



25th Professor Chin Fung Kee Memorial Lecture: 19th Sept 2015

Reported by Ir. Liew Shaw Shong, Secretary General, MGS

Tan Sri Dato' Ir. Shahrizaila Abdullah delivered the 25th Professor Chin Fung Kee Memorial Lecture on the subject "Ensuring a Better Water Future for Malaysia" at Professor Chin Fung Kee Auditorium, Wisma IEM. The lecture was jointly organized by The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia and The Engineering Alumni Association of the University of Malaya and was attended by 111 engineers and students. Tan Sri Shahrizaila started the lecture by explaining that the current global water issues are mainly due to improper water management and overuse of water resources by human. Besides that, he added that population growth, urbanization, industrialization, and increases in production and consumption have all generated ever-increasing water demand around the globe. He highlighted in detail the major water related issues in Malaysia in terms of threats to water security, agriculture, environmental degradation and ecosystem. In view that Malaysia has a total of 189 river systems, Tan Sri Shahrizaila suggested that each of the river should have a river basin engineer to manage and plan for the water resources development in that specific region. Based on his experience, he felt that our current water management is very fragmented because under the Constitution, matters pertaining to natural resources such as land, minerals, forests and water fall under the jurisdiction of the states. Water becomes a federal matter only if a dispute arises as in the case of a shared river basin between two or more states. Otherwise, State Governments are responsible for water management including the gazettement of water catchments. In conclusion, Tan Sri Shahrizaila suggested that an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) should be adopted nationally in order to improve the current situation.



Tan Sri Shahrizaila (left) and audience (right) during 25th Professor Chin Fung Kee Memorial Lecture



Ir. Dr. Chan S.F. (left) and YBhg. Dato' Ir. Lim Chow Hock (right) presented a Memento and Certificate of Appreciation to Tan Sri Shahrizaila