



NEWSLETTER

THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS (SINGAPORE BRANCH)

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JULY-AUGUST 2008

IFE COUNCIL



1st Row From Left to Right: Mr K Ramanathan, Mr Siew Yee Cheong, Mr Tan Jin Thong, Mr Azmi b Adam
2nd Row From Left to Right: Mr David Goh, Mr Pandi Karupiah, Mr Fong Kum Wah, Ms Yeow Mei Leng, Vincent Leong
Not in the picture: Mr Koh Soon Chuang, Mr S Ramasami

IFE (Singapore Branch) Council Members

President

Tan Jin Thong FIFireE

Vice President

Siew Yee Cheong FIFireE

Honorary Secretary

Azmi b Adam FIFireE

Honorary Treasurer

K Ramanathan GIFireE

Members

Koh Soon Chuang MIFireE

Yeow Mei Leng FIFireE

Vincent Leong Kuan Yu MIFireE

Pandi Karupiah FIFireE

S Ramasami FIFireE

Fong Kum Wah AFFireE

David Goh AFFireE

MEMBERS' NITE



IFE International President, Mr Charles Chu addressing IFE Singapore Members



Members listening to Mr Chu's speech



Members listening to Mr Chu's speech



Presentation of memento to IFE International President

The IFE Members' Nite was held on Monday, 16 June 2008 at the NUS Guild House at Suntec City in honour of our IFE International President, Mr Charles Chu. Fifty-five members and guests attended the function which was partly sponsored by M/s Ademco (Far East) Pte Ltd. Members were treated to a western style dinner.

Speech by IFE International President

President Tan Jin Thong, Mr. Tay Hao Giang, honourable guests, members, ladies and gentlemen, Good Evening.

Thank you very much for inviting me to visit the Singapore Branch and for all the meticulous arrangements, and thank you Mr Siew Yee Cheong for your valuable time and attention.

I must mention that I'm grateful to Mr. Tan and Mr. Tay for allowing me to be the first International President from Asia; you see if either of them had chosen to stand for election, I would have been waiting in a line. So thank you my dear friends.

You are probably aware that I had actually retired from fire services duties when I took

up my presidency last year and I was a bit worried about the lack of the usual organizational support. One day I was discussing this with a Member of the Board of Directors and he told me a short story, he said a Past President like you was looking for somebody to help him out on assuming office, so he went to a head-hunting firm, to his surprise they showed him 3 parrots with price tags of £200; £300 and £500 respectively. The HRM manager pointed to the 1st parrot that was worth £200 and explained that it was very good with computers; for the 2nd one that was worth £300 he said that it was good not only with Windows XP but also Mackintosh, and a host of other softwares. As for the most expensive one, the manager said "Honestly, I've never seen him doing anything, but the 2 other parrots would only work when he is around, and they called him International President". Well, that was my first lesson as IP, to get some good support and learn to be a parrot that speaks well and does nothing.

The tragedy is I had never found the 2 parrots to work for me, so I had to work on the computer, the photocopier, the fax and the scanner all by myself and also act as the International President.

I know dinner speeches should be light and should avoid discussing business, but this is a rare occasion for me to meet with members, so please allow me to talk just a little bit about our institution and our profession.

This year we are celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Institution and looking back in time, the IFE has earned for itself quite a good standing in the world of fire engineering, and I know I'm not just bragging, because in many countries, the IFE is respected and regularly consulted by local government and professional bodies on fire safety matters. However I can see a big challenge ahead of us, if we do not put our acts together we may soon be heading down

hill, and that has to do with the identity of fire engineering as a distinct discipline.

When I say fire engineering as a discipline, I am comparing it with more established disciplines like civil, mechanical electrical etc, and I think we are comparable in many aspects. Although some people do feel uneasy with the flexibility and subjectivity elements especially in the application of fire modeling software and risk assessments, but I believe these will improve with time and experiences.

I note that Singapore has quite comprehensive legislation to control fire engineering practices in buildings, the Singapore Civil Defence Force administers a Registered Inspector Scheme and you have a system to qualify and register fire safety engineers, which in a way puts you ahead of many countries. But I also note that fire engineering is not an established discipline here, either with the Board of Professional Engineers or the Institution of Engineers Singapore. That means registered fire safety engineers may have no reciprocity with their peers at other jurisdictions.

It seems to me that different countries have different approaches to fire engineering practices. As you know in UK, through our EC Division, the Engineering Council UK registers Chartered Engineers, Incorporated Engineers and Engineering Technicians in fire engineering, but they do not have complementary legislations for fire engineers to practice.

In the United States, they have qualified professional fire safety or fire protection engineers but no national laws, and fire safety practices vary from state to state. Australia has a National Professional Engineer Register with fire safety engineering as one of the 17 areas of practice. In China, there are qualified fire engineers both in the public and private sector, but again practices vary with provinces. In Hong Kong, there is now a fire engineering discipline in the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, and we are just starting to introduce regulatory legislation and

a 3rd party certification scheme for fire engineering practices.

