

# The Institution of Mechanical Engineers

## Asia Pacific Initiative

A 360° Engineering leadership Training for Young Engineers

13-17 September 2013, Hong Kong

Venue: The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU)



**Institution of  
MECHANICAL  
ENGINEERS**

Since the past two decades, the engineering industry in the Asia-Pacific region has been going through a dramatic change. Most of labour intensive engineering projects and activities (the so call “sweat-shop industry”) have been reduced due to the shift of manufacturing factories from traditional manufacturing hubs to other high value-added industries and activities because of increasing labour and rental costs. Engineering students and graduates have normally received training basing on traditional engineering education that may not be sufficient for the current industry’s needs. It has therefore caused engineering graduates, have been criticized publicly on their ability of dealing with modern engineering tasks that require knowledge and skills from different disciplines.

Through discussion with all key stakeholders, it appears that a new generation of engineers (knowledge workers) ought to be able to demonstrate that they have the ability of accepting new technologies, acquiring relevant knowledge, and possessing all necessary soft skills to act as a solution provider. Within the process, an engineer apart from being a multi-disciplinary knowledge worker, requires having personal, marketing, planning,, communication, and critical thinking and leadership skills to perform the jobs successfully. A traditional engineer must have an ability to design and make a product, while a modern knowledge worker must have ability to think, design and make a product as well as communicate with clients and other relevant parties to develop a sustainable big picture to support corporation and/or enterprise’s development and growth. This engineer (knowledge worker) may one day become a successful industry captain and/or entrepreneur who will have to develop, nurture and manage future leader to support the growth of engineering industry.

*“Where success is concerned, people are not measured in inches, or pounds, or college degrees, or family background; they are measured by the size of their thinking” (David Schwartz)*

To become a good engineering leader, he/she simply possesses technical skill is not sufficient to manage and drive his/her business and projects successfully, other soft skills such as broad and critical thinking, marketing, presentation and negotiation are all important. In view of such shortage of skills of current young engineers, The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) - North East Asia Region, in conjunction with other IMechE Asia Pacific regions and PolyU, are going to organize a Young Engineer Programme (hereafter called “the Programme) comprising of three major activities:

- Speak Out for Engineering (the 1<sup>st</sup> day)
- Design Contest for Visually Impaired (the 2<sup>nd</sup> day)
- Two-day Young Leadership Conference \*the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> days)

We aim at attracting over 1000 young engineers from different disciplines to join this event in Hong Kong and our ultimately goal is to provide the participants a 360° training to prepare themselves becoming our future engineering leaders. In each of these activities, different focuses will placed to provide a platform for the participants to learn, discuss and interact with successfully engineering professionals, entrepreneurs and businessmen to enable and/or broaden their ability of thinking outside the box of pure engineering.

