

Derek Michael D'Costa

I am a 1969 Chemical Engineering Graduate of the IIT Kharagpur, and arrived in Canada in September of the same year, applying for membership in the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario (APEO) right away. As many immigrant engineers will attest to, it was a bit of a struggle, but in January 1976, after passing the 4 Professional (Confirmatory) Examinations of PEO, and meeting the Experience Requirements, I was registered as a P.Eng.

Initially, I was assigned to the Toronto-Dufferin Chapter, but in 1989 with the re-organization of chapter boundaries, I found myself in the East Toronto Chapter. Here, I served on the Chapter Executive for 15 years, holding the position of Vice Chair for one year. In 2008, when PEO once again reorganized its chapter boundaries, I was back in the new West Toronto Chapter. My professional engineering experience includes working for Ontario Hydro (now OPG), the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and also as a Senior Process & Safety Engineer with the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), the world famous designer of the CANDU nuclear powered Reactor.

In November 2009, in their very first batch, Engineers Canada awarded me an FEC for my "Exceptional Contributions to the Engineering Profession in Canada", and in June 2010, I was presented with an Ontario Volunteer Service Award (OVSA) for my 15 years volunteer service with the ETC Executive, by the Hon. Eric Hoskins, Ontario Minister of Citizenship & Immigration. I have recently had some health problems, which have held me back, but am now well enough to once again volunteer my services with the WTPEO Chapter Executive.