



THE FIJI INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS

P O Box 851
SUVA

President: Pratarp Singh
Secretary/Treasurer: Nathan Kirk

Email: fiefiji@connect.com.fj
Telephone: 310 0343
Fax: 331 8618

FIE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2011

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Your Council and staff at the FIE office hope that you have all had a Happy Christmas and wish you all a very Prosperous 2011.

FIE ANNUAL DINNER

A very successful FIE Annual Dinner was held on Friday 26 November at Holiday Inn with over 100 members and their guests attending the function.

We are most grateful to the following firms who kindly sponsored the dinner. The sponsors were; Fletcher Construction (Fiji), Fortech Construction Ltd, Raghwan Construction Co Ltd and Downer Construction (Fiji) Ltd



President Pratarp welcoming members and their guests

The guest speaker was Ms Nazhat Shameem who has shown a keen interest and been very helpful to the FIE during the year. Nazhat Shameem spoke in her usual excellent way to the enjoyment of all and on a less serious note than required in her usual profession.



Members and their guests at the FIE dinner



Bill Yee addressing members and their guests



Bill Yee on receipt of his plaque from Pratarp



The plaque

The highlight of the formalities was the presentation to Honwing William Yee, Bill Yee as we know him. Bill was presented with a plaque to honour his extensive contributions to the Engineering Profession in Fiji. Bill has a wealth of knowledge and your President and myself felt honoured to go and visit Bill recently to hear more of his life and the launch of the FIE.

Bill arrived in Fiji in 1940 from Southern China near to Hong Kong where he was born. Bill was then 12 or 13 years old. Later Bill studied at Admore University in Auckland (predecessor to Auckland University) where he obtained his engineering degree. The late Pat Maybin (one of the founding partners of LHM) followed Bill at Admore.

Bill had three sons and three daughters all of whom have done well.

The sons are in engineering in various forms. Bill now enjoys his retirement in Suva.

Since returning to Fiji, Bill has spent time with PWD, formed Yee Morgan in 1970 and was instrumental in forming the FIE with a group of engineers from outside the Civil Service and followed the demise of the Professional Engineers Association. At that time there appeared to be friction between the engineers in the private and public sectors. Bill was the inaugural President of the FIE that was formed in about 1970, the year of Fiji's Independence. It is of interest to note that Bill was on the FIE panel to interview John Hill for membership. Perhaps the most notable building in Fiji that Bill engineered was the 18 storey Reserve Bank Building and that work was carried out with John Hill (JS Hill & Associates Ltd) as the Contractor.

Not content with just good engineering, Bill was also a Senator in the 1990s prior to the 2000 election. Bill was also on the Legislative Council from 1966 to 1972. In 1972 Bill entered Parliament as General Member for the Suva and Central Ward until 1982. That was the first Government after Independence. Bill also mentioned to us that in those early days around 1977 when he was in Parliament unopposed in two elections that he had to work very hard at both politics

and in engineering. There was a Legislative Council sitting allowance of just £25.00 a day. Bill was also on various committees without extra remuneration.

DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR HASAWA (Construction)

The FIE was invited to be on a sub-committee and was requested at short notice to comment on the Draft Regulations for the Health and Safety at Work Act (Construction). The request was passed to the FIE Council members and some of us spent a very considerable amount of time going through them and writing up comments, all at very short notice. Alas all to no avail at present, hardly any people turned up to the meeting, so no meeting was held. Following that non event, our President did lodge a serious complaint. We are sure that there will be some reaction and hopefully it will all come into place in the not too distant future.

ENGINEERS REGISTRATION



Ms Nazhat Shameem

Pratarp and Ms Nazhat Shameem have held several discussions on the above issue and Nazhat Shameem put forward a very good in depth paper for the FIE Council to discuss. It was decided to call a Special General Meeting to take place on Monday 6 December 2010 in order to give our members the opportunity to discuss the paper. It is disappointing to note that due to a lack of attendance by Professional members, (the Rules call for a quorum of 15 Professional Members) we were unable to raise a quorum.

Rather than waste the time and effort made by those who were present it was decided to have an informal discussion on the subject. The result was by no means a waste of time and your Council now have a much clearer picture from members input.

FIE SUBSCRIPTIONS

The expenses of running the FIE have increased considerably over the past year with purchases of necessary office equipment. We also have to subscribe to our membership of SPEA and our subscription has increased mainly due to increases in the costs overseas travel for necessary meetings of the SPEA Chapters. We now have Aarti Naicker as a paid member of staff to help out with the general administration work. That work has increased due to the FIE getting involved with various engineering based committees and we do not see that reducing. The launch of SPEA was an added expenditure, but reduced due to some extent by sponsorship. We are extremely fortunate that the FIE occupies a small office within Entec at no rental cost to the FIE at the moment.

The current FIE Rules do state that the Subscription year runs from 1 October to 30 September, but your Council have decided to revert to the previous yearly period from 1 January to 31 December. This change will be the written into the Rules and be the subject of an SGM for members approval.

In order to assist in reducing the imbalance of running the FIE, your Council has given approval for the following FIE subscription rates for 2011 as shown below. The new amounts are shown below and therefore became due and payable on 1 January 2011.

Grade of Membership	Subscription for 2011	Grade of Membership	Subscription for 2011
Honorary Fellow	0.00	Associate	\$200.00
Fellow	\$500.00	Diplomate	\$75.00
Professional	\$380.00	Affiliate	\$200.00
Technical	\$300.00	Student	\$20.00
Graduate	\$200.00		

DISASTER RESPONSE IN FIJI

There have been recent discussions between our President and AusAID. The purpose being for the FIE to become involved with arranging work in connection with disasters and in addition, training various categories of Professionals and tradespersons in order to build to the required standards to reduce likely damage from cyclones and earthquakes etc. Those discussions came to fruition on 23 December 2010 when the FIE signed a Contract between the Commonwealth of Australia and Fiji Institution of Engineers.

In order to get our work started, it is now necessary for the FIE to draw up a data base giving the details of our applicable members. This is in order to be able to call on the best people for any particular requirement at any time.

In order to carry out work as and when requested, members will be required to submit their fees to the FIE. A budget will be given by AusAID, so the fees will have to come within that budget. On the assumption that the fees are accepted, payment will be made by the FIE upon successful completion of your work, or in stages if the work will take a long time to complete. The FIE will be paid by AusAID. Please note that it is an AusAID requirement that only those members with an acceptable PI cover can be engaged to carry out any work on this project.