

Jamaica Institution of Engineers Quarterly Observer

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To volunteer or contribute to the next newsletter

Email:

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by May 10, 2010

Include “Newsletter” in the title of the message

Productivity & Wealth Creation

The Role of the Engineer

Wealth creation for the technically oriented is founded in those who combine ideas with actions to achieve the new and unprecedented. It involves skill, imagination and risk. Whether infrastructure construction, developing mechanical systems, or breakthrough data processing software, it involves carefully formulated equations, with an appreciation for the unknown, unexpected changes as well as planned eventualities.

The role of the Engineer in nation building is most often visibly recognised through his or her contribution to the development of the physical environment. However, the

Engineer’s role in provoking the thought which acts as the fuel to entrepreneurship is not so well known! Yet the Engineer as an innovator owns the skills for adapting to global economic realities.



In this regard, the engineer is the driver of productivity - the major determinant of survival in the global market place. Our role does not end there however, as economic growth and development requires sound business planning and management. The We must not only be willing to invest our incomes, as we

are well trained in the assessment of risk and security, but must we be willing to traverse the unknown and invest our mental capabilities.

As Engineers we must now innovate and bring ideas to life. Support scientific based market research and determine market potential. Most importantly, as today’s Engineers, we must be the trend-setters that use obstacles as springboards to success. *End*



Jamaica’s Productivity: A Look Back and A Look Ahead

Within the Productivity Indicators Summary Report, the Jamaica Productivity Centre has published an analysis of Jamaica’s performance, productivity and competitiveness between 1972 and 2007. [Visit www.npaw2009.com](http://www.npaw2009.com)

The picture painted is not surprising, as we have been living the reality of an average GDP growth of 0.5% per annum over the period. Not only has our labour productivity (output per worker) declined by an average 1.3% per annum, but our unit labour cost has increased on average by 0.4% per annum. The importance of measuring and

critically analyzing data, and comparing against best practices and benchmarks should hit very close to home for Engineers. Whether at the individual, organizational or industry level, what do we as engineers **plan** to do to turn things around?



Equipping workers with the right tools, education and knowledge to increase output while minimizing cost, has long been recognized as integral to the sustainable improvement of the living conditions in Jamaica. Despite

being faced with many challenges, we must exercise the leadership and the will to turn our country in the right direction. This includes making well informed recommendations and decisions, application of engineering principles, implementing and maximizing the use of productivity improvement tools and techniques while focusing energies and efforts into activities that will improve productivity and competitiveness. Let us help turn the National 2030 Vision “Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business” into reality. *End*

Earthquakes - Susceptibility & Response

Some Recent Regional Earthquakes:

12-Jan-2010
Haiti: 7.0
230,000 + fatalities

27-Feb-2010
Chile: 8.8
342 fatalities

11-Mar-10
Chile: 6.9
0 fatalities

20-Mar-2010
Cuba: 5.6
0 fatalities



Source: "Haiti Disaster Illustrates Power of Earthquakes"
<http://www.findingdulcinea.com/features>

In the aftermath of the recent disastrous earthquake in Haiti there has rightly been renewed focus on the matter of the seismicity of the Caribbean region, the susceptibility of our local buildings and infrastructure to such seismic activity, and our ability to respond to any resulting disaster. The membership of the Jamaica Institution of Engineers (JIE) not only sympathizes with our Caribbean neighbours but has offered its support through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) to assist in any way possible, but especially in the areas of damage assessment and structural rehabilitation of buildings.

The JIE is also spearheading an effort in collaboration with the Earthquake Unit at the University of the West Indies to put together a paper and a seminar on the causes, the effects, and the lessons to be learnt. As the local experts in the field of Seismic Engineering Designs and Seismology, we have a duty to properly inform and educate the public on these matters. In that regard we will also be in discussions with seismologists and engineers within the region and other international bodies and organizations that have studied and have an interest in seismicity and earthquake engineering in the region.

The paper is expected to be made public over the next two months and the public seminar is

scheduled to take place in April of this year. The following passages give an outline of our presentation.

