

Southern Branch's Efforts in Fight Against Dengue

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The IEM Southern Branch has been working closely with the Johor Health Department to fight dengue. Realising that engineers can play a role in this fight, its Executive Committee formed a Special Committee On Dengue last October 2015 with Ir. John Cheah Kam Loong as its chairman.

The other committee members are Ir. B.K. Teoh, Ir. Mohd Salehuddin bin Abdul Hamid, Ir. Derek Cheah Kong Yew, Ir. Tay Tuck Puang, Ir. Lam Ah Hang, Ir. Dr Stephan Tan Boon Kean, Ir. Goh Kae Wan, Ir. Thayala Selvadurai and Mr. Lim Chin Chuan.

Prior to the formation of the committee, an International Conference On Dengue Situation And Its Control was jointly organised by the Southern Branch, Rotary International and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) at UTM in September 2014.

Johor Chief Minister YAB Dato' Mohamed Khaled Bin Nordin, who officiated at the conference, was happy that engineers were promoting awareness of the disease. He believed that with the appointment of Ir. John Cheah as IEM representative in the Jawatankuasa Khas Tindakan Denggi Peringkat Negeri Johor, engineers, especially those in Johor, would be encouraged to play a positive role in helping the Government to combat the disease. (The proceedings of this conference is available upon request).

Engineers in Johor have been recognised for the role they play in combating dengue, especially in the Gotong Royong – Search & Destroy method. The following awards have been presented to engineers:

- Anugerah Aspirasi Combi Harapan Negeri Johor 2015 Award, presented by the speaker of Johor State Assembly, Tan Sri Mohammed bin Haji Aziz, on behalf of the Johor Chief Minister on 18 October, 2015, at Combi Convention, Pasir Gudang, Johor.

- Warga Kota Prihatin Award, presented by Chief Minister YAB Dato' Mohamed Khaled Bin Nordin on 3 January, 2016, at Hotel Paragon, Johor Bahru.

Four engineers have been appointed district representatives in the Jawatankuasa Tindakan Wabak Denggi Daerah of Johor. They are Ir. John Cheah (Johor Bahru), Ir. Tay Tuck Puang (Batu Pahat), Ir. Lam Ah Hang (Segamat) and Mr. Lim Chin Chuan (Kulai).

Ir. Thayala also successfully organised and led a Gotong-Royong – Search & Destroy event at Majidee Park, Johor, in September 2015. According to him, there is now "zero incidence" at the previous hotspot areas.

A past chairman of southern branch, Ir. Joseph Puen, also successfully organised a Gotong-Royong & Dengue Campaign at Orkid Flat, Desa Cemerlang, Johor Bahru in April 2016. At the same time, he donated two fogging machines to Combi Desa Cemerlang.

Ir. John Cheah spoke on "Methods of Vector Control On Dengue Eradication" during a session on Dengue Control & Its Situation at the Rotary International District 3310 Conference in Chiang Mai, Thailand in May 2016.

The engineers will continue to play active roles to combat and eradicate dengue. ■



Johor Chief Minister YAB Dato' Mohamed Khaled Bin Nordin officiating at the opening ceremony of The 2nd International Conference at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru.



Ir. John Cheah receiving a certificate of appreciation from the Johor Chief Minister in January 2016.