



UPLIFTING MEMBERS AND CHAPTERS IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

By BENJZ GERARD M. SEVILLA
with reports from ARVIN MISTADES

Amid government-imposed community quarantines due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the country, IECEP has established a financial support program to provide assistance to members affected by the virus and to chapter projects using innovative ways to combat the spread of the pandemic.

With public demand for telecommunications and information and communications technology during the lockdown, including essential industries where practicing electronics professionals drive digital transformation strategies of companies, businesses and even the government, high-risk exposure to COVID-19 is inevitable.

Current President Mishell D. Lawas remarks "COVID-19 does not spare any profession, and IECEP is highly compelled to assist our members and the immediate community where our chapters are present."

Approved in 2020, a seed fund amounting to PhP 200,000.00 was allocated for support claims from members testing positive for COVID-19, for those cases which led to any one member's death, as well as for chapters initiating community projects involving the use of electronics to fight the disease.

This year, a budget replenishment amounting to PhP 50,000 was unanimously approved by IECEP National to provide additional opportunities for affected members to request financial support.

Channelled through the National Officers and Chapter Governors, and widely posted across IECEP's social media channels, forty-six (46) eligible members in good standing were able to secure PhP 5,000 assistance, in addition to one (1) death claim of PhP 10,000 and two (2) chapter social responsibility projects allotted with PhP 5,000 each.

With only an updated membership as a basic qualification to receive the special benefit, claimants acknowledged the significance of MyIECEP Portal for verifying their membership status, in as much as their relationship with Chapter Officers who assisted in the process.

"May we learn to embrace the significance of membership, including the benefits associated with it," President Lawas adds.

Aside from COVID-19, other chapter assistance provided by IECEP were attributed to natural disasters including typhoons, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, and were participated by Foreign Chapters benefitting affected Local Chapters.

IECEP also considers undertaking similar welfare-oriented projects with the IECEP Foundation to better serve our members.



What's New?

MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL: *IECEP's New Chapter*

BY SHERWIN C. RICAFLANCA

The IECEP Community welcomes the addition of its newest chapter granted with **Accreditation No. 50 - Misamis Occidental**.

Misamis Occidental Chapter's (MOC) humble beginnings came in the form of friendly meet ups at a local grill in the province of Misamis. These *kwentuhans* turned to discussions of ECE-related matters, until eventually the idea of a local chapter was brought up in the conversations. What was merely a dream a few years ago is now a reality -- thanks to the guidance and support of IECEP North Mindanao Officers and the 2020 IECEP National President Engr. Christian Lear F. Miquabas, through the introduction of Engr. Lolit Villanueva.

Due to the unprecedented hit of the COVID-19 pandemic, this journey to chartership was long and challenging, yet with the hard work and perseverance of IECEP-Misamis Occidental Chapter's team, the Chapter was finally inaugurated last Thursday, April 8, 2021. IECEP National, ably represented by the Vice President - Internal Engr. Jessie De Toro and Secretary General Engr. Lory Liza Bulay-og, assisted in the aforementioned inauguration. The MOC, established under the umbrella of IECEP, Inc, shall have its own officers and board of trustees, and shall be operating independently, while maintaining its own identity as a separate entity.

Together with Engr. De Toro and Engr. Bulay-og, the founding officers of MOC, held courtesy visits to Tangub City Mayor Dr. Jennifer W. Tan and Province of Misamis Occidental Governor Atty. Philip T. Tan, and visited various radio broadcasting stations and academic institutions. These activities will help MOC in building relationships to the local government and in pursuing its role as representative of the Electronics Engineering profession.

The IECEP-Misamis Occidental Chapter presents its founding officers:

Governor: Ramel Recentes

Vice Governor – Internal: Jovelyn Moreno

Vice Governor – External: Joan Beltran

Vice Governor – Education: Reggie Tatoy

Secretary: Mary Christianne Edjan

Treasurer: Mar Joseph Edjan

CONGRATULATIONS ONCE AGAIN TO MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL CHAPTER!





ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS GOING ONLINE, DIGITAL, VIRTUAL

BY BENJZ GERARD M. SEVILLA

The success of the very first online-only IECEP Annual General Membership (AGM) Meeting and Convention dubbed as eAGM last 2020 is historic in its own right, as the Institute celebrates its 70th founding anniversary amid the COVID-19 health emergency.

