

Merdeka Greeting Day



30 AUGUST 2018

BIM 45th Annual General Meeting

The 45th Annual General Meeting was successfully convened on 24th July 2018, 3.00 pm at Sheraton Petaling Jaya Hotel. There were 13 voting member-institutions attending the AGM.

Past President, Prof. Dr. Mohd Khanif Yusop was nominated to be the Election Chairman and there were no objections from other members.

There were no contests for all the positions.

Mr John C.P. Chang was re-elected as the President for the second term.

The following were duly elected:

Executive Committee 2018/2019



President	:	Mr John C.P. Chang (MPS)
Deputy President	:	Ar Abu Zarim Abu Bakar (PAM)
Vice President	:	Prof. Dr. Ismail Baba (MASW)
Vice President	:	Datuk Dr Soon Ting Kueh (IKM)
Honorary Secretary	:	Ir. Gunasagaran Kristnan (IEM)
Honorary Treasurer	:	Dr. Wan Rasidah Kadir (MSSS)
Ordinary Member	:	Haji Abi Sofian Abdul Hamid (CILTM)
		Dr. Wilmot Sasindran Dass (VAM)
		Mr Ho Chee Leong (CIOBM)
		Sr Haji Mohammad Azmi Mohd Zin (RISM)
		Mr Simon Benjamin (MIHRM)
Immediate Past President	:	Dato' LAr Ismail bin Ngah (ILAM)
Internal Auditor	:	Dato' Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Hasan Nizam (VAM)
		Ms Geetha Kanny (IIAM)

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Annual General Meeting



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Seminar on Industrial Revolution 4.0

The Seminar on Industrial Revolution 4.0 was held on Tuesday, 24 July 2018, 9.00 am at Sheraton Petaling Jaya Hotel attended by 60 participants from various professionals. The seminar was also attended by BIM President, Mr John C.P. Chang, Deputy President, Ar Abu Zarim Abu Bakar who also moderated the panel discussion and Honorary Secretary, Ir Gunasagaran Kristnan as the master of ceremonies.

There were presentations by 4 speakers from various organizations:

1. Ar Saifuddin Ahmad, from Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia on the topic of “The Fourth Industrial Revolution Construction 4.0: Are we Ready?”;
2. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Azmi Ahmad Hassali, Universiti Sains Malaysia on the topic of “The 4th Industrial Revolution and Its Challenges to Healthcare Practice”;
3. Dr Ahmad Suhaizi Mat Su, Universiti Putra Malaysia on the topic of “Impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to the Agriculture Sector”;
4. Prof. Mahendhiran Nair, Monash University Malaysia on the topic of “Industry 4.0: Leap-frogging to the New Economy- Key Challenges and Way Forward”.



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Seminar on Industrial Revolution 4.0



This Seminar was followed by Q & A Session which was chaired by the Moderator, Ar Abu Zarim Abu Bakar. There was satisfactory response to the many questions fielded from the floor. The event ended with the organisers giving souvenirs to the Speakers as a token of appreciation.

30 AUGUST 2018

BIM 45th Anniversary Dinner

Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia has successfully organized its 45th Anniversary Dinner on Tuesday, 24 July 2018 at Sheraton Petaling Jaya Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

The 45th Anniversary Dinner was attended by the professionals of Member-Institutions representing surveyors, engineers, architects, planners, pharmacists, social workers, agronomists, veterinarians, scientists and researchers involved with rubber, plastics and materials, dentists and doctors of medicine, planters, and experts in logistics and transport.

The Honourable YB Tuan Baru Bian, Minister of Works, was the Guest of Honour for the auspicious event.

The highlights of the Annual Dinner were the presentation of the prestigious **BIM Award of Excellence 2018** under the different groups namely:

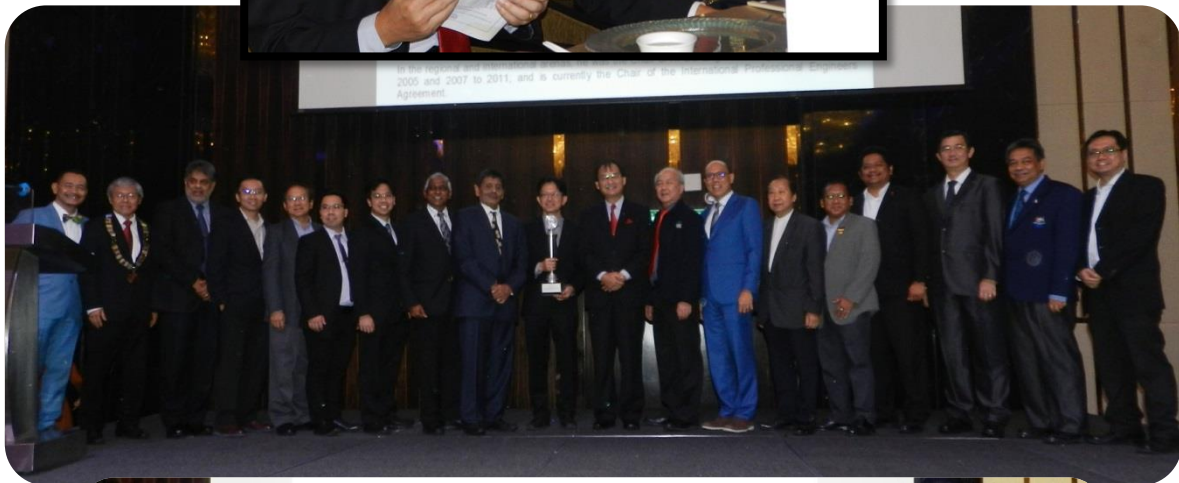
- i. Engineering, Construction & Property: Dato' Ir. Dr. Gue See Sew (IEM)
- ii. Medical & Health Care: Tan Sri Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman (MMA)



