

# Inspiring Young Talent in Sustainability of Tunnelling Industry in Malaysia

TUNNELLING & UNDERGROUND SPACE TECHNICAL DIVISION

reported by



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"The best brains of the nation may be found on the last benches of the classroom," ~ Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

Inspiring young talent is important to ensure continuity and sustainability. Tunnelling is not widely known to the engineering world or, more importantly, to young inspiring engineers. So the Tunnelling & Underground Space Division (TUSD) has taken the initiative to inspire young engineers so that they will be interested to gain knowledge and eventually be the key participants in the tunnelling industry here and abroad.

Spurring the interest of young engineers is the key to get them to pay attention to tunnelling. Armed with that vision, TUSD prepared a nationwide informative drive at selected universities to inspire the young.

On the 26 March 2017, The Faculty of Civil Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, organised a half-day talk for 55 participants comprising undergraduates, post-graduate students and academics from UTM, Universiti Tun Hussien Onn (UTHM) and Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM).

The two speakers were TUSD Chairman Ir. Syed R. Hussain and committee member Mr. Ilanchelvan Polanippan.

The programme was initiated by the Tunnelling and Underground Space Division of IEM as part of the University Adoption Programme. The aim was to instill awareness among graduates of the division's role and its membership drive as well as to expose graduates to tunnelling. The talk was part of the post-graduate's elective subject in Tunnelling Engineering. The programme has also been planned for selected local universities.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia has introduced a Tunnel Engineering course for the Master Engineering student. It is the first faculty in Malaysia to offer such a course, it joins the ranks of a few universities providing a similar course. The course was introduced based on input and initiative by TUSD.

In his welcome speech, Faculty Dean Prof. Khairul Anuar said collaboration programmes between the university and practitioners (tunnel engineers), such as this talk, were definitely a value-added part of the course.

There were six sessions. The talk introduced the scope of Tunnel Engineering, the latest technology in tunnel



Photo session with some of the participants

construction and case studies of tunnelling work in MRT here and in the United Kingdom, as experienced by both speakers.

Ir. Syed Rajah presented the first three sessions on Underground Survey, Tunnelling in Soft Ground and Tunnelling in Hard Rock. In the afternoon session, Mr. Ilanchelvan talked about Mechanised Tunnelling and Tunnel Lining as well as Instrumentation and Monitoring.

In the last session, Ir. Syed Rajah covered Health, Safety and Environment Considerations. He closed the session with "Contractor vs the sheep, the duck and the dog", sharing interesting environmental issues faced during his working experiences in United Kingdom.

It was an interesting experience-sharing session and, with high interaction from both students and lecturers, the talk ended an hour later than scheduled! ■

## IEM DIARY OF EVENTS

**Title: 2-Day Course On Understanding The Construction Contracts – Failures & Remedies**

**13-14 June 2017**

Organised by : Project Management Technical Division

Time : 9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

CPD/PDP : 14

Kindly note that the scheduled events below are subject to change. Please visit the IEM website at [www.myiem.org.my](http://www.myiem.org.my) for more information on the upcoming events.