This inevitable shift from face-to-face engagements and physical interactions to virtual platforms is timely as the country battles the pandemic, imposing strict quarantines and forcing digital transformation for many sectors of society including the conduct of traditional activities, such as seminars, meetings and workshops.

The Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) has likewise issued guidelines for the accreditation of such Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and other online training programs. At the onset of the pandemic, PRC granted CPD units for professionals, including those practicing in the varied fields of electronics engineering which provide essential services under the category of Professional Work Experience (PWE).

For a good number of Electronics Technicians (ECT), Electronics Engineers (ECE) and Professional Electronics Engineers (PECE), whose alternative working arrangements (AWA) include Work-From-Home (WFH) schemes, going virtual is the new normal.

Local and foreign IECEP Chapters combined successfully conducted hundreds of hours of free webinars under Self-Directed Learning (SDL), blurring the geographic boundaries and time zones, while allowing members to attend to topics which resound to their interest.

As the Institute continues to leverage the power of the internet and the MyIECEP Portal to deliver services to the general membership, the 2021 Midyear Convention (MidCon) is aptly themed "Embracing Digital Transformation in the Time of New Normal."

Dr. Mishell D. Lawas, IECEP President, says "Together with our stakeholder partners, IECEP will promote development in the human capital by equipping our members with the necessary abilities and resources through CPD and other innovative means."

In addition to enhanced social media presence of IECEP through its Official Facebook Page and respective chapter accounts, the Institute has likewise launched its YouTube channel early this year for asynchronous learning, publications and marketing.

Registrants to MidCon 2021 are also raving about Digital Payments, allowing members to conveniently conduct transactions with the Institute at the comfort of their devices through a wide variety of billing options such as credit/debit cards, mobile wallets and virtual currencies.

"IECEP acknowledges the opportunities and challenges these emerging technologies bring to us," President Lawas remarks.

A CLOSER LOOK AT INTER-CHAPTER COLLABORATION

BY BENJZ GERARD M. SEVILLA

The struggles of adapting to the new normal has brought out the best in IECEP - harnessing the potential of collaboration as a key driver for shared growth among chapters local and foreign alike.

It can be recalled that annually, IECEP awards the most outstanding chapter based on a certain set of criteria focusing on reported performance, service delivery and membership engagement targets. From the perspective of healthy competition among chapters, events have likewise evolved from then straightforward classroom-type seminars to chapter-level conventions with after-parties and entertainment.

With the trickling effects of COVID-19 causing a stir even to chapters whose officership include essential workers in government, in the industry and in the academe, there is a necessity to introduce innovation to live up to the heightened expectations of members in addressing the demands of this challenging time.

National President Dr. Mishell D. Lawas says "officers are not immune to the pandemic, and to sustain chapter activities for members, we need to find inspiration and rediscover our source of strength - that is where collaboration comes in."

A seemingly new interest in conducting engagements among chapters is born out of a space previously dominated by identifiable stellar chapters.

Starting out small from generous chapters contributing to rehabilitation efforts for others affected by natural disasters, eventually, several chapters got together to pursue meaningful activities for the mutual benefit of their respective membership.

Prior to the lockdowns, what used to be an annual gathering among governors during conventions and meetings and the challenge of introducing them to each other metamorphosed into a synergistic landscape wherein IECEP foreign and local chapters jointly engage to deliver quality activities for members.

This facet of digital transformation for the Institute is founded on this novel culture of partnership among chapters, powered by the internet and an online social community of movers and doers.

IECEP National recognizes this collaborative ecosystem, and has since entrusted major engagements such as eAGM 2020 and MidCon 2021 to partner-chapter-hosts. Several other notable initiatives include speakership for CPD programs, participation in committees, and social responsibility activities.

"We acknowledge the energy of chapters coming together for a common purpose, and as such, IECEP National shall introduce incentives to promote more fruitful partnerships among local and foreign chapters," President Lawas adds.

IECEP FLEXES SPECIALIZATION INITIATIVES, PREPARES FOR ECE CPSP COMPLIANCE

BY LYLE ANTHONY JOWILL G. VILLAS

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) is going full-blast towards its Career Progression and Specialization Program (CPSP) Implementation.