From (L-R): Prof. Dr. Ismail Baba, Dato' Ir. Dr. Gue See Sew, YB Tuan Baru Bian, YB Tan Sri Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman, Mr John C.P. Chang

BIM 45th Anniversary Dinner

30 AUGUST 2018



ABOUT MEMBERS

SOIL FAMILIARISATION TOUR 2018

4 -5 September 2018

MSSS- ISP -PASS SOIL FAMILIARISATION TOUR, 2018 *(Marine Alluvial Soils)*



4th and 5th Sept 2018
Lower Perak

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Who should attend?

- Fellow planters and Agronomist
- Soil Scientist
- Individual involved in agriculture, agronomist, resource management, land use, planning and development and plantation management

CHALLENGES FACING YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

5 September 2018, MIP HQ





MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS (MIP)
Pertubuhan Perancang Malaysia

Come and join us for this discourse, seats are limited!

“Challenges facing Young Professionals”

5th September 2018 | 09.30am | at MIP HQ

Young professionals (including young town planners) vie for hope in the ‘New Malaysia’ looking out for opportunities, skills upgrading and quality of life amidst the various hurdles and challenges faced. **YB Nurul Izzah** shares her views on this pertinent matter.



Speaker:
YB Nurul Izzah Anwar

- MP of Permatang Pauh
- Chairman of TVET Empowerment Committee
- Member of Parliament since year 2008

Event programme:

- 09.30am : Registration & Refreshments
- 10.00am : Arrival of YB Nurul Izzah
- 10.30am : Opening by MIP
- 10.45am : **“Challenges facing Young Professionals”** by YB Nurul Izzah Anwar
- 11.15am : Q&A
- 11.30am : Photo session and end of event

MIP Members ONLY | Admission is FREE

RSVP to nailhan.mip@gmail.com BEFORE 5.00pm 3rd SEPTEMBER 2018

Email title: **“MIP Sharing Session 05.09.2018”**.
In the email body please state your:

- Full name;
- MIP member number;
- Organisation / institution;
- Phone number; and
- Email address



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5th REGIONAL OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH 2018
“Building A Better Workplace”

13 -15 September 2018
Hotel Royale Chulan Damansara,
Kuala Lumpur

THE 5th REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH 2018 “Building a Better Workplace” RCOH 2018



**CPD & CEP
Points will be
awarded
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Our Topics :

- ✓ Building a Better Workplace
- ✓ Strategies & Challenges Towards Total Asbestos Banning
- ✓ Occupational Epidemiology
- ✓ Global Burden of Occupational Disease / Exposure Assessment
- ✓ Occupational Exposure Assessment
- ✓ Occupational Toxicology and Health Surveillance
- ✓ Wellness at Workplace
- ✓ Ecosystem of the Workplace - Psychosocial & Office Spaces
- ✓ Regional Transformations in Occupational Health

Date :
13th - 15th of September 2018
Venue :
Hotel Royale Chulan Damansara,
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

We welcome **ABSTRACTS** for oral/poster presentations. **POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS** are encouraged to participate and present their research findings in this conference.

 **VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION!**

IMPORTANT DATES :

Abstract Submission Deadline	15th August 2018
Notification of Acceptance	20th August 2018
Deadline for Advance Registration	31st August 2018

Our Plenary Speakers :



Prof. Dr. Tim Driscoll
Director, Master of Public Health
Sydney School of Public Health University of Sydney,
Australia
Paper : Global burden of Occupational Disease /
Exposure Assessment



Prof. Dr. Ken Takahashi
Director of the Asbestos Disease
Research Institute, Australia
Paper : Strategies & Challenges
Towards Total Asbestos Banning

Participants		Early Bird (May 1 st to August 31 st 2018)	From September 1 st 2018
Local Participants	SOEM members	RM 850	RM 1050
	NON-SOEM members	RM 950	RM 1150
	Doctors & Allied Healthcare Professionals from Government Agencies	RM 750	RM 950
	Students (Malaysians)	RM 650	RM 750
International participants		USD 350	USD 400
International students		USD 300	USD 350

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**SOCIETY OF OCCUPATIONAL
AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE**



PERKESO





GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

FOUR WAYS TO REDUCE MEDICAL EXPENSES

Malaysiakini, 14 August 2018



LETTER | As the new Pakatan government increasingly finds itself cash-strapped, cuts to government expenses including its healthcare expenditure may follow.

