

ACEM Gold Award 2019



**Ir Dr Abdul Majid bin
Dato' Abdul Kassim**

Ir Dr Abdul Majid bin Dato' Abdul Kassim, born on 19 June 1958, was an eminent and respected figure in the engineering fraternity in Malaysia. He graduated from the University of Edinburgh with first class honours in 1982 and continued on to do his doctorate and obtained his PhD in Civil Engineering in 1986.

Dr Abdul Majid is honoured today for his outstanding and significant contributions to ACEM and to the advancement and development of the engineering consultancy industry in this country.

Dr Majid has been an influential role model for the industry. He joined the ACEM Council in 2001 and was the President from 2008 to 2010. His rise to the post of President was unorthodox as he was elevated to it from an ordinary Council Member without ever holding the post of Deputy President or Secretary. Assuming the post of ACEM President on 21 June 2008 has propelled this "man of few words" into the limelight. Taking charge to advocate members' issues along with his mission of professionalism, Ir. Dr. Abdul Majid was in the forefront to speak up for ACEM and the industry – in various meetings, forums and dialogues with Government agencies and allied professional organisations. Albeit a reluctantly appointed President, Dr. Majid went on to become one of our greatest Presidents, accomplishing many of the Association's aspirations and raising its profile in the Government, engineering bodies, media and public.

One of the key aspirations for ACEM for a long time has always been representation in the Board of Engineers in order for us to effectively champion our causes and voice our member's grievances. During his tenure as ACEM President, the Council had nominated Ir. Dr. Abdul Majid to represent ACEM in the BEM Board but failed to be appointed. However, this did not deter him from working for BEM and in the two years, he worked hard to build his credibility with the BEM Committees. During his first year as ACEM Immediate Past President, the Council again submitted Ir. Dr. Abdul Majid's name as one of ACEM's nominees for the BEM Board. This time, Ir. Dr. Abdul Majid was appointed by the Minister of Works as a BEM Board Member with effect from 23 August 2010. After his appointment, he continued to demonstrate to BEM the invaluable contributions ACEM could bring to BEM and this paved the way for other ACEM members to be nominated to the BEM Board and committees.

Ir. Dr. Abdul Majid continued his term as BEM Board Member for the full five years until 22 August 2015. From 2010 – 2016, he has held the Chair of BEM's Engineers Act Committee and was a Member of BEM's Professional Practice Committee, Scale of Fees Committee and E&Q Committee. He was reappointed as BEM Board Member on 23 August 2016.

Dr. Majid was the key architect of the 2015 amendments to the Registration of Engineers Act (REA). He started working on the amendments to the REA in 2009 during his



presidency in ACEM and continued working on it in BEM as the Chairman of the Engineers Act Committee. He worked tirelessly on the amendments, meeting up and working with the MOW's legal advisers, the AG office, the KSU and Minister of Works up until gazetting of the REA amendments in 2015. In fact, he spent weeks at the Parliament to answer all queries raised on the amendments in order to make sure that it was passed. The 2015 amendments to the REA unlike the few earlier amendments are far reaching and until today its impact is still felt. The amendments, amongst others, includes opening up of the profession to foreign engineers; new registrations for PEPC, engineering technologists and IOWs; a second-tier examination for the Practicing Certificate and changes to the structure of ECPs.

Dr Majid was also instrumental in the setting up of the Professional Competency Examination (PCE). With a grant from the Government, Dr Majid mobilised ACEM to set up the framework for the PCE exam and upon completion this framework was passed on to BEM to use for the PCE examination. Until today, the PCE exams undertaken by BEM are still using the framework advocated by ACEM under Dr. Majid's leadership.

It was also during Dr. Majid's presidency that Greenbuilding Index Sdn. Bhd. was set up by ACEM together with Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM). Dr. Majid maintained that this initiative would be able to create more business opportunities for its members in addition to supporting the sustainability agenda. Dr. Majid served as a Director and Accreditation Panel Member of Greenbuilding Index Sdn. Bhd. for the term 2009/2010.

Dr. Majid was very active in the setting of standards for the industry serving on many SIRIM committees. He chaired the drafting

committee for the Malaysian Standards for reinforcement and pre-stressing steel for concrete. He was also a council member of the Standards and Accreditation Council under MOSTI.

Dr. Majid sat in many investigation committees representing BEM including the roof collapse of the Stadium Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin in Kuala Terengganu and the collapse of the Second Penang Bridge ramp in Batu Maung. In 2013, Dr. Majid was appointed by the Minister of Works as a member of the Expert Panel to review practices in the construction industry. The Expert Panel came up with clear recommendations which would revamp the construction industry especially in respect of safety in the construction industry. These recommendations were incorporated into CIDB's Construction Industry Transformation Plan.

These are only just a few of the challenges taken up by Dr. Majid during the time he was with us. There are so many more issues that he took up and so many more challenges that he strived against. For those of us who were with him during these times know of Dr. Majid's dedication, passion and how relentless he was in pursuit of his convictions to make our profession better. He was always honest and sincere in his service towards the advancement of our profession.

Dr. Majid passed away on 17 December 2016 of heart attack. Today we honour him as a dedicated professional and a champion of initiatives that support the advancement of the engineering fraternity. His passing is a huge loss to all of us in ACEM and in the construction industry.