

# Nehemiah *in Action*

The official newsletter of Nehemiah

March 2010

| From the Desk of Dr. Nehemiah Lee |

## 2009: A Year of Many Blessings



This past one year has been a big challenge as well as a year of many blessings in disguise.

With the global economic downturn, one would expect all Malaysian companies to experience hardship. I would say 2009 is nevertheless one of the better years for Nehemiah Reinforced Soil Sdn. Bhd.

Thankfully, and all glory to God above, Nehemiah has managed to ride through the storms of one of the worst recessions in this new millennium. We have always been reminded that, if not for the support of our clients and suppliers, we would not have been able to sustain our business through 16 years of existence.

As I reflect over the first half of the year, I can count the blessings which are too numerous to elaborate here.

We expect 2010 to be another challenging year ahead. While hoping that global economy will improve, we have learnt to be more prudent and work extra harder to look for new business opportunities to sustain the business.

No time is wasted on building a solid foundation ahead of the better times to come. Realizing that our staffs need all sorts of skills to carry out the daily business of the company, we have been sending them for training.

It is also time for companies like ours to venture abroad, instead of focusing on one single market. This is where I hope 2010 will be a greater year for us to foster closer working relationships.

**Ir. Dr. Nehemiah Lee**  
Managing Director



Jihan in her chosen costume.



Zombi Kampung Pisang won first prize for its performance

All Looking good.

# Staff Appreciation Night

14 August 2009

What a company value the most are its good and faithful staff; but what the staff value highly are appreciative employers.

At Nehemiah's Staff Appreciation Night at Sheraton Subang, one of the longest serving staff, Encik Fakhuradzi Bin Abd Aziz, who joined Nehemiah since 1996, urged all staff to work as closely as possible as fellow colleagues.

Lim Keh Sing from the Design Department thanked the management that in the few years that he has been with the company, it has never failed to give increment and bonus. He expressed his appreciation to the Construction Team. "You have faithfully followed the design, changing nothing without consulting us," he said.

A whole one-hour was given to staff to express their appreciation to one another. Project Manager, Joel Lim said there were occasions that staff would have heated arguments on work matters. "But, we should not keep it to heart," he said.

Dr. Nehemiah Lee also took the opportunity to thank all staff of Nehemiah for their hard work. Inter-departmental talents competition also brought

out the best of the staff. Zombi Kampung Pisang team emerged champion, scoring nearly perfect scores with their creativity, teamwork and overall performance.



Best Dressed Man and Woman receiving their gifts from Ms. Wendy Lee.



# Penang Appreciation Dinner 2009

By Koay Eng Kang

Some 250 guests attended our Penang Appreciation Dinner 2009 which was held at Cititel Penang on June 26.

The guests were mainly our contractors, consultants, suppliers, subcontractors and government officials from various departments.

Representing our Corporate Office were our Managing Director, Ir. Dr. Nehemiah Lee Chee Hai, Ir. Tan Cheng Chong (Senior General Manager), Jason Khor (General Manager), Deborah Lee (Finance Director), H'ng Chooi Ling and Lim Keh Seng.

In his speech, Ir. Tan reflected over the humble beginnings of Nehemiah Reinforced Soil Sdn Bhd, which has its origins in the Pearl of the Orient.

Penang, he said, can be regarded as the birthplace of Nehemiah, when the company was awarded our very first project 16 years ago.

"Nehemiah continued its growth unabated even during adverse economic conditions," he added. "Hence, we are forever indebted to Penang and the luster of Penang will perpetually hold sentimental values to us. Being back in Penang does feel like a homecoming to us."

With this, Nehemiah Penang would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all our guests who came for the dinner.

# ALL SMILES

## on Nehemiah's Annual Appreciation Dinner



### PROJECT UPDATE

## 1. Lebuhraya Kemuning - Shah Alam (LKSA)

### Background

**Client:** Lembaga Lebuhraya Malaysia (LLM)  
**Concession:** Prolintas  
**Consultant:** Sepakat Setia Perunding Sdn Bhd  
**Completion :** 2009

### Overview

The Lebuhraya Kemuning - Shah Alam (LKSA) will provide a high speed link connecting KESAS Highway to Federal Highway. It will start at the existing KESAS Kota Kemuning Interchange and tranverse northeast towards the Federal Highway, Route 2. The proposed highway will provide an alternative route to road users and would reduce traffic congestion along the Federal Highway.