Academically, there are only a handful of universities around the world that have fire engineering as a curriculum, some of them are more fire research oriented than applications related. In general, many fire engineering practitioners is of the opinion that the academia is not always producing research outcomes that are practical, and the academics blame the trade for not being supportive of much needed research resources.

As for fire and building officials, the level of fire engineering expertise varies with countries, departments and individuals, many officers are not fully trained in fire engineering although they are approving solutions, and applying fire engineering principles on a day to day basis.

So in a nutshell, fire engineering is not a regulated practice internationally and does not enjoy a clear identity among professional engineering disciplines.

As for the IFE, we have a diverse membership, but not all members are willing to climb the ladder to the level of a professional engineer, hence upgrading the overall profile of the Institution would take some time.

I suggest that our challenge is to convince fire professionals around the world to look ahead and build for ourselves a distinct fire

engineering discipline, with a solid scientific background, and full reciprocity and mobility. I suggest that there should be a much stronger interaction between researchers and practitioners to improve on mathematical modeling and alternative solutions. Internally we should encourage and facilitate our members to elevate their professional standing.

Only in this way can we as fire engineers enjoy a social and professional status similar, if not higher than any other engineering discipline that we deserve.

The IFE is committed to support that development, one of the things we are doing is to analyze government policies and to consult all stakeholders with a view to formulating our future strategies. I see promising potential in Asia in progressing this, especially with the Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong Branches. I hope our Asian Branches can work closer together to achieve a high professional status for our members.

So dear members, I hope you would agree with me and I look forward to your support in meeting this important challenge. The first thing to do is to offer your views and indicate your support when the consultation document comes out.

I think I have spoken for much longer than was expected, but I hope I have given you something to think about. So thank you very much for bearing with me. Thank you.

COURSE ON SERVICING & MAINTENANCE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

The 8th run of the Course on Servicing & Maintenance of Fire Extinguishers will be held from 15th – 23rd September 2008 jointly with NTUC LearningHub Pte Ltd. This course is accredited by SCDF under the Accredited Training Institution Scheme. Upon successful completion of the course, participants will be qualified to inspect,

maintain and re-charge fire extinguishers. The course will be conducted by qualified personnel from IFE Singapore, and there will be an examination at the end of the course to qualify for certification. This will be the last course for the year 2008.

The Course Contents are:

1. Introduction to fire extinguishers.
2. Types of fire extinguishers and their classification & ratings.
3. Overview of SS232 – Construction of fire extinguishers.
4. SS.CP.55 – Selection & distribution of fire extinguishers.
5. SS.CP.55 – Maintenance of fire extinguishers – theory & practical.
6. SS.CP.55 – Recharging of fire extinguishers – theory & practical.
7. SS.CP.55 – Hydrostatic testing of fire extinguishers – theory & practical.
8. Theory test and Practical test.

NTUC Learning Hub
141 Redhill Road
Singapore 158828

18th, 19th & 23rd Sept 2008
32 Ang Mo Kio Industrial Park 2
#07-06 Sing Industrial Complex
Singapore 569510

Course fee: \$475.00 for IFE Member
\$505.00 for Non-Member

Maximum Class Size: 20

Please fill up the application form on Pg 8 and return it together with payment to the IFE Secretariat. As there will be limited places, allocation will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

Course commencement date : 15th Sept 2008

Duration: 6 evenings 6.30pm to 9.30pm

Venue: 15th, 16th & 22nd Sept 2008
Centre for Employability Scheme

IFE-NFPA WORKSHOPS ON NFPA 101, 13 & 20

Our Institution is once again organizing Workshops on NFPA 101 – Life Safety Code on 3 & 4 Nov 2008, NFPA 13 – Installation of Sprinkler Systems on 5 & 6 Nov 08 and NFPA 20 – Fire Pumps on 7 Nov 08 from 9am to 5pm.

The workshop leader is Mr William E Koffel, PE, President, Koffel Associates and Authorised trainer of National Fire Protection Association, USA.

The venue is at Phoenix Ballroom II, Novotel Clarke Quay, Singapore, 177A River Valley Road, Singapore 179031.

7 PDU points per day are awarded by Professional Engineers Board, Singapore, 4 CPD points for NFPA 101, 2 CPD points each for NFPA 13 & NFPA 20 by Singapore Institute of Architects (SIA) and 14 SDU points from MOM for NFPA 101.

Registration Fees are as follows: -

	1-Day NFPA 20 Nov 7	2-Day NFPA 101 Nov 3 & 4	2-Day NFPA 13 Nov 5 & 6	3-Day NFPA 13/20 Nov 5 to 7	4-Day NFPA 101/13 Nov 3 to 6	5-Day NFPA101/13/20 Nov 3 to 7
IFE/NFPA Members	\$400	\$900	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,800
Supporting Organisations	\$450	\$990	\$900	\$1,170	\$1,710	\$2,070
Non-Members	\$500	\$1,100	\$1,000	\$1,300	\$1,900	\$2,300

IFE EXAMINATIONS

The following examinations are available in 2009:

Preliminary

Intermediate (Paper 1 and Paper 2)

Graduate: Passes in all 3 mandatory papers plus a pass in 1 optional paper are required to meet the academic requirement for membership of the Institution at Graduate grade.

