

# FEIAP ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2014



**Dato' Paduka (Dr.) Ir. Hj. Keizrul Bin Abdullah**

Hon. FIEM, Hon. FAFEO, FAAET, ACPE, P.Eng.  
PJN, DSSJ, DMPN, DPMK, DSPN, JSM, AMN

**President 2007- 2009**

**The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM)**

Dato' Paduka (Dr.) Ir. Hj. Keizrul bin Abdullah is the Chairperson of GreenTech Malaysia, a not-for-profit company under the purview of the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water, Malaysia. He has been involved in the field of water engineering and environment for the past 38 years. He graduated in Civil Engineering from the University of Malaya and joined the Department of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia where over an illustrious career, he rose to become the Director General in 1997 until his retirement from public service eleven years later.

As Director General, he pushed for a more environment-friendly approach to solving water issues and changed the traditional approach of dealing with water problems from supply management (project biased) to demand management (conservation of resources). He advocated the need to manage water, river, flood and coastal problems in a holistic and integrated manner through Integrated Water Resources Management, and was instrumental in making it government policy. He was responsible for initiating a number of rehabilitation and restoration projects to “bring nature back to the rivers” and introduced a control at source approach for urban storm water management. He championed the mainstreaming of flood issues in Malaysia and oversaw the development of a Flood Mitigation Master Plan for the Capital City of Kuala Lumpur and managed the SMART Tunnel Project (a unique and innovative flood mitigation project utilising a tunnel for both flood and traffic use) from conception to commissioning. The SMART Tunnel Project is one of only two engineering projects in Malaysia to be showcased in both the National Geographic and the Discovery Channels, the other being the Petronas Twin Towers, the tallest twin towers in the world.

Over the past four decades, Ir. Keizrul has been very active in professional activities and is renown amongst engineering circles as a leader, an intellectual and an orator who aspires to turn engineers from being nation builders to becoming nation movers. He is a registered Professional Engineer and has served two full 5-year terms on the Board of Engineers

Malaysia, a statutory body responsible for the regulation and conduct of the engineering profession in Malaysia. He is an Honorary Fellow and a Past President of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia, the largest professional body in the country. He is also a Founding Fellow of the ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology and a registered ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineer.

Presently Ir. Keizrul is Chairperson of NARBO, the leading organization for river basin organizations in Asia. He is a member of the OECD Work Group on Water Governance Initiatives, and a member of the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters which reports to the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Water. In the field of water and environment, Ir. Keizrul is the Chairperson of the Council of Wetlands International Malaysia.

Ir. Keizrul continues to accept invitations to share his knowledge and experience on water and environment issues, and on green technology. He has served as Adjunct Professor with some local universities, delivering a series of lectures on water, environment, climate change and green technology, highlighting the importance of water and green technology on society and the environment; and how engineering knowledge is used to create a better quality of life for all.

In recognition of his contribution to the engineering profession, Ir. Keizrul was awarded the IEM Award for Contribution to the Engineering Profession in Malaysia, and at the international level, was conferred an Honorary Fellowship and the Engineering Achievement Award of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisation, and the International Society of Paddy and Water Environment International Award. For his services to the nation, he has been conferred honorific awards from the Federal Government and a number of State Governments.

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