After over 30 years in the medical profession, we have seen numerous patients and their families burdened with medical expenses which have become a leading cause of personal bankruptcy in America.

What can a person do to keep down medical expenses?

Acquire information

An informed patient tends to be not only healthier but also spend less on medical expenses. In this day of the internet and Google, every person able to read should be able to learn how to keep healthy and what treatment option is available for each disease condition.

Sites like Wikipedia and WebMd give clear and reliable medical information. After seeing, every doctor ask for i) the diagnosis or possible diagnoses ii) commended tests and procedures, and finally iii) suggested treatment.

Every condition, test and treatment has a name and knowing the name allows the patient to look it up and weigh the benefits and risks before making any decision about what to do.

Live healthily

Staying healthy is the best way to keep medical fees low. The smoker not only spends money on cigarettes but is also guaranteeing multiple medical visits to treat heart and lung disease that will inevitably come up in the future.

In 1990 in the *Lancet*, a healthy lifestyle of adequate exercise, stress management and dietary restraint was shown by the Lifestyle Heart Trial to reverse blockage of the coronary vessels of the heart better than if patients were only on medication without lifestyle change.

In 2004 in the *Circulation*, exercise was shown to be better than the invasive stenting procedure in reducing the need for hospitalisation and subsequent repeat procedure among 101 patients with coronary heart disease.

For treatment to succeed, faith is essential but seek a second opinion

In this day of increasingly profit motivated medical services, getting a second opinion about any serious condition is important.

However, there is a right and there is a wrong way to do so. Understand clearly what the first doctor has said by getting a written report with the name for diagnosis, tests and treatment recommendation.

Keep a set of all tests done. Then when seeing the second doctor, present all these for him to see, but allow him to repeat them or do any other test he wishes. After that again get him to clearly name his diagnosis, test and treatment recommendation.

Ask any question you like, but please do not add in words like “this doctor says so”. It is irrelevant who says anything, but it is always your right to clarify any doubt.

It is also the right of the doctor to expect full attention and to hope you can be convinced when shown the reasons a particular opinion is offered.

Too often patients clearly show their distrust for an opinion and are preoccupied with something they have heard, sometimes even from non-medical sources. And when being treated by any doctor, a patient must have full faith in him for treatment only works if the patient believes it too. This is not to say you have to forever be under one doctor.

If treatment is unsuccessful, or service poor, change doctor. Then forget about the previous one and give full faith to the next.

Do not postpone death if it extends suffering

All human beings inevitably die. The acceptance that death will come allows a patient, family and doctor to correctly make the remaining time pain-free and as comfortable as possible.

Too often excessive amounts of money are spent on medical procedures that merely prolong suffering and do not give the patient a meaningful life.

A large proportion of health care expenses come in the last year of life. According to a 2016 report in *Health Affairs*, among Medicare supported patients medical expenses in last year of life vary greatly and four groups have been identified; 48.7 percent of patients were in the top group that spends a median of US\$59,394, while only 12.1 percent were in the bottom group that spends a median of US\$11,166.

The authors conclude that the focus of treatment should not be on those with the poorest prognosis, for whom great expenses are likely to be spent for the least beneficial result. Emotional as this may be for patients, families and doctors, we must all try to remember that the aim of healthcare is to give a good quality of life as long as possible, and not merely to prolong suffering.

While we cannot prevent the commercialisation of medicine nor hold back its many expensive and lifesaving advances, we each have to take responsibility for our own healthcare and its expenses.

We want to live a comfortable and fruitful life, for which good health is essential. To have good health, start with a healthy lifestyle, then be informed about medical diagnoses and treatment options, and finally accept that a peaceful, pain-free passing is part of good healthcare.

DR ONG HEAN TEIK is a consultant cardiologist and CHOONG YOKE LENG runs a retail pharmacy

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HOW TO OBTAIN LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION VIA SMALL ESTATE MODE

The Star, 3 September 2018

UPON the death of a person, a member of his family or a person interested in his estate must take charge to administer and distribute his estate.

Upon his death his assets, such as his bank account, are frozen. No one can deal with them and things will be left in limbo.

