

## **TAM – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**

**by :**

### **Engr. Choo Kok Beng, Past President and Task Force Chairman**

Founded in 1946, TAM was once the pride of the Malaysian Technological Fraternity. Over the past two decades, it survived on the foundation laid by the founding members and a handful of die-hards making little contribution to what it was set-up for. The Annual General Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2008 in Ipoh, Perak where TAM first took root, appointed its Past President, Engr. Choo Kok Beng to form a Task Force to look into the future of TAM.

The Task Force comprising Engr. Choo Kok Beng, Engr. Fong Tian Yong, Engr. Yong Kee Chiang, Engr. Hj. Mohd. Mazlan, Mr. Lee Siew Kee and Engr. Ooi Kah Huat, quickly got down to business and had its first meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2008. This was followed by further deliberations via e-mails to assess whether it was worthwhile for TAM to continue existing.

The outcome of a SWOT analysis as appended below led the Task Force to believe that TAM can play a relevant role in National Development again and regain its reputation as the premier professional organization for the Malaysian Engineering Technologist.

#### **a. Strength of TAM :**

- as the oldest established technical association and recognised by government
- TAM among the list of associations in the government circular that members from government bodies given unrecorded leave and entitled to claim for travelling expenses
- TAM owns few assets some of which are generating profits from rental income
- TAM authorised by TNB / Electric Commission to conduct charge-man courses and issue certification
- TAM old members ( many have retired from services ) are experienced in their respective fields and many are willing to contribute their know how an experiences to good causes

#### **b. Weakness of TAM**

- TAM is little known among the current society
- Membership is relatively small ( 600)
- There is no strong pull factor to become member in view of the numerous other technical associations
- TAM membership is not a requirement for job opportunity or career path
- Weak communication media; current newsletter is not consistent in publication and may not meet members' interest

#### **c. Opportunity of TAM**

- TAM as a registered and recognised technical organisation can have some bearing in the eyes of the public and government
- The template of TNB authorised TAM Penang training centre for charge-man can be replicated in other areas and fields
- There many people involve in the technical fields but not qualified to be accredited by the respective associations would like to be associated with any available technical association such as TAM
- TAM can also tie up with other established body such as IKRAM, CIDB , HRDC etc to be involved as training and certificate issuing bodies

#### **d. Threat of TAM**

- Availability of numerous and more focus technical associations
- Small percentage of young members to continue TAM roles and functions
- Perception of TAM as sunset organisation
- Low interest among existing members
- MOA categorisation of “associate members “ discourages new target group from joining TAM
- Little financial contribution from life members who formed the great majority of members

A forum to draw out the road map was held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2008 in Malacca. The Task Force appreciates any contribution from readers.

#### **2008/9 TASK FORCE for Re-Establishment of TAM**



Seated from left to right - Mr.Lee Siew Kee and Ir.Choo Kok Beng

Standing from left to right - Ir.Ooi Kah Huat, Ir.KC Yong and Ir.Fong Tian Yong-  
Ir.Hj.Mohd Mazlam ( absent )



**Special task force Meeting held on 6 Sept 2008.**