Regional Seismicity

On an annual basis worldwide, there are approximately sixteen (16) Magnitude 7 (on the Richter Scale) or greater earthquakes, one hundred and twenty (120) or so Magnitude 6 earthquakes, and thousands of events below Magnitude 5. Approximately 15% of these events occur around the Caribbean Plate. Seismic events not only happen along the northern and southern margins of the plate but within the plates along young active fault zones. Active subduction (convergence of 2 plates where the more dense rock material of one plate sinks below the lighter plate) is also happening along the north-eastern boundaries of the plate along the Septentrional fault zone in the region of Puerto Rico. There is mostly vertical displacement along this fault, and it is the most likely area along the Caribbean Plate to generate a tsunami. Horizontal fault motion exists mostly along the north-western and southern margins of the plate and the threat of a tsunami is less likely from earthquakes generated along these faults. Reports in Jamaica regarding events, especially the earthquakes of 1692 and 1907

may have suggested tsunamis were generated for both events. Other reports suggest that more tsunamis affected Jamaica; for sure there are at least two events that resulted in tsunamis in Jamaica since 1688.

The epicenter of the earthquake and aftershocks in Haiti lies close to the Enriquillo Plantain Garden Fault Zone (EPGFZ). This fault line begins in the western part of the Dominica Republic through Haiti cutting across the Caribbean Sea, running into the Plantain Garden Fault in eastern Jamaica and continue west ward through the island. There are a number of other active fault zones that cut across the island of Jamaica. Earthquake activity is greatest along the Wagwater and Blue Mountain zones in the island; however, there are significant activities along the Crawle River/Rio Minho Fault zone and also along the northwest trending New Market Montpelier Fault zone.

Continued on Page 3



Screen shot from Nasa WorldWind software of NW Caribbean area
Source: www.wikipedia.com File:Gonave microplate.png

...Earthquake Cont'd from Page 2

Recent research prior to the event in Haiti highlighted the possibility of an earthquake along the Enriquillo Plantain Garden Fault Zone that would release energy generating an earthquake of Magnitude 7.3. This is the same fault line that the earthquake in Haiti was generated on. The 7.0 magnitude event in Haiti and the high magnitude aftershocks may reduce the possibility of the reoccurrence of an earthquake of similar magnitude in the near future along the same fault line. Although some seismologists contend that stress may move along the same fault line which can generate an equally high magnitude earthquake as that of the January 12, 2010 event in Haiti.

There are recurrence intervals for earthquakes; larger events occur less frequently and smaller events occur very frequently. The recurrence interval can be forecasted based on measurements obtained by a Global Positioning System (GPS) of active deformation along a fault line, using paleoseismic studies to determine the history of the earthquakes along a fault line. These studies are important in order to calculate the return period of large events. Studies are ongoing in Jamaica to measure activity along faults to add new data so that the history of events can be unearthed in order to better determine cycles of earthquake activity.

The possibility of more high magnitude events must therefore not be dismissed. As such, we must always be prepared for an earthquake. What we know for sure is that we live in an active zone and we must always be cognizant that big earthquakes can happen so preparation is very essential.

The implications of increased seismic activity in the region

Seismologists working in the region will now need to examine results of seismic studies to determine whether the maps of predicted accelerations in Jamaica's recent revised Building Code need re-assessment. Our Structural Engineers will need to take even more care that special earthquake resistant detailing in beams and columns are adhered to.

Current earthquake-resistant design methods accept damage, but reject collapse of ordinary buildings because of the need to both save lives and economize.

For special buildings, such as hospitals and places targeted for post-disaster shelters, design **must** go beyond this and must **guarantee** survival of the structure with little or no damage. This will undoubtedly increase the cost of some structures but is **essential** for us to respond to and care for our people after a major disaster. Existing buildings in these special categories must be evaluated and if necessary, upgraded or retrofitted to guarantee such damage resistance.

See Page 8....Building Code & Mitigation

Rosalind "Kitty" Brooks

A cheerful, meow-like "Howdy, howdy. How we all doing?" would greet us each morning. Lovingly referred to as "Ms. Yellow Pages", for over thirty years, Rosalind "Kitty" Brooks went beyond the call of duty and took on the operations of the JIE, as if we were her very own household and family. Her retirement became effective in December 2009, and the JIE would like to thank her for her 30 years of dedicated service. In the words of a member upon hearing of her retirement... "No one can take Kitty's place".

