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Career of Excellence in Engineering Award - Eng. Winston Riley

Eng. Winston Riley FAPETT achieved his Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering in 1967. He first worked in the Drainage and Hydraulics Division of the Ministry of Works from 1967 to 1969. In 1969 Eng. Riley joined the firm of Trinidad Engineering and Research (TER) with responsibility for the design of structures, housing developments and the preparation of project proposals.

In 1975, he formed the construction firm ENDECO Trinidad Limited. Under his leadership, ENDECO successfully undertook the construction of 32 projects, the main ones being the design and/or construction of the former TRINRE building and the Barrackpore Senior Secondary School, the former Crown Life Building, the Development Finance Corporation building, and the Townhouses at Flagstaff.

In 1975, Eng. Curtis Knights turned his engineering practice in Planning Associates Limited (PAL) over to Eng. Riley and his brother Eng. Martin Riley. In collaboration with the international consulting firm Stantec Inc., a joint venture firm Planning and Stantec Limited (P&SL) was formed.

Eng. Riley’s entrepreneurial skills and understanding of the shifts in technology also led to the formation of EQS Limited (Quantity Surveying) and the acquisition of interest in Reynald Associates Limited (RAL) (Architecture) and Wallace Evans Jamaica Limited (Engineering). Eng. Riley also operated as project principal for the design of airports in Tobago and Dominica, the design and supervision of the construction of several Junior secondary schools and the design and supervision of the E-Teck flagship Building.

Eng. Riley has served as past president of APETT and the Contractors Association of Trinidad and Tobago. He served as president of the Joint Consultative Council (JCC) for ten years and on several Cabinet Appointed Committees in the industry. He is currently the Chair of the Private Sector Civil Society Group for public procurement. In this capacity, he has successfully campaigned for the introduction of procurement legislation which recently received partial proclamation. He now serves on the Cabinet Appointed Oversight Committee for Public Procurement. He is Chairman of the Lloyd Best Institute and was the recipient of the APETT Aelongs Sterling Service Award in 2010. He was also awarded for his contribution to the development of Engineering. APETT applauds Eng. Riley’s colourful career history and his contributions to the industry and nation.
Electrical Division Webpage Launch

The APETT website launched four years ago placed the Engineering fraternity on the global front. The Electrical Division recently took the initiative to be on the "APETT website map" alongside the Chemical and Civil Divisions. A sub-committee was formed within the Electrical Division Council (EDC). The Website Development Team was led by Eng. Jason Gordon and Mr. Jonathan Chang with support from past and present Electrical Division Council members.

APETT as a professional organization places its end customers (members) first in accordance with the ISO 9000 standard. A survey was conducted engaging a sample of stakeholders through one-on-one conversations and seminar event feedback forms. The result showed a need for the following:

- Information about the Electrical Division’s activities
- Relevant continuous professional development avenues for different disciplines
- Awareness of the benefits of joining APETT
- A forum to discuss trending ideas and pertinent local conversations

The website was developed using Agile Software Development principles to achieve product launch requirements. This method facilitated changes in requirements and incremental development of segments of the site.

The ICT tool used was a Content Management System (CMS) running on the Joomla! platform like the apett.org website. Using a CMS removed the time consuming coding process usually involved with website development. A CMS provides an avenue for:

- Organizing media (pictures, videos, audio, etc.) and articles (text, media)
- Representing the content in different layouts through templates
- Installed plugins adding functionality to your site

The website content was developed using the Joomla Content Editor, a plugin for Joomla!. The team accessed content through the web interface; editing and reviewing from the comfort of home or workplace instead of physical meetings.

The Electrical Division subsection was launched on apett.org on September 28th 2015. All are welcome to peruse the subsection of the website. You can email any comments and suggestions to apett.elecdiv.pro@gmail.com. The EDC looks forward to bringing added value to APETT through this avenue.

Article Author: Jonathan Chang
Newly formed Tobago Division welcomes APETT

On Wednesday 14th October 2015, the APETT Council held its monthly meeting in Tobago. This meeting was hosted by the newly formed Tobago Division. The APETT Council members learnt about the strides made by the Tobago Division and its goals for the future which were all in sync with the APETT Objectives. In future APETT meetings, it is intended that Tobago will always be represented by at least one of the Tobago Division committee members. We thank the APETT President and Dr Burris for their initiative and drive in helping to establish the Tobago Division.

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PEN Editor: Eng. Dr. Chris Maharaj (R.Eng., MAPETT, C.Eng.)
Op-Ed: Can a teleconsulting referral system add benefit to the public healthcare system in Trinidad and Tobago?

Teleconsulting has been defined as a telemedicine service that uses information and telecommunication technologies to carry out medical consultations among patients and doctors.

Modes of healthcare delivery must evolve to allow for optimization of the use of resources at our disposal. We already have examples of basic telemedicine applications in Trinidad and Tobago, such as mobile clinics which carry basic healthcare to rural communities. In many countries, advancements in telemedicine has allowed patients’ vital signs to be monitored with their own mobile phones; intensive care monitoring provided by remote specialists, and research is currently underway to facilitate medical care on shuttles to space.

The ability of a teleconsulting system to facilitate a variety of cases across specializations is evident in previous research conducted in various countries. Success was found for consultations in orthopedics, urology, gastroenterology, pediatrics, gynecology and endocrinology. It is obvious that the extent to which a teleconsultation is ‘successful’ in any of these areas is dependent on many factors such as user acceptance, quality of audiovisual equipment, capability of the technology, and ease of use, among others. The teleconsulting system can accommodate more than just one or two areas of medical specialization, when used in accord with its influencing factors, making it diverse in its capability.

This system can also be used as a facilitator for reengineering the public healthcare offering because of the perceived benefits identified by users in previous research. In previous studies of teleconsultation systems, users determined main benefits to be ‘information sharing between remote sites’, ‘real-time data updating’, ‘rapid consulting with specialists’, ‘reduced travelling for patients’, ‘standardization of therapeutic procedures’, ‘ability to carry out a follow-up at a rural hospital’, ‘improved level of care’ and ‘the ability to make a rapid and accurate diagnosis’.

In Trinidad and Tobago, mapping the stakeholders’ requirements will provide in-depth information. Contributions should be made by allied hospital staff, medical professionals, academics and researchers, and the general public. Article Author: Dr. Natasha Ramroop Singh