Nehemiah walls cover the stretch at Bulatan Jubli Perak, Railway track crossing at Jalan Parang and interchange at Federal Highway. A total of about 4700m2 of Nehemiah wall was erected in this project with a maximum wall height of 7.5m.



## 2. Trans Eastern Kedah Interland Highway

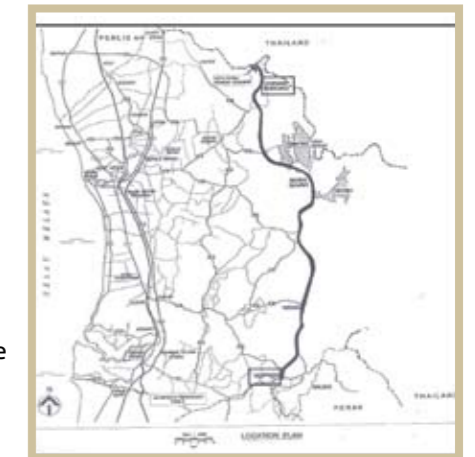
### Background

**Client:** Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR)  
**Consultant:** PJS Consultants Sdn Bhd / Aisar Engineers Sdn Bhd  
**Completion:** In progress

### Overview

Trans Eastern Kedah Interland Highway from Durian Burung to Kupang is a dual-lane single carriageway road constructed according to JKR R5 standards. Its distance is approximately 115km, connecting the entrance into Thailand at Durian Burung with East-West Highway through Baling. The journey from Baling to Durian Burung is shortened from two hours 15min to one hour 30 minutes.

Nehemiah was involved in Segments 1&3 for Package A and Segments B & D for Package B. A total of about 16,550m2 of Nehemiah Wall was erected for this project with maximum wall height of 14m with slope surcharge.



# SPACE CREATION AND LAND RECLAMATION USING NEHEMIAH WALL

## - THE CONSTRUCTION AND COMPLETION OF NEHEMIAH WALL FOR 78 UNITS OF SEMI-D AT UKAY PERDANA (SMD 9)

By Yip Sing Wah & Melvin Lee, Nehemiah Reinforced Soil Sdn Bhd

### PROJECT SUMMARY

**Client :** Ukay Land Sdn Bhd  
**Consultant :** Jurutera TSSCLim Sdn Bhd  
**Main Contractor:** IJM Construction Sdn Bhd  
**Date Started:** 18 February 2008  
**Date Completed:** 7 September 2008  
**Erected Wall Area:** about 3200m<sup>2</sup>

