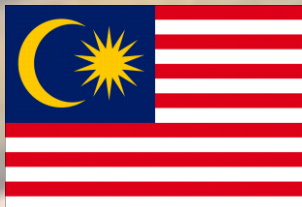
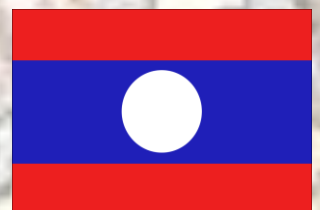




# **WE- AFEO**

***19<sup>th</sup> December 2012***



# **WOMEN ENGINEERS SECTION FOR THE ASEAN FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING ORGANISATIONS (WE-AFEO)**

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

The Mid-Term meeting of the AFEO held in June 2012 was arranged and conducted simultaneously with the Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Conference (WiSET 2012) in Kuala Lumpur. The Organizing Committee from IEM had the onerous task of arranging both the conference and the AFEO mid-term meeting, resulting in overwhelming attendance and tremendous success for both events. Part of the AFEO event was held in Kuala Lumpur in conjunction with WiSET and with the assistance of the AER Head Commissioner, Ir. Choo Kok Beng, IEM Negeri Sembilan (a state branch) co-hosted the second part of the event in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, with valuable support and attendance from the State Government.

From the success of the WiSET Conference and the AFEO mid-term meeting, where both events were attended by women engineers from various parts of the world, the IEM WE felt that it is timely to pursue active participation of women engineers in future AFEO events. Such could be facilitated by the formation and endorsement of Women Engineers Section within AFEO as a forum for the strategic alliances. The IEM WE felt that the annual dialogue with counter parts in ASEAN is ideal for each country to integrate better and promote understanding of each other's culture, environment and continuous professional development. This is collectively agreed by all the representatives from AFEO countries during the recent meeting. The meeting concurs that AFEO is an ideal platform and vehicle:

- To connect both professional and the younger generation of women engineers in ASEAN; establishing strong networking at international level;
- To encourage women engineers to participate in AFEO activities;
- To enable professional development, continuous learning and contribution to society at large.

## **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

The mission statement of the proposed WEAFEO is:

*“To build a network connecting Women Engineers and strategic alliances amongst engineering professional bodies to inspire, support and recognize Women Engineers in their professional development and contribution to the society”*

The formation of the WEAFEO is intended for the following objectives:

- To encourage women engineers to remain in the engineering practice;
- To promote greater contribution from women engineers in industry;
- To support women in their engineering careers and encourage achievements as engineers and leaders;
- To recognize the achievements of women engineers;
- To promote understanding, goodwill and co-operation among women engineers;
- To promote and exchange ideas, concerns and experiences and about engineering and technology
- To encourage the study & application of engineering among female students;
- To become role models in inspiring next generation;
- To connect students & professional engineers;
- To develop mentoring program.
- To organize engineering-related activities which contribute to society and benefit general public

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

In the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2012, the IEM WE in collaboration with the Women Engineers representatives from AFEO countries has agreed on the following agenda in pursuit of the WE-AFEO formation:

- Arriving to mutual agreement on the significance of women engineers and professionals in future AFEO activities, specifically those to be organized by the WE-AFEO. The activities will include reporting on the role of women engineers in respective ASEAN countries during technical and dialogue sessions, and vice-versa to their respective parent engineering organizations. The activities will also serve as a forum for the exchange of information concerning women engineers' initiatives within the ASEAN region;
- Exploring potential collaboration amongst the women engineers and other professionals within ASEAN;
- Pursuing and recruiting Women Engineers' membership. Membership is strength and with sizeable members, the WE-AFEO anticipates to be active and prosper in achieving the objectives.

Hence, the Women Engineers representatives from the AFEO countries call for the full support from all the engineering organizations of AFEO to approve and endorse the initial pro-tem committee towards the formation of WE-AFEO. It is therefore

imperative that all the AFEO member organizations pledge their support on such an initiative in view of the increased expansion of international trade and services which includes technological expertise and engineering skills providing considerable opportunities for significant contribution from the women engineers.

With the establishment of the WE-AFEO, the ASEAN member organization will have another common platform for dialogue and interaction for future exchange of ideas and goodwill to foster the co-operation and alliances amongst engineering bodies in this region.

The Women Engineers attending AFEO activities will not only benefit from the increased awareness of other national engineering bodies but will also gain significant benefits from such regional and international platform especially for the sustainability of the future younger generation.