If he has left a will, then they can apply to the High Court for what is called a probate, by which an executor to his estate will be appointed in accordance with the will. If,

however, he died intestate, i.e, he has not left a will, then they can apply for letters of administration (LA) to be appointed as the administrator of his estate.

There are three ways one can go about obtaining LA.

Secondly, they can apply to Amanah Raya Bhd. But, this is for cases where the estate consists only of movable property and is valued at RM600,000 or less.

Thirdly, they may apply to the land office as a small estate. This is done under the Small Estates (Distribution) Act, 1955. They can apply as a small estate only if three conditions are complied with. First, the total value of his assets must not exceed RM2mil. Second, the deceased person must not have left a will. Third, there must be immovable property (e.g, land, house or apartment) in the name of the deceased within the jurisdiction of the land office.



There are three ways one can go about obtaining LA. Firstly, they can apply to the High Court. Secondly, they can apply to Amanah Raya Bhd. But, this is for cases where the estate consists only of movable property and is valued at RM600,000 or less. Thirdly, they may apply to the land office as a small estate

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It is this last method of obtaining LA that we will discuss here.

This is a cheap and, usually, fast mode of obtaining LA.

It is much cheaper for the simple reason that there is no need to appoint a lawyer as lawyers are generally not allowed to attend the hearing. The land office also does not charge any fee for filing of the petition for LA.

The applicant starts by completing Form A prescribed under the Small Estate (Distribution) Regulations. It is a simple form, available online or from the land office. In essence, it lists down all the assets and liabilities of the deceased as well as his beneficiaries. After completing the form, it must be signed by the applicant before a commissioner for oaths. Form A must be filed with the land office.

A copy each of the following documents must also be filed at the same time:

- > the identity card and birth certificates of each beneficiary;
- > the deceased's marriage certificate, if any;
- > the deceased's death certificate;
- > evidence of his assets, such as share certificates, savings accounts book, bank statement, motor vehicle registration card, EPF statement;
- > either a certified true copy of the land title or an official title search from the land office;
- > (where the immovable property has no separate title) the sale and purchase agreement;

> the current quit rent and assessment receipts.

Generally, within three months after filing the application, the land office will issue a notice to hear the application. The notice will set the time and date of the hearing.

The applicant and other beneficiaries must attend the hearing, which will be conducted by the land administrator.

The applicant must attend the hearing.

Any other beneficiary, however, who is unable to attend may submit a letter of consent by completing Form DDA, available online or from the land office, which must be signed before a commissioner for oaths.

Form DDA will specify the beneficiary's wishes as to the distribution of the estate and may also opt to renounce his share in favour of another beneficiary.

Everyone attending the hearing must bring along their original identity card. The applicant must also bring along the original of the other documents, copies of which were filed with the Form A.

During the hearing, the land administrator will need to be satisfied with the particulars set out in the Form A, verify the identity of the applicant and the beneficiaries, the assets and the beneficiaries' entitlement.

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The land administrator will then proceed to grant LA to the applicant and to make an order for distribution of the estate.

For Muslims, distribution will generally be according to Faraid law. For non-Muslims, the distribution will generally be in accordance with the Distribution Act 1958, which determines the share each beneficiary is entitled to.

However, if the land administrator is satisfied that the beneficiaries are in consensus for the estate to be distributed differently, the administrator can make an order according to the consensus.

Fees are payable for grant of LA to be issued:

- > RM10, if the value of the estate is between RM1 to RM1,000
- > RM30, if the value of the estate is between RM1,001 to RM50,000
- > 0.2% of the value of the estate, if it is more than RM50,000.

The administrator of the estate of the deceased has the duty to do the following:

- > utilise the assets of the estate to pay for funeral expenses and the costs in obtaining the grant of LA
- > settle the liabilities of the deceased
- > distribute the balance of the estate to the beneficiaries.

For movable property, the administrator of the estate will produce the grant of LA to various parties like banks, the EPF and Tabung Haji, for withdrawal of money and transfer of ownership of assets.

For this reason, it is advisable to apply for several copies of the grant of LA, as each authority, agency, company or bank will require this to be produced to transfer the asset. The land office charges a fee of RM5 for each copy.

For immovable property where there is a separate title, the administrator of the estate has to forward to the land registry or land office the grant of LA together with the original property title, for transfer of the property to the beneficiary. No fee is charged for this.

In conclusion, obtaining LA by way of a small estate application is an attractive option, both in terms of cost as well as efficiency. Its use should be encouraged. Perhaps the authorities can consider removing the requirement that there must be immovable property before an estate can qualify as a small estate.

That would alleviate the pressure on the courts as well as provide a cheap, speedy and efficient means to attend to estate matters.

The writer, a lawyer practising at Messrs G. Ragumaren & Co, is a member of the Conveyancing Practice Committee, Bar Council, Malaysia. This column is brought to you by the Malaysian Bar Council for your information only. It does not constitute legal advice.

