



Middle East Interest Group of Engineers Australia

November, 2011
Volume 1, Issue 4

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Convenor's Message

This is the fourth of our occasional newsletters, and at this time I would like to thank all members, for helping to progress and grow this Interest Group of Engineers Australia, especially to those who provide their time to give presentations.

As we head towards the end of the year we would also like to wish all members a happy holiday season and prosperous new year. On this note, we have two proposed social events, one for UAE (in Dubai) and one for Qatar. The dates are as follows:

UAE: Date: Thursday, 15th December
Location: Observatory Bar, level 52, Dubai Marriott Harbour Hotel, Dubai Marina
Time: From 6pm

Qatar: Date: Thursday, 15th December
Location: Belgium Café (Intercontinental)
Time: From 7pm

People and Venues Needed

For MEIG to continue to flourish, we need members who are prepared to make presentations.

Also in the UAE, we need to continue to find suitable venues to attract our members from both Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

These presentations are really the life blood of the MEIG.

Coming Events in 2012 UAE

In January Adam Balchin from SNR Denton will provide a presentation entitled "Forced Majeure – Construction in the Gulf". The location will be at AECOM Dubai Healthcare City, Building 24, Level 2.

In March GHD will host a MEIG meeting and make a presentation at their office in Abu Dhabi. The presentation is entitled "Built form = Art, Pavilion on Saadiyat Abu Dhabi"

Qatar

A presentation is proposed for January from MMUPs Mr Mustaba Hamidy entitled **Utility Impact Assessment**. With all the current and future road projects utilities need to be assessed in a more cost effective manner. Hamidy will provide information on how this can be done from a Governmental perspective.

In addition, a potential freight strategy presentation will also be provided by AECOM in March. The presentation will look at how logistics and freight can be managed within the Gulf. With the coming World Cup freight and logistics will become increasingly important. Once the details are finalized further information will be provided.

Did you Know?

You can access webcasts of Engineers Australia technical presentations and seminars through the Engineers Australia website. This is a useful tool for maintaining Continuing Professional Development (CPD). You can access the webcasts by navigating to the 'Resources and Library' tab on the Engineers Australia website. This newsletter is now also available electronically from the Engineers Australia website.

Engineering Quote

"Engineering is a great profession. There is the satisfaction of watching a figment of the imagination emerge through the aid of science to a plan on paper. Then it moves to realization in stone or metal or energy. Then it brings homes to men or women. Then it elevates the standard of living and adds the comforts of life. This is the engineer's high privilege."

Herbert Hoover (1874 – 1964)



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Past Presentations

October Presentation UAE/Qatar

In October Adel Kriech, Director of BlueVisions Management, made presentations to the MEIG's in Abu Dhabi and Qatar on Design and Build, a Shift in Mindset for the Employer's Engineer.

The presentation was very well received as more and more infrastructure projects are being delivered in the MENA Region using the Design & Build contract system. The presentation explored the shift in mindset required of the Employer's Engineer to maximize the benefits and opportunities available to the Employer and the challenges in managing the Employer's risks. Adel challenged our mindset as designers and project consultants and challenged us to let go of the traditional design processes and embrace the various early contractor involvement delivery options available including Design & Build. Adel gave a high level overview of the differences between the most common contract systems and the delivery systems available. The presentation can be downloaded from www.bluevisions.com.au

September Presentation UAE

Irina Foster, Sustainability Team Leader at AECOM, gave a presentation in Abu Dhabi on Estidama and LEED. Estidama is the Arabic word for sustainability and is an initiative developed and promoted by the Urban Planning Council (UPC). LEED is a green building rating system developed by United States Green Building Council (USGBC). Irina gave an introduction to Estidama and Estidama regulation in the U.A.E and discussed the integrated development process & the other 6 Categories key to sustainable development. She gave an overview of the LEED rating system and discussed LEED compared to Estidama. Irina stressed the importance of Owner / Developer buy into Estidama and LEED. Irina gave the audience valuable insight into Estidama and LEED through her engaging presentation and interesting examples of sustainable design & construction practice.

People's Profiles



Name: Khondker Rahman
Company: Ministry of Municipality and Urban Planning
Location: Doha, Qatar
Position: Senior Environmental Planning Advisor

Why did you choose engineering as a career?

I didn't really choose it, it was chosen for me by my parents. Having said that, I don't regret that I embraced it as my career. Back in Bangladesh, two most sought prestigious disciplines are Engineering and Medicine.

What has been the most interesting job you have worked on so far?

Developing the "Sustainable Drainage Plan for the Mumbai International Airport" in 2007-2008.

What inspires you?

Appreciation, dedication and sincerity of fellow colleagues.

What makes you laugh?

Jokes (Irish jokes in particular)

What annoys you?

Deliberate exclusion and lack of communication

What was one of your best holidays?

A family trip to US in 2010, travelling through New York, Washington DC, Nth Carolina, Florida, Miami, Bahamas, Texas (Houston, Dallas, Austin and few other places).

What is your passion outside of engineering?

Reading, Writing (in magazines and cultural publications), Music and Travelling