



Professional Engineers
and Geoscientists of BC

NEWS RELEASE

APEGBC's New President Looks to the Future

For Immediate Release
Date: October 25, 2005

BURNABY, BC – The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (APEGBC) is proud to announce the election of Dr. M. Robert Ito, P.Eng. to the position of President. Dr. Ito's presidential term commenced on Saturday, October 15, 2005 at the Association's Annual General Meeting in Richmond, BC and will continue until October 2006.

"Engineers and geoscientists play an integral role in BC by protecting the public in the application of engineering, science and technology," said Murray Coell, Minister of Advanced Education, who is responsible for the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*. "Dr. Ito is a renowned researcher and leader in the engineering field, and I believe that under his leadership, the Association and its membership will continue to maintain the highest standards of professionalism."

Dr. Ito was born in Vancouver, BC. He received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from the University of Manitoba and his Ph.D. degree from the University of British Columbia. From 1963 to 1973, he worked as a Research Officer with the National Research Council of Canada in Ottawa. In 1973, he became a Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of British Columbia and in 2003 was appointed as Professor Emeritus. At UBC, he remains actively involved in leading edge research with graduate students, in the undergraduate engineering co-op education program and in such initiatives as the Government of BC "*Double the Opportunity*" program.

As a consulting engineer, Dr. Ito has worked with many private corporations and government. He has also been internationally active in professional affairs related to research and development in electrical, computer and software engineering. As an APEGBC member, he has been involved in issues ranging from the various aspects of the professional registration processes, through several task forces on new and emerging disciplines, to his most recent role as Vice President.

Looking to the year ahead, Dr. Ito plans to focus upon the following key initiatives:

- Develop more effective means of recognizing and accommodating the rapid changes in the engineering and geoscience fields with respect to the regulatory mandate of the association;
- Work with the provincial government on professional reliance issues, and work towards modernizing the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*;
- Recognize emerging disciplines, such as nanotechnology and environmental geoscience; and
- Develop guidelines for continuing professional development so that members maintain their on-going professional competence in today's changing world.

About APEGBC

The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC, consisting of some 22,000 members, is the regulatory authority responsible for licensing its members throughout British Columbia. It protects the health, safety and welfare of BC citizens through the promotion and enforcement of the highest standards of practice. Only licensed professional engineers and professional geoscientists are permitted to practice engineering and geoscience in BC under the provision of the Engineers and Geoscientists Acts. For more information about APEGBC, please visit www.apeg.bc.ca.

Backgrounder included.

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