CURRENT UPDATES

HEALTH MINISTRY POWERLESS OVER PRICES OF DRUGS

The Star, 6 July 2018

KUALA LUMPUR: The Health Ministry currently does not have the power under the law to regulate the prices of drugs supplied in the private sector, says Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

However, the Health Minister said that the ministry intends to address the issue and will also get feedback from the Health Advisory Council.



Health matters: Dr Dzulkefly sharing a light moment with Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute CEO Tan Sri Dr Michael Yeoh (left) and Health Ministry director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah (right) after officiating the Healthcare Forum 2018 at InterContinental Kuala Lumpur hotel.

Asked which law had to be changed, he said: “Wait for the Pharmacy Bill.”

Before the change of Government, former health minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said the Bill had been referred to the Attorney General’s Chambers after further consultation with stakeholders.

The proposed Pharmacy Bill is an omnibus Bill to replace four Acts, i.e. Registration of Pharmacists, Poisons Act, Sale of Drugs Act and Medicines (Advertisement and Sale) Act.

The Star was made to understand that the Bill is now with the ministry’s legal section and would require the minister’s decision before it is tabled in Parliament.

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Dr Dzulkefly said this after launching the Healthcare Forum 2018 – Sustaining Tomorrow’s Healthcare, Empowering Today’s Consumers.

He was asked if the Government would regulate the prices of drugs following the Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society (MPS) and the Third World Network asking the Government to regulate the prices of drugs.

The two bodies said this not long after claims of politicians, high-ranking officials and international pharmaceutical companies monopolising the prices of medical supplies last month.

Asked about a complaint by MPS member Abdul Nassir Mat Dani that drug prices continued to soar despite the goods and services tax (GST) being abolished or zero-rated, Dr Dzulkefly said “we will investigate this”.

In an open letter addressed to the minister, Abdul Nassir said that as a private community pharmacy practitioner, he wanted to convey the people’s dissatisfaction on the sudden 20% to 35% increase in drug prices, especially on imported patented drugs besides certain generic drugs.

This occurred just after the recent general election on May 9 and despite GST being abolished or drugs being zero-rated and the better currency exchange rate which should see prices continue to stabilise or experience a little decrease, he said.

He urged the Health Minister to stop the excessive price increase.

MPS president Amrahi Buang said it has been receiving a lot of complaints about rising medicine prices because it is not regulated in this country.

For example, common diabetes drugs that went up within a month from last month were Glucophage (500mg), from RM206.00/500 tablets to RM216.00/500 tablets while Diamicron (80mg), from RM55.30/60 tablets to RM69.00/60 tablets, he said.

A Ventolin inhaler went up from RM18.50 to RM20.60.

Meanwhile, Dr Dzulkefly said the task force would look into a recent alleged drug and medical supplies monopoly claim next week.

On June 13, it was discovered that high-ranking officials and politicians or their relatives allegedly involved in bid rigging of the open tender process, controlling the supply of billions of ringgit worth of drugs supplied to the Government, could lead to high drug costs.

REVEAL THE FULL CONTENT OF PHARMACY BILL, GOVERNMENT TOLD

The Star, 8 July 2018



KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysia Pharmacy Society (MPS) wants the Government to reveal the full content of the proposed Pharmacy Bill.

Its president Amrahi Buang (*pic*) said in a statement on Sunday (July 8) that the last official statement on the Bill was made in September 2017.

He said former health minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam had said that they were waiting for the Attorney General's Chambers approval before it could be tabled in Parliament.

It was also reported that the Bill had been redrafted to retain the system of allowing doctors and pharmacists to dispense medicine, Amrahi said.

"We hope the Government will reveal the remaining contents of the proposed Pharmacy Bill, which is still currently under the Official Secrets Act (OSA)," he said, adding that many would like to know more about the Bill and how it will affect them.

On Thursday (July 5), Health Minister Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said that the ministry currently does not have the power under the law to regulate the prices of drugs supplied in the private sector.

He said the ministry would be looking into the matter and would wait for the Pharmacy Bill.

The proposed Pharmacy Bill is an omnibus Bill meant to replace four pieces of legislature – the Registration of Pharmacists Act, Poisons Act, Sale of Drugs Act and Medicines (Advertisement and Sale) Act.

The Star was told that the Bill is now with the Health Ministry's legal section and will require a decision from the minister before it is tabled in Parliament.

Currently, although the Penal Code protects workers who were sexually or physically abused, cases typically drag on for months and most victims don't want to go through the prolonged court process.

"To complicate matters further, migrant workers who file cases against their perpetrators are not allowed to work while their cases are ongoing. It's frustrating and demotivating and most of the time, these women just would rather go home," says Dass.