*We welcome your contribution towards the retirement fund set up in her honour: National Commercial Bank, (HWT Branch)
A/C #:304643692 A/C name: Jamaica Institution of Engineers*

Call for Papers Caribbean Engineering Conference on Bridges

Organizers: The Caribbean Division of the Institution of Structural Engineers in conjunction with the Jamaica Institution of Engineers

Conference Dates: September 20 & 21, 2010 - Kingston, Jamaica. *Venue to be announced at a later date.*

Objectives: To maintain continued professional development and broaden the scope of our Structural Engineers as well as share among Caribbean Engineers, methods and potential solutions for region specific problems.

Invitation: Papers from Engineers who have been involved in any aspect of the planning, design and construction of bridges.

Deadlines for Submission: Abstracts: **March 15, 2010;**
Papers: **May 15, 2010;** Presentation (ppt.) **July 15, 2010**

Contact: JIE Secretariat for further details
Tel: (876) 929-6741/920-7004 Fax:(876)929-4655
Email: jie@cwjamaica.com

Exclusive Interview with Eng. Noel daCosta, Past President, Fellow ~ JIE

Interviewed on August 3, 2009

INTRODUCTION

Recently, one of our founding fathers of JIE, Noel daCosta, retired from his 37 years tenure at Red Stripe (then Desnoes & Geddes Ltd.). Today, he remains just as active serving on several boards of directors. He is also the Chairman who led the committee for our phenomenally successful National Building Code for Jamaica. These are highlights from an interview that captures some of his wealth of wisdom and experiences from his career life that spanned over three decades, as well as a personal touch from his family life. Visit the JIE website (www.jie-jamaica.org) to read the full interview.

WORKING AT DESNOES & GEDDES (D&G), RED STRIPE AND DIAGEO PLC

Q. What are some of the most memorable moments in your 37 years of career at D&G/Red Stripe?

For core engineering, it would have been the designing of a 2-stage wort cooler. At that time, wort-cooling technology was a single stage cooler. This limited throughput to 4 brews per day. I had the idea to redesign the process by adding another stage to the cooling process, and tested this by refurbishing a redundant heat exchanger and inserting it into the existing process. In the end not only did the design increase the number of brews per day, but also it significantly saved energy and improved the product quality. The 2 stage cooling process is now standard in the industry.

There were two other experiences that are memorable. One was the complete overhaul of all the vessels in the cellars, as they were prone to bacterial infection. This involved shot blasting the interior of the vessels and relining them with a newly developed epoxy material, a project that took almost a year to complete. The second was the installation of a used Brewhouse that I had bought from a brewery in Cincinnati to expand our brewing capabilities using cutting-edge (at that time) process control systems.

Continued on Page 6.... JIE Presidency



Historical Highlights from a Lifetime of Achievements

1967: - Graduated with a B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

1967 – 1969:

- Process Engineer at the Esso Kingston Refinery (now Petrojam Limited).
- Obtained a certificate in Refinery Process Design from Esso Training School, Lima, Peru

1969:

- Awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship for a 3-yr PhD programme in Chemical Engineering at the University of Waterloo, Canada

1969 – 1972:

- Switched to Masters in Engineering followed by an MBA, *as he believed that Jamaica had a greater need for people with management skills than with PhDs in Chemical Engineering.*
- Graduated with a M.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Waterloo
- Obtained an MBA from the University of Toronto
- Completed certificate courses in Econometrics and International Finance at the University of British Columbia

1972:

- Started his 37-year journey at Desnoes & Geddes Ltd. (D&G), working as a Plant Engineer. Other positions held throughout his tenure, up to 2005, included Engineering Manager and Production Director.

1976:

- Joined the Board of Directors of D&G

2005 – 2009:

- Appointed Corporate Relations Director, Diageo plc (parent company of D&G) – responsible for Central America & the Caribbean

2009:

- Retired from D&G

Other accolades throughout Eng. Noel daCosta's lifetime:

- ACII Associateship (now Advanced Diploma) of the Chartered Insurance Institute
- Founding partner, Jentech Consultants

From 6,000 birds per week to 10,000 birds per hour

The 1st Quarterly Luncheon of the JIE was held on February 26th 2010 under the theme: Genesis, Journey, Diversification, with over 100 engineers and guests in attendance. The guest speaker, Mr. Christopher Levy, shared his views on his company's journey as he himself developed from a Marketing & Sales Trainee to President & CEO of the Jamaica Broilers Group of Companies. The Group is centered around the "vertically integrated poultry operation" with complete control and traceability from the fertile egg to finished product.