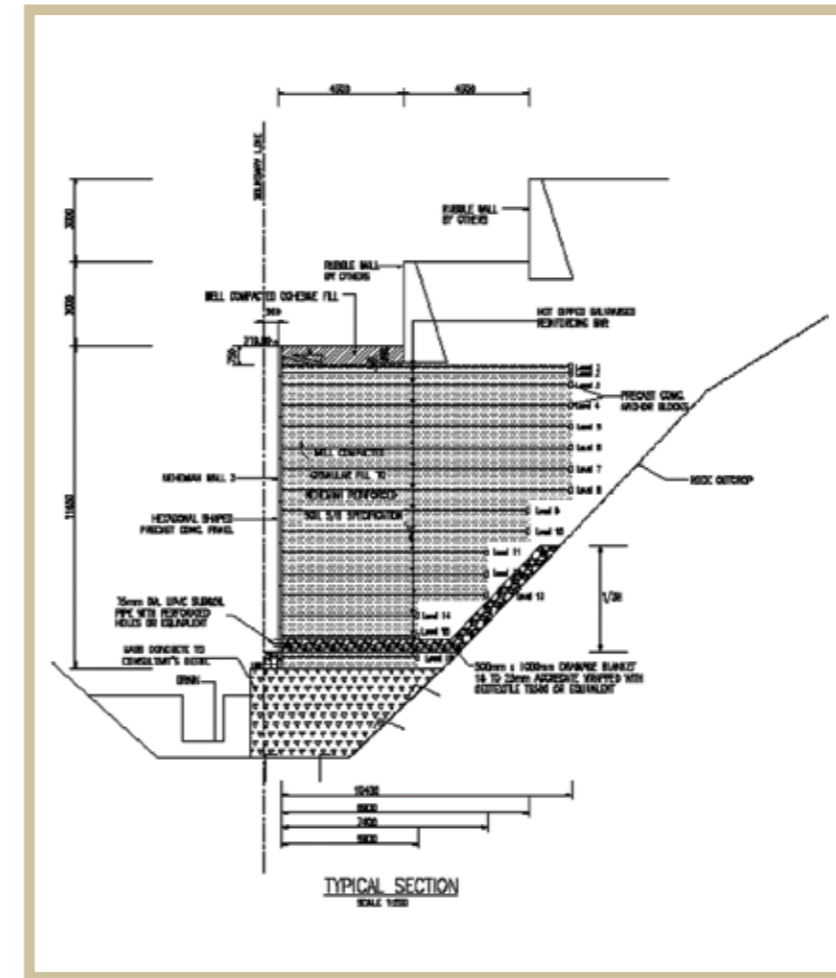
Nehemiah recently completed a reinforced soil wall of approximately 420 meters, with a maximum height of 12 meters for SMD 9, a housing development project located at Ukay Perdana, Gombak. Managed by main contractor, IJM Construction Sdn Bhd, the project involves the construction of 78 units of Semi-D on a platform which was reclaimed from wasteful slopes.

### DESIGN CHALLENGES

The project was a big challenge, as it required special design consideration. The wall alignment was proposed along hard rock terrain; therefore obstructing the reinforcing bars tieback, which poses a challenge to the Nehemiah Wall design. Disturbance to the rock must be minimized and only minor rock hacking was allowed. Hence, the length of the reinforcing bars had to be shortened as much as possible in order to suit the existing rock profile.

There were two design approaches to shorten the length of reinforcing bars. First, the height of the wall had to be reduced by raising the base of wall level. Instead of sitting on lower ground level, we had to design the wall to sit on mass concrete buttress, which was bolted to the rock and served as a flat platform where the Nehemiah Wall system could sit on. Apart from that, the mass concrete buttress was also used to control the wall height – limiting it to a maximum height of 12.0 meters. This meant that we also had to control the overall length of the reinforcing bars used. (Please refer to the Typical Section diagram)

Moreover, we had to adopt the trapezoidal design, where the reinforcing bars were shortened at bottom layers to suit the rock profile. The trapezoidal design method – based on BS 8006: 1995 – was adopted to minimize the rock cutting area. In doing so, we had to optimize the reinforcing bars design as well as reducing the backfill material used to construct the Nehemiah Wall system.



### CONCLUSION

With the successful completion of this project, the Nehemiah wall has proven to be a versatile system under various site conditions. Apart from the obvious advantages such as cost effectiveness and rapid installation, Nehemiah wall prove to be aesthetically pleasing compared to conventional wall.





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1. Ir. Lim Keh Seng discussing one of the chapters of the book.
2. Intensely listening to the speakers.
3. Plenty of time for discussion.

## Good to Great Seminar

Initiated by Dr. Nehemiah Lee, the company organised a one-day seminar at The Eastin Hotel to discuss the book, "Good to Great" by Jim Collins.

The seminar was part of the company's effort to build a disciplined culture that will eventually help to turn Nehemiah into a great company.

"This is one great book that I have read, where the author is very systematic in his research compared to most other management books," he said. "The author does not talk about management fads, but he has some very sound and timeless management principles to share."

Reflecting the author's illustration of the flywheel, Dr Lee said there needs to be continuous efforts to push the flywheel until a breakthrough is seen.

Dr. Lee, in his conclusion, said that the company that he set up 16 years ago may be a good company, but it is not be good enough, until it can achieve the next level of excellence as a good-to-great company. "Eventually, our aim is to become one of the visionary companies, which are built to last," he said.



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