It is also an uphill battle trying to file cases under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons (Atip) Act, as enforcement officers don't identify domestic workers as being trafficked.

"But for us, it's very clear. They *are* trafficked. If you are working without wages for six months, have not been given a day off, have been cheated by recruiting agents, that qualifies as trafficking," says Dass.

The coalition – comprising non-government organisations Women's Aid Organisation, Caram Asia, Liber 8, Migrant Ministry, Persatuan Kebajikan Good Shepherd, AOHD (Archdiocesan Officer for Human Development), Change Your World, Tenaganita and Malaysian Trade Union – worked with gender, human and legal rights experts and consulted with the International Labour Organisation in Geneva in drafting the bill.

"There are guidelines and memorandums of understanding between countries that recommend measures to protect these workers. But these are not binding and we can't hold people accountable based on these agreements.

"We need binding laws and we need to act now because this culture of violence and isolation against domestic workers is becoming the norm. We need laws that

recognise them as workers, and make sure that they get a decent life, decent wages and decent work. What does this mean? That they work eight hours a day. They have a proper living space with a bed and so on. They have to have a rest day. They need three proper, full meals. They need to be paid. All this must be stipulated clearly," says Dass.

She reckons that it has been a challenge trying to push the Bill because "it's not about local women".

"Maybe we don't relate because these are migrant workers but we have to look at this as a human right's issue. Just because they left their home country it doesn't mean they have left their rights behind.

"Also, there are local women who do domestic work and who also do not enjoy the benefits of workers. This is a human issue. It's a human rights' issue," emphasises Dass.

Just recently, members of the coalition met with minister in the Prime Minister's department, Datuk Paul Low, and presented him with a draft of the Bill.

“We met with him three weeks ago and he said he would review the document. We also went to the Human Resources Ministry earlier and though they didn’t seem to want to enact a separate law, they are working towards formalising domestic work. We don’t disagree with this as long as domestic workers enjoy all the benefits of other workers and they include a separate clause that allows for inspections to be conducted in the private domain where they work,” says Dass.

Modern-day slavery

“How can you improve the lives of domestic workers when you still class them as servants? There is no dignity, no respect,” says Dass.

As a sector, domestic work has grown significantly over the decades. According to statistics from the International Domestic Workers Federation, there were 67.1 million domestic workers globally in 2015, of whom 11.5 million were migrant domestic workers. 80% of these workers were women.



Bar Council’s Migrants, Refugees & Immigration Affairs Committee chairperson Ramachelvam says domestic workers should not be treated as commodities.

Domestic workers contribute significantly to national economies – if nothing else, they enable the increase in dual-income families. However, despite their contributions to households and national economies, domestic workers are placed at the low end of the care economy – they work the longest hours for very low wages.

There is also a stigma attached to domestic work mainly because, says Dass, it is the poorest and neediest who are occupied in it.

“If you look at our history, domestic workers have always come from poor families with lesser privilege. These young women were not paid wages but were instead paid in kind – accommodation, food and so on. Their families were fine with the arrangement at the time.

“Nowadays, employers have paid between RM7,000 and RM15,000 to recruiters for their maids and some have the mindset that they have purchased the workers and therefore the girls are expected to do their bidding for little pay ... some of our workers are not paid for up to nine months. Isn’t that forced labour? It’s modern-day slavery,” she says.

Ramachelvam agrees, adding that domestic workers should not be treated as commodities but as human beings.

“They are human beings providing an invaluable service to us. They come away from home to our country to assist their own lives and lives of the family. They have families who depend on them back in their countries.

“The Malaysian Government should ratify and adopt the Convention 189 – Convention on Decent work for Domestic Workers which guarantees labour protections to domestic workers on par with other categories of workers while allowing considerable flexibility in implementations. This must become a reality,” he says.

It’s also a gender issue, Dass points out.

“In our culture, women are expected to the housework. Our mothers do it, our wives do it and our daughters are expected to do it. So housework is not recognised as legitimate work. Children grow up thinking it’s ok to raise your hand to your domestic worker. It used to be wives but that is being highlighted as a crime now. And the law has to recognise this as a crime too. Only then can we change the mindset of people. Once the law has been changed, we can hold people accountable,” she says.

M'SIA LACKS EXPERTS IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL FIELDS

The Malaysian Reserve, 18 July 2018

The government, industries and educational institutions should work together on projects that could unearth more talents in the science and the science and engineering fields, which is currently an issue despite the nation's aspiration to be a developed country by 2020.



Women, Family and Community Development Deputy Minister Hannah Yeoh said based on statistics by the National Council for Scientific Research and Development, Malaysia only has 70,000 registered practitioners in both professions in the marketplace.

She said the country will actually need up to 500,000 scientists and engineers by 2020, or seven times more than the current number.