In its PRC Resolution 2018-1117, Initial Guidelines for the Formulation of Guidelines on the Creation and Implementation of the Career Progression and Specialization Program for the Regulated Professions were issued publicly. Similarly related, in its PRC Resolution 2020-1262, the Commission mandated the Creation of the Career Progression and Specialization Program and Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (CPSP-CATS) Committee for each of the regulated professions. These resolutions are geared towards PRC continuing to validate its mandate and commitment in elevating Filipino professionals' professional standards even during the new normal.

PRC endeavors to create career roadmaps for professional excellence to enable professionals to possess advance proficiencies and higher skills set recognition for local and overseas opportunities.

In response to the PRC CPSP initiatives and in recognition of the importance of proactiveness pending the release of the official PRC CPSP Program guidelines, IECEP created the Specializations

Committee - an Ad Hoc Committee tasked to spearhead CPSP related policies and initiatives under IECEP.

The IECEP Specializations Committee is a special committee headed by Committee Chairman and IECEP National Director Engr. Lyle Anthony Jowill G. Villas. Joining him on the team were Vice-Chairman Engr. June Lloyd Emerson R. Gopela, and members Engr. Jimmy C. Santos, Engr. Christian P. Enoval, Engr. Cyrene Claire M. Armeza, Engr. Jan Michael G. De Villeres and Engr. Earnest Marilyn N. Perez. The committee is working under the leadership of National President Dr. Mishell D. Lawas with the support of the current National Board of Directors.

To date, the IECEP National Board has approved IECEP Board Resolution 2021-013 - or the Resolution Endorsing the Specialization Programs and Societies of IECEP, Inc. In reference to the CPSP for Electronics Engineering Profession. The resolution names the official list of specializations recognized by IECEP and shall serve as a reference and input document towards compliance to the Philippine Qualifications Framework and the PRC CPS Program. The resolution also mandates local IECEP chapters to group themselves according to the approved specializations and prepare Level 7 members towards their upgrade to Level 8.

Dr. May Rose Imperial is 2020 Outstanding Professional in Electronics Engineering

BY LYLE ANTHONY JOWILL G. VILLAS

Academician Professor May Rose C. Imperial, PhD, is the 2020 PRC Outstanding Professional in Electronics Engineering. She was awarded with this most prestigious award by the Professional Regulation Commission during the 2020 PRC Awards for Outstanding Professionals held last December 17, 2020 with the theme, "The Shining Light Amidst the Challenges of Times."

The screening and selection committee for the PRC outstanding professional of the year award was composed of the Professional Regulation Commission, the Professional Regulatory Boards, the Philippine Association of the Professional Regulatory Boards, Inc., the Foundation for Outstanding Professionals, Inc. and the Philippine Federation of Professional Association, Inc. According to PRC, the "Outstanding Professional of the Year is the highest award bestowed by the Commission upon a professional as recommended by his/her peers for having sufficiently demonstrated professional competence of the highest degree and conducted himself/herself with integrity in the exercise of his/her profession, meaningfully participated in professional activities through the professional organization; significantly contributed to the advancement of the profession; and sincerely and effectively discharged personal and professional social responsibility through meaningful contribution/participation in socio-related activities."

Dr. Imperial is a distinguished contributor in the field of Electronics Engineering and Engineering Education. She demonstrated her exemplar service as C.E.O. of D.E.L.F.T. Training Consultancy, Director (Consultant) at Don Bosco Technical College, former Senior Director for Academic Affairs and former Director of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department of FEU Institute of Technology and former Department Chairperson of the Electronics Engineering Department of Adamson University. Her competence and commendable track record earned her various awards and recognitions such as "Inspiring Filipina Engineer" as awarded by the Philippine Technological Network (2019), Most Outstanding Electronics and Communications Engineer Award in the Field of Education as awarded by IECEP, Inc. (2000), "Outstanding Mentor" awarded by the Semiconductor Electronics Industry of the Philippines (2000) and many more. She was also a former National President of IECEP, Inc. for the year 2014. Her relentless dedication to these organizations is a testament of her outstanding professional career.

Truly, Dr. Imperial is an eminence in educating a new generation of electronics engineers in 4th industrial societies. Your IECEP family is very proud of you!





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