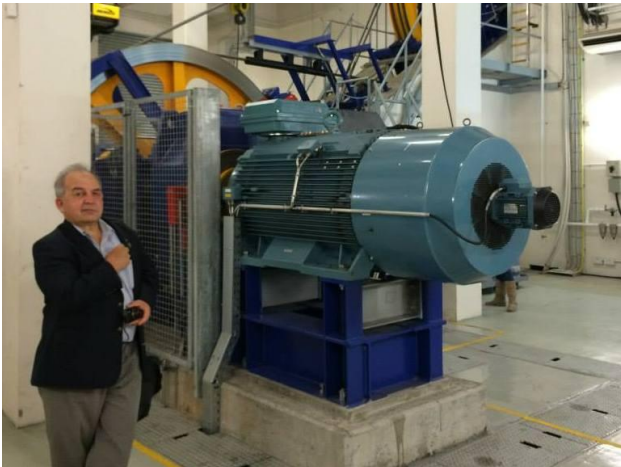


EA National President's Visit to HK March 2014

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The 2014 National President (NP) of Engineers Australia (EA), Professor Alex Baitch and his wife Dianne visited Hong Kong from 8 to 12 March 2014 inclusive. They were accompanied by Stephen Durkin and Ben Leaver. The Engineers Australia Hong Kong Chapter (EAHK) was honoured to have the official party of EA to join their 12th Annual General Meeting (AGM) cum Annual Dinner on 10 March 2014. Below is a brief account of the various activities during the NP visit.

On 8 March morning, EAHK President William Chan arranged a visit to the Ocean Park. The NP and the EAHK party received a warm welcome and Ocean Park conducted a guided tour to show the engineering supports for the Park's daily operation. Lunch was served inside the Park.



Afterwards the EAHK committee invited the NP couple to a western style dinner during which William Chan introduced the office bearers and committee members to the NP. The evening was very enjoyable.



On 9 March, the NP couple visited the Peak where they had a splendid view of the famous Victoria Harbour. Then in the evening EAHK organised for the NP couple a seafood dinner at Aberdeen which was something different from the buy in the Fish Market in Sydney.

On 10 March, the NP followed the traditional formal meetings during the past visits. Firstly, he was accompanied by the EAHK office bearers to meet the Australia Consulate General at Harbour Centre, Wan Chai. Thereafter the party arrived at the headquarters of the Hong Kong Institution of

Engineers (HKIE) in Causeway Bay where they met with the President of the HKIE, Mr Raymond Chan, and exchanged views on institutional affairs.

In the same evening, the NP presided over the AGM, and also witnessed the election of the 2014-15 EAHK executive committee, when Paul Freeman was elected the incoming President of the EAHK. Following the AGM the NP attended the Annual Dinner together with some 200 members and guests. The theme of the dinner was "Supporting the Development of our Young Members". During the dinner, the NP was invited to give an opening speech and to present certificates to newly elected EA Fellows in Hong Kong. The NP couple enjoyed the dinner, as well as the entertainments -- puppet show and saxophone performance by Dr W K Lo, Legislative Councillor. "The Annual Dinner was a success" said Alex.



On the last day of the visit, William Chan organised a visit to the MTR Control Centre at Tsing Yi in the morning of 11 March, and the NP was accompanied by Stephen, Ben and EAHK office bearers. They witnessed the state-of-the-art control system used in modern railway transport. In the evening, the NP gave a speech "Our Voice, Our Future" and was well attended by the members. From identifying the need for change through to the actions EA has taken so far, Alex also detailed the EA new vision that was approved in December 2013. Finally, he discussed some of the biggest challenges facing our organisation and the profession, now and in the future together with viable solutions. After the speech, the NP couple was taken to a nearby restaurant in Kwun Tong where the party enjoyed a hearty meal of Shanghainese food.

The NP couple & EA party left Hong Kong for their next destination, Malaysia, on 12 March 2014.