Mr. Christopher Levy,
President & CEO,
Jamaica Broilers Group
of Companies

The relentless focus on operational efficiency has been the key component in driving growth and profitability, demonstrated by the increase in processing, over a 51-year period, from 6,000 birds/week to 10,000 birds/hr. The operation is a conversion process, like many others in Jamaica; in this case, the conversion is from vegetable protein to animal protein. As Mr. Levy puts it **"the efficiency of the conversion determines whether you make money or not"**. One tool used to drive efficiency is benchmarking, whereby every detail is measured and used to identify opportunities for improvement. While striving for efficiency and self-sustainability, the Group has entered into new realms of business and engineering, including expansions, diversification and

implementation of new technologies in areas such as Cogeneration and Ethanol Dehydration. As highlighted by Mr. Levy, "Professionals, such as Engineers, play a role in companies that is absolutely critical to development; it is through good, solid, disciplined, thinking and execution that projects meet the targeted returns and that operations remain reliable". The Jamaica Broilers Group employs a wide range of engineers, reminding us that Civil Engineering is just one aspect of the profession. Track records developed over the years allow investors to feel confident in engineering and designs, and have therefore paved the way for investment. As Mr. Levy shared, "The ideas and concepts that can be generated from a mind that has been trained to think and envision solutions is invaluable". He charged that the role of engineers is evolving and engineers must transcend from purely a project basis to professionals ably suited to contribute to all levels and facets of organizations.

Culture, grounded by faith, and documented in the Bible, was revealed as the most important factor in the success of Jamaica Broilers. This allows the staff to be professional yet casual, urgent but wise, to trust and care beyond work, to have peace and confidence in making decisions, and also influences how people are treated. The Jamaica Broilers Group does business in a totally different way. The frankness, openness and animation with which Mr. Levy shared his and the Jamaica Broilers Groups' experiences were well received and appreciated by all present.

Tips for Improving Your Personal Productivity



Create Daily Action Lists. Without a clear focus, one can easily be overcome with distractions. Set targets for each day in advance. Decide what you will do, then do it!

Make the most of your peak productivity periods. Identify the times when you are most productive and schedule your most important tasks for during those times. Leave your minor tasks for non-peak times.

Designate "No Communication" zones – blocks of time when you shut off all communication – phones, emails, messenger – and focus on working on your tasks that require your utmost concentration. Advise persons around you that you are not available during these times. You will find it easier to relax and focus when you know you will not be interrupted.

Do the worst first. Learn to tackle your most unpleasant task first thing in the morning instead of delaying it until later in the day. This small victory will go a far way in setting the tone for a very productive day.

Batching. Batch similar tasks like responding to emails, phone calls or errands into a single chunk, and knock them off in a single session.

Gap Tasking. While waiting for an appointment, standing in line, or commuting (that is if you are not driving), is the perfect time to catch up on some reading, phone calls or note-jotting. This also has the added benefit of making the time appear to go by faster.

Chop it up. Break complex projects into smaller, well-defined tasks then focus on completing the individual tasks one at a time.

Socialize Positively. Surround yourself with positive people, people who have the drive to succeed. You may find that someone else is able to give you an idea which may make an otherwise difficult task seem easier.

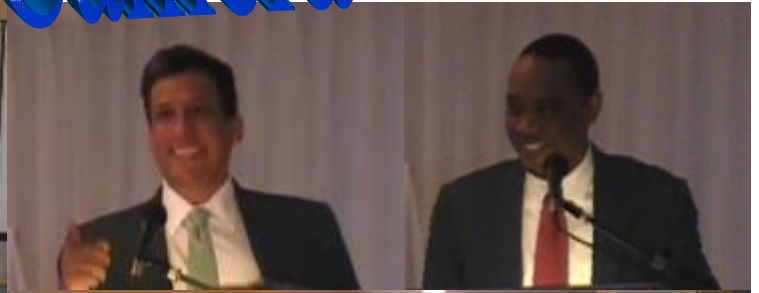
Cross-pollinate. Sign up for martial arts, start a blog, or join a networking group. Chances are you will find some ideas which you can use to improve your performance of your tasks.

