

MOBILITY OF ASEAN ENGINEERS

1. Mobility of Engineers

It is indeed timely now for ASEAN engineers to start knocking on the doors of their neighbors, looking for smart partnerships in strategic areas, and do benchmarking against international best practices and collaboration for win-win situation.

2. Towards Internationalization of ASEAN Engineers

Teaching, research, scholarly activities and service functions are to be given the international and intercultural dimensions in order to promote international cooperation and internship.

Information and communication technology (ICT) developments has made it possible for engineering services to be provided beyond national borders. More significantly, networking between engineers and communication has been greatly facilitated. Research and consultancy can be done remotely, virtually without time and space constraints so that research and consultancy collaboration are made easier through enhanced communication facilities.

3. Issues and challenges

Despite its straightforward definition and outcome, internationalization requires concerted efforts and high sense of commitment from various engineering institutions in ASEAN.

Issues that could hinder program include:

- Poor integration and coordination.
- Lack of coherent strategic planning to sustain existing strength and guarantee success of future Achievements.
- Add hoc treatment of networking and partnership.

In order to face the big wave of globalization it could be worth to look at some of the current challenges;

- The need for and vested interests in research and development.
- The identification of competency needs by the new graduates working in the local and global environment.
- The impact of new information and communication technologies (ICT)

4. Proposed Activities:

- i. Exchange of students among ASEAN countries.
- ii. Involvement in joint committees to develop code of ethical practice for professional engineers.
- iii. Organize workshops on various engineering topics relevant to the needs of ASEAN countries.
- iv. Involvement in joint research & development in environmental issues.
- v. Sabbatical for lecturers in ASEAN countries.
- vi. Establishing code of practice for other areas applicable for ASEAN countries. Example: wind loading for structures and earthquake monitoring and management in ASEAN countries. This interest group can organize parallel sessions during AFEO conference, working on producing such code of practice.
- vii. Identification of each member country's high achievement so that it can benefit and share with other member countries.

5. Conclusion:

It is of paramount importance to start off with such an idea. This could be implemented with more discussions among engineering professionals in ASEAN countries. An ASEAN collaboration institute can be established, based in Kuala Lumpur under the umbrella of IEM, to foster collaboration and cooperation among the engineering institutes in ASEAN countries,