MoonCake Appreciation Nite

It was a perfect evening. Adorned with lanterns, and graced with radiant beams from a full moon, the vicinity of LT24 was transformed into a colourful spectacle, greeting the guests for this year’s annual Mooncake Appreciation Nite. A celebration of the “Mid-Autumn” Festival, this event, held on the 20th September, 2002, saw members of the EEE alumni, past, present and future, coming together to share this important Chinese festival.

The evening kicked off at sunset with an address by EEE Vice-Dean Assoc Prof Kam Chan Hin. Prof Kam stated that such an occasion served as a perfect opportunity to interact with members of the EEE community. “It’s not just what you know, but who you know,” said Prof Kam touching on the importance of networking, and being technically and socially proficient.

This was followed-up by an address by the Honorary Secretary of the EEE Alumni association, Mr Chan Kian Teck, who began by briefing the audience on the benefits of joining the alumni. He said that not only does membership to the association open doors to employment opportunities, it also serves as an avenue for seeking assistance in the form of logistics support and project recommendations, not to mention discounts on golf items.

What came next was the event that all guests had been eagerly anticipating, the moon cake buffet! Trays of mooncakes lined the tables outside LT’s 24 and 25. There was a huge variety of mooncakes available. From Snow skin to the traditional Lotus paste, queues soon formed as the guests eagerly topped their plates with the delicious cakes. With everyone relishing the delicious mooncakes, the trays were emptied at an amazing rate. Goh Thian Siang, EEE3, summed up the feeling in the crowd when he described the situation as being “Gone with the Wind”. Well, it seemed that there was no cause for worry as members of the EEE club soon brought in “reinforcements” to the delight of all around. It was the first time tasting mooncakes for exchange students Vincent Kerhohs and Fabien Chareyre, both 21. Hailing from France, they found the taste of mooncakes delightful, particularly the snow skin variety, all except for the yellow skin types. When informed it was durian flavoured, they could not help but exclaim with a “Yeah” and nodding in recognition.

In the mean time, there were many activities going on to promote interaction among the guests. These ranged from lantern appreciation, to claiming prizes for identifying and pairing up with fellow mooncake connoisseurs holding matching poker cards.

Following a snap shot of all guests at the S4 foyer, it was time for the highlight of the evening, Chinese riddle guessing! Each lantern had a Chinese riddle hung on it. And the prize for getting the correct answer was...... you guessed it... the very lantern on which the riddle was hung. There were more than 20 lanterns up for grabs, ranging from traditional designs to more modern ones. The response was overwhelming as everyone wanted a go at answering the riddles. To curtail the eager crowd, conditions such as "wearing a green sleeveless blouse" were laid down to encourage more participation from the quieter ones present. Not to be outdone by the students, APs Kam and Shiraz too got into the spirit of things and won a lantern each for guessing the riddles correctly, with a bit of help from their students. The last lantern went to a particularly enthusiastic EEE 3 student Zhou Yi, who was handsomely rewarded for his enthusiasm with a smiley face lantern. It was indeed an appropriate end to a wonderful evening.