



12th Brunel International Lecture on Tunnels & Tunnel Boring Machines, Transportation Infrastructure and Future of Engineering presented by Ms. Linda Miller

by Ir. Dr Ooi Teik Aun

Ir. Dr Ooi Teik Aun is currently the Deputy chairman in Tunnelling and Underground Space Engineering Technical Division (TUSTD).

The 12th Brunel International Lecture was organised by the Tunnelling and Underground Space Technical Division (TUSTD), Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM) jointly with the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), Malaysian Chapter at the Tan Sri Prof. Chin Fung Kee Auditorium, Wisma IEM on 23 November 2018.

The lecture was delivered by the Brunel International Lecture award recipient Ms Linda Miller, OBE, Construction Director at Bechtel. A total of 112 participants attended the lecture. The title of the lecture was “Tunnels & Tunnel Boring Machines, Transportation Infrastructure and Future of Engineering.”

Linda started off her lecture by sharing her career journey with the audience, where she started out as an engineer stationed at a construction site neighbouring a coast in Florida, USA. Linda shared that, apart from work, she had made it a point to not only care for the environment but also the surrounding living creatures, despite the pressure for having to achieve good construction progress. With her like-minded friends, she had saved many baby turtles, which were attracted to the construction lightings at the project site, and headed there mistaking them for the moon. She then shared with the audience her experience at another project site, which experienced unforeseen delays and had caused much inconveniences to the local residents. Her deep empathy for the residents moved here to introduce pathways, which had very much lessen the inconveniences of the residents around the construction site. Throughout her career, she persisted in ensuring that working environments, healthy working relationships and welfare of stakeholders were not neglected.

Linda continued to share with the audience the six ‘inescapables’ as follows:

1. It all starts with trusts;
2. Ban the word ‘they’;
3. Learn to disagree well;
4. Create a fishbowl mindset;
5. Seek and give air cover; and
6. Laugh a lot, where example was given for each of them.

She ended her lecture by stressing that engineers should not neglect the 'human side' of working in a society, as most engineers are inclined to focus at getting on with the technical solution. The participants were very much motivated by the powerful messages from the lecture and gave Linda a round of applause. She was presented with a token of appreciation by the organising chairman Ir. Dr Ooi Teik Aun.



Ir. Dr Ooi (right), presenting a token of appreciation to Ms Linda Miller (middle)