

## **PEB Seminar – President’s Closing Address**

Good morning and thank you for making this inaugural PE Seminar 2019 a successful one. 470 participants have signed up for this seminar, which far exceeded our initial target of 250. If you are asking what’s next, we would be organising this seminar on an annual basis and will continue to provide the most “value for money” \$25 with 4 PDU seminar that you can find in the market.

The PE Seminar is one of the key initiatives that PE Board has embarked on, with the objective to develop PEs, like yourselves. One of the focus for this seminar is to get our PEs to be aware and ready to support the Construction Industry Transformation Map (ITM in short), which was launched in 2017.

## **Industry Transformation Map (ITM)**

The main objective of ITM is to transform the built environment sector into an advance and integrated one. To achieve that, there will be a big push in the built environment industry for adoption of 3 strategies - Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DfMA), Green Buildings and Integrated Digital Delivery (IDD).

Going forward, the transformative changes would not only be game changing but also disruptive, very much like how Grab has changed the taxi industry. So what can we do as PEs to embrace the transformative change through the ITM.

For the PE Board, we have taken the first step to gear up the new generation of PEs to be well-versed with the ITM through making it compulsory, for the setting of questions in FEE and PPE examinations, to cover transformative areas such as DfMA and Green Building. We want to emphasise that it is no longer good to know about the transformative technology, it is now a must and part of the know-how for PE.

### Digitalisation

You have also heard from our speaker Er. Colin Yip, who has shared with us on transformative technologies in digital design/VDC/IDD and its project application. Going digital is already happening now in our day to day life and its influence on the way we work would even be more profound in the future. One such upcoming disruptive change would be the co-ordinated BIM submission through the new plan submission Corenet X in 2023. Corenet X will encourage closer collaboration amongst all the built environment disciplines including architectural, structural and M&E through the co-ordinated BIM submission. For such collaborative working relationship to happen amongst the different discipline, it would also involve some form of re-engineering process, which would directly impact all the PEs.

Such digital transformation would lead to greater collaboration of the industry and will change fundamentally on not only how the way we will work, but also how the agencies will work. My advice for everyone is to start taking concrete actions. First, you can start to be familiar with development of the IDD plan of the ITM and then you can start small with your own digitalisation journey, even get help through tapping of available government funding.

## Internationalisation

Next, our Distinguished PE Er. Nasim has also shared with us that the need for internationalisation although challenging, for small market like Singapore, we might have no choice but to venture overseas. And we need not look very far, the construction market for a number of ASEAN countries such as Vietnam, Philippines, Thailand are reported to continue to grow in the next 5 years.

You can start your overseas venture in these fast growing ASEAN countries through the ASEAN Chartered PE (ACPE) scheme administered by us. With ACPE membership, you can apply to these ASEAN countries to start supplying professional engineering work as a Registered Foreign PE through collaboration with a local PE. Remember China was not the current China a few decades ago, how sure we are if there would not be another 'China equivalent' in construction demand growth within ASEAN.

## Find your Niche

The construction industry has been facing fee diving issues for a while. The risk for fee diving is that PE might take risk to undertake projects beyond what their resources can sustain. This increases the risk of PEs contravening against authorities' laws due to various reasons such as lack of supervision as shared by Registrar in the first presentation.

I would like to advise for our PEs not to participate in the viscous cycle of fee diving. Instead, you should focus on developing your niche in the engineering field to differentiate yourself. We observed that currently there are some bright spots within the PE's niche work such as SPE(Geotechnical) and SPE(Lift & Escalator) due to demand

for forthcoming infrastructure works as well as the ever increasing number of new and old lifts requiring inspection respectively. In total, there are 7 SPEs to specialise in, please visit our website to find out more.

I would like to end this address with this saying by one engineer: “As engineers, we were going to be in a position to change the world – not just study it”. Hope what has been shared here in this morning, would be an impetus for you to go out to start making changes to your areas of influence and to make this world a better place through engineering. See you next year and good bye.