“Moving forward, we need to ensure that we can produce competitive graduates and there should be continuous engagement between the stakeholders,” she said, adding that more internship programmes need to be initiated by industries to spur growth, particularly among students.

Speaking to reporters after officiating the 7th edition of Asean M&E Show on behalf of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Yeoh said more efforts should be made to promote more women in the workforce.

Women also need sufficient structure in place to support them at the workplace.

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“In order for women engineers to remain competitive in the industry, they must be supported with a more convenient working environment, such as childcare initiatives, so that they can work while monitoring their children.”

Among the ministry’s latest efforts to address the issue include the establishment of child daycare centres at government offices. The concept is also prompted by the various child abuse cases at unauthorised nurseries and private childcare centres that have been widely reported.

Meanwhile, Institute of Engineers Malaysia president David Lai Khong Phooi said according to the National Science Foundation of the US, the number of women employed in science and engineering in the country accounted for only 26% of the total employment. The US boasts of 130 million women in the field.

He added that in Malaysia, 45% of people employed in the professional and technical category are women.

“At the higher educational level, courses involving technical, engineering, manufacturing and construction, the number of women participating in such fields is about the same in the industry — 45%.

“It indicates that Malaysia is close to having gender equality,” he said.

ENGINEERING A BETTER MALAYSIA

The Star, 18 July 2018



Mohammad Nizar (left), accompanied by Institution of Engineers Malaysia president David Lai Kong Phooi (second from left), visiting the exhibition.

MALAYSIA, and Perak in particular, needs more engineering expertise to solve specific problems, says state Investment and Corridor Development Committee chairman Datuk Seri Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin.

Mohammad Nizar said issues related to public transportation, natural disasters, agriculture and other matters require engineers to come up with

solutions, rather than relying on professionals from other fields.

“Certain infrastructure such as the natural gas pipeline project from Sitiawan to Bercham needs specialised engineers to work on it and not just mechanical and civil engineers.

“Another issue is overcrowding in public transportation during the festive season.

“This problem was given to urban specialists, designers and even politicians to solve but until now, nothing has been done,” he told a press conference at the opening of the 26th Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) General Assembly at Casuarina@Meru.

“Other fields that require specialised engineers include solar and hydro energy, biotechnology, agriculture and also flood mitigation,” he said.

“This is another reason why we need to attract more youths to be interested in engineering,” he added.

30 AUGUST 2018

Mohammad Nizar said the engineer to population ratio in Malaysia is one to 150, which was nowhere near the international standard of one to 75.

“A lot of engineering graduates in Malaysia tend to leave to other countries such as Singapore, Australia and New Zealand to continue their careers.

“Even with the total number of engineers in Malaysia and the ones who left, Malaysia still does not reach the international standard,” he said. “I can only hope local universities such as Universiti Teknologi Petronas and Universiti Teknologi Mara could produce more graduates who are interested in the science, technology and mathematics fields,” he added.

Mohammad Nizar also hoped that more engineers would be involved in politics so that they can become policy makers.

In his speech, Mohammad Nizar thanked The Institution of Engineers Malaysia for hosting the gathering.

“I am delighted that Perak was chosen as the venue of the esteemed gathering of eminent engineers from 27 member economies from various countries.

“I believe that the engineers in this gathering have one of the noblest calling in life, which is to build the world and contribute to progress,” he said.

“We only need to look at Malaysia’s infrastructure and economic developments to realise the contributions made by the pool of engineers in this country,” he added.

PwC : 32% OF FRAUD IN MALAYSIAN BUSINESSES COMMITTED BY SENIOR MANAGEMENT

The Star, 29 August 2018

KUALA LUMPUR: A survey has found that 32% of frauds suffered by Malaysian businesses were committed by their own senior management, compared with 24% globally.

The Malaysian cut of the PwC Global Economic Crime and Fraud Survey 2018 also revealed that 69% of fraud in local



businesses were committed by employees within the organisation.

“These were among the key findings for Malaysia and it is a worrying trend.

“If leaders of the organisation don’t set the right tone, it sends the message that acts such as bribery and corruption are acceptable,” said PwC Malaysia’s Managing Partner Sridharan Nair said during the launch of the survey on Wednesday.

He told a press conference that 41% of the survey’s respondents, which were a combination of listed, public and private companies, reported that they had suffered fraud or economic crime during the survey period, an increase from 28% in 2016.

A GOOD TIME TO BEEF UP CYBERSECURITY

The Star, 3 September 2018

As more companies come under attack from hackers, it's more crucial than ever to make sure everyone in the organisation is sensitive to the need for computer security.

Coming back to work after a long break? It's as good a time as any to make sure you and your staff is on the same page when it comes to cybersecurity.



Businesses should have a clear cybersecurity strategy and bosses must remind their staff members to be vigilant at all times.

