

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair when asked what his top priorities were, before his successful 1997 election, responded "Education, education, education!" And so it remains for the continued successful development and deployment of Trenchless technologies in Malaysia. Alongside the usual commercial introduction and use of available trenchless solutions, a key and repeatedly stated priority for stakeholders in the sector, from Ministry level and including Utility operators and private contractors, is indeed knowledge transfer and education.



(Right to left) : Ir. Haniffa - COO, IWK; Dr. Dec Downey - Past Chair, ISTT; Mr Faizal Othman - CEO, IWK; Mr Börje Persson - MD, JBP Group; Mr Frank Reilly - Trenchless Training Co-ordinator, JBP at IWK's Pantai 2 Regional Sewage Treatment Plant

It was therefore a welcome opportunity for JBP's Managing Director Börje Persson to be invited to join with Dr. Dec Downey - past Chairman of ISTT and Principal of Trenchless Opportunities Ltd, Indah Water Konsortium's CEO Mr Faizal Othman and Mr Martin Shaw from Xylem, to participate in a Trenchless Technologies Technical Seminar in Kuala Lumpur, earlier this year. The invitation was issued by the recently established Malaysia Association of Trenchless Technology (MATT), the newest member of ISTT's 28 now 29 affiliated societies. IWK's Mr Othman is MATT's first serving president.

This inaugural event for MATT - "Trenchless - Current Trends, Developments & Opportunities", was generously supported by ISTT and sponsored by Westrade Group Ltd - organisers of the very successful Trenchless Asia conferences and

exhibitions in the region. Trenchless Asia events have also provided an excellent and important platform for education and knowledge transfer within the trenchless sector. The day-long seminar was hosted by Indah Water Konsortium (IWK), in the conference suite at their very impressive state of the art Pantai 2 Regional Sewage Treatment Plant - a must on any Trenchless tourist's visit to Kuala Lumpur. Seriously!

It is hoped that similar technical seminars will become a regular part of MATT's annual programme of events, fulfilling one of MATT's key stated objectives - "to provide a platform for education and training of trenchless professionals", and will be excellent forums for local, regional and international participation and networking.

JBP, through one of its group companies in Malaysia - JBP Consultancy Services Asia Sdn. Bhd., has worked closely with IWK, other key Ministries' departments and private contractors to offer a range of trenchless training programmes. An example of this is that over the last two years, through exclusive co-operation with WRC in the ASEAN region, over 100 engineers have been educated and certified in Sewer Pipeline Condition Assessment Classification.

Prior to the MATT seminar, JBP was delighted to be joined by Dr. Downey, in providing a two day course to over 40 engineers from IWK, JKR (the Public Works Department of Sabah) and private contractors. The course gave an in-depth insight into current trenchless methods and technologies, benefits and limitations, and effective assessment and decision making. The success of this course is an excellent example of the importance of education and training, in increasing awareness of the potential and opportunities of trenchless, raising standards and helping to improve effective decision-making, use and deployment of technologies.

JBP are committed to continue extending its offering of its trenchless courses throughout the ASEAN region, and will do this in conjunction with technology providers, technical experts and other interested stakeholders in the sector, to meet the demand for knowledge transfer. The priority of JBP's trenchless training programmes, in helping to promote use for trenchless, will remain education, education, education.



JBP Trenchless Training Course Participants, June 2019 at IWK's Training Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Frank Reilly - Trenchless Training Co-ordinator, JBP