

ENGINEER WINSTON RILEY RECEIVES NATION'S SECOND HIGHEST AWARD

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago celebrated its 54th anniversary of Independence on August 31st, 2016. On this auspicious day, some of our outstanding nationals were presented with National Awards for their contribution to the nation. APETT is pleased to advise that amongst these recipients was Eng. Winston Riley, a distinguished Member of our fraternity, and Past President of our Association. Eng. Riley received the nation's second highest award; the Chaconia Gold Medal for distinguished and outstanding service to the country.

APETT takes this opportunity to publicly congratulate Eng. Riley on his achievement. Such an award augers well for the engineering profession and sets the standard for all others within the profession.

The following is an excerpt from Eng. Riley's extensive biography:

Eng. Winston Riley, FAPETT gained his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering in 1967. He first worked in the Drainage and Hydraulics Division of the Ministry of Works (DHD of MOW) from 1967 to 1969, before entering the private sector. At the DHD of MOW, he became the engineer in charge of construction and considered the following two projects to be the most creative:

- i. The construction of an earthen dam in the Caroni Swamp utilizing derelict vehicles and mangrove piles to prevent pollution of the swamp by effluent from the Fernandez Distillery.
- ii. The use of Lake Asphalt materials and wire mesh as a replacement for the imported gabion mattresses for coastal erosion protection.

In 1969 Eng. Riley joined the firm of Trinidad Engineering and Research (TER) where he honed his experience in the design of structures, housing developments and the preparation of project proposals. To him, the most exciting events at TER included:

- i. The analysis and design of the drainage requirement for the Uriah Butler Highway, which determined the road profiles for the north-bound lanes. These lanes have not flooded to date.
- ii. Identifying deficiencies and proposing amendments to the existing code BS 1449 while designing Z purlins.
- iii. Project management of the design and the supervision of the first phase of construction of the Claude Noel Highway in Tobago.

In 1975, he formed the construction firm ENDECO Trinidad Limited. Under his leadership, ENDECO successfully undertook the construction of 32 projects, the main ones being the design and construction of the former TRINRE building and the Barrackpore Senior Secondary School

utilizing lift-slab tilt up systems, the former Crown Life Building, the Development Finance Corporation building utilizing a climbing crane, and the Townhouses at Flagstaff utilizing flying forms.

In 1975, Planning Associates Ltd. (PAL) was turned over to Eng. Riley and his brother Eng. Martin Riley. This led to a profitable relationship with the international consulting firm Stantec Inc. resulting in the formation of the joint venture firm Planning and Stantec Limited (P&SL).

As Managing Director of PAL, Eng. Riley managed the following projects:

- i. The design phase of the rehabilitation work on the Drakes and Blackburne Highway (Tortola B.V.I.),
- ii. The design and construction supervision of the Belmont Road in Tobago

He was project director for the rehabilitation of over 1,000 kilometers of roads in Jamaica; the rehabilitation of roads and bridges in Trinidad under the NREP phases I and 2, and the design of the San Fernando to Princess Town highway.

Eng. Riley's entrepreneurial skills and understanding of the shifts in technology led to the formation of EQS Limited (Quantity Surveying) and the acquisition of interest in Reynald Associates Limited (RAL) (architects) and Wallace Evans Jamaica Limited (engineering).

Eng. Riley also operated as project principal for the design of airports in Tobago and Dominica, the design and supervision of the construction of several Junior secondary schools and the design and supervision of the E-Teck flagship Building, which won two industry prizes in 2006.

Eng. Riley has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to the development of the Construction industry in Trinidad and Tobago and is a past president of APETT and the Contractor's Association of Trinidad and Tobago. As President of APETT, he initiated and managed the first Caribbean Housing Conference. He also served on several Cabinet Appointed Committees in the industry. Eng. Riley served as president of the JCC for ten years. During his tenure he prepared and presented the industry's submissions at the Commissions of Inquiry into the Piarco Airport Construction project and the Construction Sector (UFF Commission). He also successfully lobbied for the introduction of a Master's Programme in Project Management at UWI and initiated and managed a training arrangement in the FIDIC forms of contract in the Caribbean. To date, over 3000 professionals have been trained.

Winston has advocated relentlessly for the reform of public procurement processes and practices. He is currently the Chair of the Private Sector Civil Society Group for public procurement that has successfully campaigned for the introduction of procurement legislation

that recently received the partial proclamation. He currently serves on the Cabinet Appointed Oversight Committee for Public Procurement.

Eng. Riley has authored several technical papers, some of which are published in international technical journals. He is Chairman of the Lloyd Best Institute and has written many non-technical papers on matters of cultural and national interest. He was the first recipient of a Bursary from APETT, which he declined when he was awarded an additional national scholarship. At UWI, he formed and managed the Literary and Debating Society.

Eng. Riley was the recipient of the R.V.S. Aleong Sterling Service to APETT Award in 2010 and the Career of Excellence in Engineering Award in 2015. He was also awarded for his contribution to the development of Engineering, UWI 1985 and APETT 1987. Eng. Riley attended St. George's College and Queen's Royal College where he was outstanding at chess and athletics.

The 2016-2017 Executive Council of APETT congratulates Eng. Riley on his achievement and wishes him well as he continues in service for the profession and the nation.

Author: Eng. Vince Ramlochan