Here are some basics that owners should emphasise to their staffers:

Passwords

Many businesses are using two-factor authentication, which requires people to enter a code in addition to the login/password combination. They may also require staffers to periodically change their passwords.

Phishing alerts

Bosses should remind everyone to be vigilant about phishing scams, which can plant malicious software on a computer or phone. Everyone should understand that they shouldn't click on any link or attachment in an email unless they're sure it's legitimate. It should be standard operating procedure to check a sender's email address to be sure it's correct and not suspicious, and the body of an email should be checked for any oddities that can be hallmarks of phishing scams.

Businesses should have a clear cybersecurity strategy and bosses must remind their staff members to be vigilant at all times.

Locking phones and laptops

Staffers who can access the company's systems including its email via smartphones and laptops – whether they're personal or company-provided – should be required to lock their devices with codes or passwords.

Downloading updates

If the company has an information technology staffer or department, it should be aware of security and other updates issued by Microsoft and other companies. Each company device should be updated. If there isn't a dedicated IT staffer, the owner or another manager needs to be sure that all updates are downloaded.

The owner's responsibility

A survey issued earlier this year by insurer Hiscox found that only half of small businesses said they had a clear cybersecurity strategy. Making systems as secure as possible often gets put on the back burner while an owner works with customers and staffers.

Companies without IT staffers should consider bringing in a consultant who can assess what's needed to increase security. Among the items companies need are anti-virus and anti-malware software, firewalls, encryption software and offsite storage that continually creates new versions of all of a company's data.

Those versions will be critical if a company's computers are victims of ransomware attacks that render files and documents unusable. – AP

PREPARING FOR INDUSTRY 4.0

The Star, 4 September 2018

 pressreader

 Sign In



Preparing for Industry 4.0

Star2 4 Sep 2018

IN as early as 2020, 22% of Malaysia's 3D (dirty, dangerous, and difficult) jobs could be automated. The Fourth Industrial Revolution or Industry 4.0 will see the rise of intelligent systems and robotics that can work longer hours than the humans they replace.

What makes Industry 4.0 distinct from the Third Industrial Revolution are cyber-physical systems (CPS) and integrated

networks.

CPS are controlled by algorithms and networked with the Internet to control physical operations.

During the new revolution, thriving economies will be driven by information, ideas and innovation. Most innovative endeavours will be enabled by CPS.

In contrast, traditional

economies that depend on land, labour and capital will suffer loss of jobs and competitiveness if they do not adapt to the changing global economic landscape.

Prof Mahendhiran Nair, vice-president of research and development at Monash University Malaysia and chief executive officer of Monash Malaysia Research & Development Sdn Bhd, shared his insights on the changing industry in his key-



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Prof Mahendhiran Nair.

Prof Mahendhiran Nair.

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According to him, countries that wish to stay afloat should develop a dynamic national innovation ecosystem with the 7i elements, which are:

L Infrastructure and infostructure to connect with the global economy

L Intellectual capital development for continuous knowledge creation and transfer

L Interactions (partnerships) that create value to organisations and others in the ecosystem

L Incentives, both fiscal and non-fiscal, that foster innovation

L Institutions that promote a knowledge culture and adherence to global best practices

L Integrity in managing resources for the benefit of all stakeholders in the economy

Where it all starts

“Universities are not only suppliers of talent. They are at the forefront of solving problems for the industry and community. “Give students context and expose them to the tools of enquiry that will enable them to solve problems and create new systems to improve the socioeconomic well-being of people around the globe,” says Prof Mahendhiran.

What can universities do to prepare graduates for the new economy? Prof Mahendhiran describes 10 skills that should be nurtured in students:

L Critical thinking – To challenge the norm, find alternative ways of doing things and come up with more efficient solutions

L Sound information and communication technology (ICT) literacy – Not only to use ICT systems but also be able to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of existing systems

L Technical skills – To operate across multiple systems and

diverse industrial sectors

L Communication skills – To articulate creative ideas clearly and persuasively

L Sound multidisciplinary/ interdisciplinary knowledge –

For one to have depth of knowledge in her chosen discipline and breadth of knowledge across other disciplines

L Learnability – Ability to pick up new skills

L Strong power of association – To combine different ideas and create value through innovation (recombinant innovation)

L Experimentation – To try different things, troubleshoot current practices and foster a culture of risk taking within oneself


L Problem-solving and observation skills

L Leadership skills – To be a dynamic leader who is a purpose-maximiser, not a profit-maximiser

In his presentation, Prof Mahendhiran cited examples of job areas that may grow in demand – market analytics, artificial intelligence design, Internet of Things engineering, game and application development, robotics and drones, environmental science, and precision farming.

“We may not have control over the revolution, so we should focus on what we can do to support students and professionals by nurturing, upskilling and preparing them to be more agile in the changing economic landscape,” he says.

N For more information, visit www.monash.edu.my/research

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