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Top nominees of Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2010® Malaysia

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Technology category



Ir Dr Nehemiah Lee Chee Hai
Nehemiah Reinforced Soil Sdn Bhd

Biography of nominee

On his decision to enter the business world, Ir. Dr. Nehemiah C. H. Lee, 57, has no ordinary story to tell. In fact, few people would have the extraordinary courage like him to immediately attribute his entry into the construction business to a simple calling from GOD.

Call it midlife crisis or anything you like – but, after having spent the first 16 years of his career in the construction industry, Dr. Lee felt disillusioned when he saw how corruption was so rampant but he could do nothing to change the culture because as a general manager, his hands were tied.

Because he wanted very much to uphold his Christian values, he decided to venture into his own business building retaining walls using reinforced soil technology, based on his experience, research and background in geotechnical engineering which earned him both a PhD from University of Malaya in 2006 and a patent in Nehemiah Wall. He is currently the owner of the Nehemiah Wall patent in several countries.

A learned and unassuming professional engineer, Dr. Lee knew that getting the job done professionally would eventually win him customers' confidence more than greasing his way into big contracts. It is this passion and simple faith in God that has driven him and his business to become profitable all 16 years, except in their first year. His unique perception of how business is to be conducted has certainly differentiated this entrepreneur from ordinary businessmen.

As recognition of the strong presence of the Nehemiah brand in the construction industry, Nehemiah Reinforced Soil Sdn Bhd was recently awarded the BrandLaureate – SME Chapter Award 2008 and the Nanyang Golden Bull Award. Dr. Lee was also awarded the Silver Award for Entrepreneur of the Year of the Star Outstanding Business Award 2010.

Apart from being a busy man, Dr. Nehemiah Lee is also an industrial advisor of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) and member of the Industrial Advisor Panel of INTI University. His entrepreneurship which he bases solely on his favorite biblical character, Nehemiah the wall builder, is something that is worth emulating for young Malaysians.

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