Now go ahead, **Award Yourself.** Give yourself frequent rewards for achievement. See a movie, book a professional massage, or spend a day at the beach. Each time you have something difficult to do, think of your reward waiting at the end.

Caught on Camera



JIE First Quarterly Luncheon - The Jamaica Pegasus - February 26, 2010



Engineers' Thursdays - Christopher's Jazz Café - March 25, 2010



Engineers' Thursdays - Movie Lyme - JIE Secretariat February 25, 2010

JIE in the News

JIE members were guests of the Jamaica Observer's Exchange Meeting and the Gleaner's Editor's Forum in February and March 2010. A few of the articles published on engineering related topics, relevant to the public at large were:

- Earthquake Fright
- Dangerous Neglect
- Waiting for the Next Quake
- Call for National Building Code
- Engineers Looking at Alternative Building Materials to Spur Cheaper Housing

The Air Jamaica Screw-Up
 by Eng. Howard Chin
 Published in the
 Jamaica Observer 17-02-2010

Search for "JIE" on the newspapers' websites
www.jamaicaobserver.com and www.jamaica-gleaner.com

Upcoming JIE Events

Get Involved!

Volunteer to assist in planning any of these and other events.

Contact the JIE Secretariat

Engineers' Week
Sept. 19 - 26, 2010

Featuring:

- Caribbean Conference on Bridges
- Chemical & Process Engineering Seminar
- Energy Conference

The JIE will be increasing its efforts to communicate engineers' opinions and concerns. This will increase the visibility of the JIE and engineers in general, and also educate the public on engineering matters.

- April 23:** Secretaries Week Luncheon
- April 30:** Earthquake Seminar *(see below for details)*
- May 21:** Agricultural, Chemical, Mechanical, Industrial, Electrical (ACMIE) Division University Seminar
- May 28:** Engineers' Social: Come out and Meet with our New Members
- June 24:** Joint JIE/Caribbean Cement Company Limited Concrete Conference



Jamaica Institution of Engineers

PRESENTS

EARTHQUAKE SEMINAR 2010

"JAMAICA'S SEISMIC ASSESSMENT"

A one day Seminar featuring presentations on Jamaica's state of preparedness and vulnerability to EARTHQUAKES.

Date:
Friday April 30, 2010

Venue:
The Jamaica Pegasus Hotel

Time:
3:00pm-8:00pm

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Engineers, architects, contractors, developers and the general public

ENQUIRIES

Contact JIE at
Tel: 929-6741 or 920-7004
or
Marcia Erskine & Associates at
Tel: 960-3170 or 960-5308-9

Registration Fee:
J\$1,500.00 - JIE Members
J\$1,800.00 - General Public

INTERVIEW WITH ENG. NOEL DACOSTA... CONT'D FROM PAGE 4

JIE PRESIDENCY

Q. What was it like before JIE, with the Institution of Engineers Jamaica (IEJ) and the Jamaica Association of Engineers (JAE)?

The IEJ served its purpose during its time, but needed to renew itself to deal with the influx of the many new engineers that were streaming out of UWI. They were not able to do so, and as a result a new engineering group (JAE) was formed. Most of the engineers who graduated (from UWI) after its formation joined the JAE, and it soon became apparent that Jamaica was too small to accommodate two competing engineering organizations.

There was a long period of negotiations when both organizations worked to merge into one, and I was a part of the negotiating process, representing the JAE, and leading the team that wrote the existing constitution of the JIE.

Q. There were almost 22 years between the inception of JIE and your presidential term of JIE. What was your experience being the JIE President?

In the 22 years after the JIE was formed and the time I became president, I served on council on two separate occasions. First as Treasurer, under Eng. Pereira, and then as a Vice President, under Eng. Grace Ashley, our first lady President.

My experience as JIE president was challenging but fulfilling. It was challenging because of the many obstacles I had to battle in pushing the building code forward, and fulfilling because of the dedication and cooperation of some of the engineers who worked on the project.

