write and think globally by cutting across the rigid boundaries of “engineering”. The impact of engineering on the day-to-day needs of the people should be brought into focus. The engineering community should also relate its activities to the common person by incessant interaction with them. In other words, we need to show our relevance to the present society. This is the only way we can establish our credibility and thus force political personalities to listen.

Scholarship Program for University Entrants

The Scarborough Chapter is pleased to announce its participation in the Scholarship Program offered by Professional Engineers Ontario to one male and one female student from Scarborough who will enter an Ontario university engineering program.

Further details are in www.scarborough.peo.on.ca/events/20090630-scholarship.

University students in the engineering faculties are encouraged to join Professional Engineers Ontario’s Student Membership Program (SMP) and the membership is free.

Past Events: (For comprehensive reports on chapter events, please visit our website.)

Licensing Seminars – A couple of licensing seminars were held for the benefit of new graduates and foreign trained engineers to guide them through the licensing process.

Career Fairs – The chapter participated in a Career Fair arranged at Centennial College by Hon. Margaret Best, MPP, and another at Woburn Collegiate. A number of visitors graced our booth. Many PEO brochures, including the brochure on promoting engineering, were handed out.

This interesting conference was followed by the awards ceremony in the night, at which 11 engineers were recognized for their contributions to engineering.

The 87th Annual General Meeting was conducted on May 9, 2009. The new council was introduced, along with incoming President Catherine Karakatsanis. The incoming President promised that she will work with the team to steer the engineering community in the right direction. Notably, there was good participation from delegates from other professional engineering organizations and Engineers’ Canada.

This was followed by training sessions. I am glad to inform that these training opportunities provided by PEO were well utilized by the following participations:

Gaurav Sheel, Rudresh Pandya, Paul Morton, N. Madusuthanan and Raju Chander on Government Liaison Program training;

Mustafa Mukthar, Kwame Jhonson and Tom Fernandes on Chapter Executive training; and

Asogan N. Vyke, Krishnan Pillai and Jean Duclair on Prism training.

Technical Visits to the Fuel Cell pilot project at Enbridge were arranged and response was overwhelming. Our chapter is negotiating with Enbridge to arrange another visit.

AGM 2009 was held on January 31, 2009. About 50 members participated at the AGM. The new Board of Executives were elected. This was followed by a presentation on Fuel Cells – Today’s Technology for Alternative Technologies by Janaki Balakrishnan, MAsc, P.Eng.



Chair addressing the AGM



Presentation by Janaki Balakrishnan, P.Eng.

BBC 2009 – 36 teams of grades 5 to 8 school children participated in this exciting event. This year, the contest saw a new record of a bridge of weight 250 gm capable of carrying a load of 256 kg before failure! Wow! Congratulations to the team who built it.



Display of bridges



Load Testing of Bridge

Visions of Science – The chapter joined with the National Society of Black Engineers – Toronto Alumni extension – and hosted a Mathletics competition for the young visitors in the booth. Our booth was considered as one of the most visited booths in the fair.



Certificate Presentation Ceremony – 18 newly licensed professional engineers were awarded their certificates. Notably, two board executives and two active volunteers were amongst the 18 recipients. Hon. Brad Duguid, MPP, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; Albert Sweetnam, P.Eng., Executive VP, Ontario Power Generation; and Jordan Chou, P.Eng., President, CPUS, graced this ceremony.

Hon. Margaret Best, MPP, and Hon. Bas Balkissoon, MPP, provided congratulatory certificates and Ontario Province pins.



Upper Row L to R: Maja Todorovic, P.Eng.; Yi Yong (York) Wang, P.Eng.; Xingliang Lu, P.Eng.; Wenlei Ding, P.Eng.; Siddharth Verma, P.Eng.; Satyendran (Sathy) Thurairajah, P.Eng.; Paul Morton, P.Eng.; Narayana Pillai Asogan, P.Eng.; Mohsin Ali Talpur, P.Eng.

Lower Row L to R: Meirong (Melody) Li, P.Eng.; Kevin Kwan, P.Eng.; Fazlae (Murad) Hossain, P.Eng.; Bhadrashkumar Modi, P.Eng.; Ariyanayagam (Philip) Karunakaran, P.Eng.; Ali Ashraf, P.Eng.; Ahmad Shah, P.Eng.; Abul (Fazlul) Karim, P.Eng.

Message from Editorial Committee:

The Editorial Committee welcomes

- 1) Articles of engineering interest
- 2) Subjects of interest to engineering community (within guidelines of PEO)
- 3) Suggestions for future events – seminars/technical visits/ workshops, etc.
- 4) Suggestions for improvement of newsletter/website.

Editorial Committee:

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