Graduate Paper 1 Fire Safety (mandatory)

Graduate Paper 3 Fire Engineering Science (mandatory)

Graduate Paper 2a Operations (optional)

Graduate Paper 2c Aero Fire Studies (optional)

Graduate Paper 4 Human Resource Management (mandatory)

Member: Passes in all 3 mandatory papers plus a pass in 1 optional paper are required to meet the academic requirement for membership of the Institution at Member grade.

Member Paper 1 Fire Engineering Science (mandatory)

Member Paper 2 Fire Safety (mandatory)

Member Paper 5 Strategic Human Resource Management (mandatory)

Member Paper 6 Fire Service Operations (optional)

Member Paper 7 Aero Fire Studies (optional)

Member Paper 8 Fire Investigation (optional)

Member Paper 11 Civil Emergency and Disaster Management (optional)

2009 Examinations Timetable

Thursday 12 March 2009	10:00-13:00	Preliminary Examinations
Thursday 12 March 2009	10:00-12:00	Intermediate Paper 1
Thursday 12 March 2009	10:00-13:00	Graduate Paper 1 Fire Safety
Thursday 12 March 2009	10:00-13:00	Membership Paper 1 Fire Engineering Science
Thursday 12 March 2009	14:00-16:00	Intermediate Paper 2
Thursday 12 March 2009	14:00-17:00	Graduate Paper 2a Operations
Thursday 12 March 2009	14:00-17:00	Graduate Paper 2c Aero Fire Studies
Thursday 12 March 2009	14:00-17:00	Member Paper 6 Fire Service Operations
Thursday 12 March 2009	14:00-17:00	Member Paper 7 Aero Fire Studies
Thursday 12 March 2009	14:00-17:00	Member Paper 8 Fire Investigation
Thursday 12 March 2009	14:00-17:00	Member Paper 11 Civil Emergency & Disaster Management
Friday 13 March 2009	10:00-13:00	Graduate Paper 3 Fire Engineering Science
Friday 13 March 2009	10:00-13:00	Member Paper 5 Strategic Human Resource Management
Friday 13 March 2009	14:00-17:00	Graduate Paper 4 Human Resource Management
Friday 13 March 2009	14:00-17:00	Member Paper 2 Fire Safety

Members who are interested in signing up for the Examinations, please call the Secretariat at Tel No: 63389274. Closing Date: **20 October 2008**.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Our lease expired at the People's Park on 31 July 2008. We have moved to the following address with effect from 1 August 2008.

The Institution of Fire Engineers, Singapore Branch
89 Short Street #02-15
Golden Wall Centre
Singapore 188216
Tel: 63389274
Fax: 63366175

IFE E-NEWSLETTER NAMING COMPETITION

IFE UK is organizing a "IFE E-Newsletter Naming Competition" for their monthly Electronic Newsletter. All individual members (except Affiliate) of the IFE Branches are eligible to participate. Proposed "Name" shall not be owned by any parties concerned. All proposals shall be submitted with a completed application form and shall be emailed, mailed or faxed to

reach IFE Head Office no later than 12.00 noon on 31.10.08. The winning price for the Competition shall be – three years free membership subscription together with a certificate.

Details of the competition and application form can be found on our website: www.ife-singapore.org

FIRE ASIA 2009

Fire Asia 2009, a triennial industry exhibition and conference, returns to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on 9-11 February 2009.

There will be a fresh new approach to the region's leading fire and rescue event as it will now combine the requirements of emergency services personnel with those of the specifiers and installers of fire safety products and services. This broad-based approach will enhance the promotion of excellence in fire safety across the region, and provide a wider arena for discussion and networking for all emergency services and fire safety professionals.

The event will specifically target emergency service professionals, building control personnel, fire safety engineers, consultants, architects and designers of fire safety systems. It will aim to provide professional fire safety practitioners with a platform to meet, network and discover new product solutions. The event will be marketed to the wider pan-Asian region, which includes China, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand.

Members who are interested in participating can submit their name by e-mail to ifesport@singnet.com.sg

REGISTRATION FORM

Fire Extinguisher Servicing & Maintenance Course

15th – 23rd September 2008 (6.30 pm – 9.30 pm)

(Closing Date: 10th September 2008)

The Institution of Fire Engineers
Singapore Branch
89 Short Street #02-15
Golden Wall Centre
Singapore 188216

I am interested in enrolling for the Fire Extinguisher Servicing & Maintenance Course. Enclosed is my cheque _____ for the sum of **\$475.00**, made payable to “THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS”.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Name of Company: _____

Address of Company: _____

NRIC/Passport No: _____ *Citizenship _____

Date of Birth: _____ Sex: _____ Marital Status: _____

Tel No: _____ (O) _____ (HP) _____ (Fax)

Membership No: _____ E-mail address: _____

* For non-Singaporeans, a copy of the employment pass/work permit must be submitted with the application.