The work on the Building Code did not really get going until after I had demitted office, and this confirms my often-expressed view, that the one-year term of JIE presidents is too short. I strongly believe that needs to be changed if we are to have the impact we need to have as a professional organization.

“the one-year term of JIE presidents is too short. I strongly believe that needs to be changed if we are to have the impact we need to have as a professional organization.”

Continued on Page 9

Earthquake Building Code & Mitigation

The JIE has spearheaded an initiative, along with other partners in the construction industry, to adopt eleven (11) of the International Code Council (ICC) codes including the International Building Code (IBC) and adapt these to our particular conditions.

The ICC codes are amongst the most modern set of international codes that provide guidance on the latest design and building techniques including those required for earthquake and hurricane forces. This effort commenced in 2005 when it was recognized that it would be more efficient to adopt a set of codes from an international organization that had the necessary funding to keep these codes updated and published than to continue with our previous efforts to develop our own local or Caribbean code. The technical aspects of this were completed and presented to the Office of the Prime Minister for legislation.

The Jamaica National Building Code is now available to the public at the Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) but it is essential that the legislation move speedily ahead to ensure that a minimum standard of building is maintained across the island.

While training in the use of this Code is set to begin shortly on a wide-scale through UTECH and HEART Trust/NTA, supported by the BSJ and the JIE, it will be **necessary** to properly equip the parish councils to **enforce** the provisions of the Code.

Only through the legislation and enforcement of such standards can we mitigate against hurricanes and other natural disasters which have the potential to cause immeasurable damage and suffering. The cost of designing and building in conformance with a proper code is insignificant when consideration is given to the cost required to clean up and recover from a disastrous natural

event, not to mention the cost of human suffering.

We must as a priority assess, and where required, upgrade our hospitals and other essential facilities to meet the standards of the code. These facilities, including shelters, must be a part of any post disaster plan by the ODPEM and therefore must remain operational to prevent total chaos and unnecessary suffering after a significant event.

When the effects of earthquakes that generate similar intensities are compared between varying locations worldwide it shows without question that an understanding of the cause of the activity, enforcement of proper design and building standards, upgrading of essential facilities and an adequate response system is the major difference between catastrophic disasters and manageable events.

End

INTERVIEW WITH ENG. NOEL DACOSTA... CONT'D FROM PAGE 8

Q. From your perspective, what are some of the new opportunities and ventures that JIE should consider exploring?

I think the JIE should continue pushing for the promulgation of the Building Act, which will make the time and effort put into the technical development of the Building Code worthwhile. The JIE should also seriously become involved in the training required to use the Code, as this can be both a public service and revenue generating activity.

THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE PROJECT

Q. The Building Code project had been one of the most (if not the most) significant projects ever undertaken in the history of JIE. It had been a 6-7 years long obstacle course to arrive at the point where the Building Code is widely adopted with trainings, and in the process of becoming the Building Act that the Jamaican government is trying to institutionalize. What are some of the lessons learned and values derived from this project?

I learned that:

- The built environment represents a significant percentage of a nation's wealth. Close to home we saw that a single event, Hurricane Ivan, could wipe out the building stock of Grenada, and we saw what that did to the country's GDP for many years.
- The important reasons for an appropriate Building Code, which is to protect life, to limit physical damage, and to ensure that buildings critical to civil protection such as hospitals, shelters, and fire stations and so on, can remain operational.
- Tour operators in the tourism industry are now enquiring about the safety standards of the hotels they send their clients to stay in, and require knowing what building codes are used in their construction.
- Re-insurers are becoming more and more insistent that the building risks they cover are mitigated by appropriate building standards based on appropriate building codes.
- Updating a building code on a frequent basis is crucial. A study was done in Florida after the building code there was updated following Hurricane Andrew. The study showed

“there is still time for some enlightened agency to fund the preparation of a model Building Act that can be used throughout the region.”

that if the new code was in use prior to hurricane Andrew, 65% of the damage could have been avoided.

- International funding agencies have their own agenda, which is not always aligned with what is appropriate for a particular country.

During my research I learned of two earthquakes that occurred in December 2003. One was in Bam in Turkey and the other was in Paso Robles in California. Both earthquakes measured 6.8 on the Richter scale. The town of Bam was destroyed and there were over 30,000 deaths. Paso Robles in California had 46 buildings damaged and there were only 2 deaths, from heart attack. California had an appropriate building code while Turkey did not.

When I started this project we spent countless hours writing numerous funding proposals to various international agencies. Those that responded decided that they would fund only a regional project, and failed to support the leadership and initiative that Jamaica showed in getting on with their building code.

By seeking private sector support, we managed to start our project, and now others who have been generously funded by these same agencies to do a regional code, are seeking to learn from us. I think the region would have been much further along towards having a regional code if Jamaica would have been considered a pilot and funded accordingly. We are about to embark on the development of a Building Act, using our own meagre resources. My suggestion is that there is still time for some enlightened agency to fund the preparation of a model Building Act that can be used throughout the region.

Finally, I learned that true professionals would contribute to the improvement of their profession and the betterment of their society, without thought of personal gain. During this project we had over 100 professionals, including engineers, architects, contractors, administrators and others, spending countless hours in numerous meetings, working on the application documents.

See Page 10 for more, including a glimpse of his family life

Eng. Noel daCosta - a Stalwart *cont'd from Page 9*

We even had overseas Jamaican professionals interacting by email. None of them raised the issue of compensation, although many sacrificed billable time, to do this work. **I wish to take this opportunity to publicly salute all those public-spirited professionals and thank them most sincerely for their tremendous unpaid and largely unrecognized contributions .**

BALANCE OF WORK AND FAMILY LIFE

Q. Would you mind sharing some stories of your family life? Has your family life been challenged at any stage of your career? How do you inspire your daughter to be comparatively accomplished like her parents? Was there pressure from your side?

My wife is a successful professional with many accomplishments, and many interests, so the challenges are around having sufficient points of intersection in our separate busy lives. I think communication is key to keeping it all together.

It is really a gift to be a parent, and it pains me when many in our society do not take parenting seriously. I think I could have

been a better parent although I tried my best. Because of the achievements of her parents, our daughter would feel pressured whether we consciously applied it or not.

The best we can do for our children is to accept who they are, encourage them to be the best that they can be, and acknowledge, appreciate and celebrate their achievements.

"...communication is key to keeping it all together"

NEW PROSPECTS OF POST-RETIREMENT LIFE

Q. Do you have any new plans and interests for yourself after retirement?

At this point I am not sure, but I have some options. I sit on several boards of directors, so I won't lack for mental stimulation. I am the Chairman of the Board of United Way of Jamaica, whose work gives me emotional satisfaction. Also I would like to become more active in Jentech Consultants Ltd, where I am a founding partner. *End*

A Special Welcome to our New Members
Elected Nov'09 - Mar'10

D'Wayne Barnes, Graduate (Chemical)
Libet Brooks, Graduate (Civil)
Marvin Campbell, Corporate (Civil)
Haldane Clarke, Corporate (Mechanical)
Denece Dawkins, Graduate (Civil)
Rudyard Grange, Corporate (Civil)
Winston Gordon, Corporate (Mechanical)
Maurice Ho-Shing, Graduate (Civil)
Dominique McKnight, Affiliate (Civil)

Veronique Morin, Corporate (Civil)
Kenneth Morrison, Corporate (Civil)
Rochelle Morrison, Graduate (Chemical)
Carlos Pitter, Graduate (Mechanical)
Glenford Ricketts, Affiliate (Civil)
Chevril Shaw, Corporate (Chemical)
Fabian Taylor, Graduate (Electrical)
Marcel Wright, Graduate (Mechanical)

Congratulations to Members Elected to the Class of Fellow Dec'09:

Vincent Lawrence Cowell Lyn Basil Nelson Richard Nevers Patrick Sauter

Visit and Join the Facebook Group: Get In Gear!!

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=17193037307>

We're finally back online!
www.jie-jamaica.org

Jamaica Institution of Engineers

2 Winchester Road, Kingston 10 Tel: (876) 929-6741/920-7004 Fax:(876)929-4655 Email: jie@cwjamaica.com

Your Comments and Suggestions are Always Welcome

Include "Newsletter" in the subject of your email and submit to: jie@cwjamaica.com