

History of the Formation of Region XIII

Philadelphia, PA – As the United States was conceived in Philadelphia and was born in Boston, so did ASHRAE Region XIII. On Jan 25 & 26, 1997, [chapter officers](#) from Hong Kong, Singapore, and Malaysia attended the International Committee Meeting. Taiwan Chapter had no representation. It was Sunday, January 26, 1997 when a group of ASHRAE members from Region I and Region X gathered informally together with the other members from the Far East countries. Joseph Ting hosted a Chinese banquet at the Imperial Restaurant in downtown Philadelphia. The intent of this informal get-together was traditional and thirteen members were present at this banquet/meeting.

Region I	Region X
DRC Joseph K. Ting, P.E.	DRC Dean Borges, P.E.
New York Chapter President William Ryan	DAL Milton Meckler, P.E.
Long Island Chapter TEGA Chair Harold Smith, P.E.	Marlys Meckler
Hong Kong Chapter	Malaysia Chapter
President Phillip Yu	President Yim Hon Wa
Past President Wong Wai Kwong	President-elect Hing Fook Yong
Singapore Chapter	Vice President Foo Say Jan
President Vincent Tong	Past President Steven Toh

The food was excellent and the ambiance was just perfect. Amiable discussions at the dinner meeting had led to serious talk about the formation of a new region in the Far East. Everyone enjoyed the sumptuous dinner. The discussions were quite interesting and constructive enough that the participants had decided to carry-on further discussions at the Marriott hotel.

The discussions provided enthusiasm among the Far East members to present a motion to the Regions Council as the International Committee (IC) had rejected their motion to form Region XIII when presented at the IC meeting held on 1/25/97. The reason for its rejection was that the motion was not submitted in a timely fashion prior to the meeting. It appeared that there were some misunderstandings among IC members. As stated in the Society Bylaws, any members can present any motion at any official committee or council meeting. Towards that end, the presentation of a motion does not require prior submission to meet a deadline.

Participants re-grouped at the hotel room of Joseph Ting to further brainstorm ideas and to prepare accordingly a motion to form a Far East region also known as Region XIII. At this informal gathering, Dean Borges and Joseph Ting encouraged strongly the Chapter members from the Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong to turn their dreams into reality. All attendees felt that the time was right and that the Far East Chapters were ready to form their own region in order to take care of their regional interests. It took a lot of iteration and re-iteration of the particular motion until everyone had come to a consensus. Both DRCs also provided invaluable advice to properly handle the Regions Council members.

Knowing that one of the prerequisites in forming a region required at least six chapters and 1800 members, everyone agreed that the motion should include a waiver to request an exception to one of the six requirements needed to form a region.

Phil Yu was designated to be the official secretary of this informal session. He was so proficient with his laptop computer and finalized the [written motion](#) at around 2 AM on Monday morning. As we did not have a printer handy at that point in time, the best way to obtain a hard copy was to fax the document back to the Marriott Hotel and to retrieve it at the front desk. It worked perfectly! It was early dawn when the task was finally completed.

On behalf of the four chapters, Wong Wai Kwong was selected to represent the Far East members in presenting the motion at the Council meeting on January 27, 1997. Immediately after the IC Chairman Gerald Groff reported the IC activities to the Council members, Wong Wai Kwong delivered the motion. While waiting to present the drafted motion, he was approached by a senior member who tried to stop him from presenting the motion; nonetheless, Wong Wai-Kwong was persistent and proceeded to deliver the well-prepared motion. He handled the situation quite smoothly as the Regions Council Chair Donald Holte complimented the Far East members for their patience and perseverance.

The motion was moved by Dean Borges and seconded by Region IV DRC Minh Tran. It was then passed with a majority vote at the Regions Council and was referred subsequently to the Council's Planning Committee. The Planning Committee, in turn, assigned IC the action item to prepare all necessary documentation needed to petition the forming of a new region.

In the Spring of 1997, IC Vice Chair Ronald Kessner requested Joseph Ting to help draft the said petition. Hong Kong Chapter was assigned to complete the petition including all necessary waivers. On April 19, 1997, Phil Yu hosted the [first regional meeting](#) in Hong Kong and subsequently coordinated to complete the [petition](#). The completed petition was then circulated for review and signed by all officers of the four chapters. It was subsequently forwarded to IC for further considerations.

On May 2, 1997, Ron Kessner chaired the [IC meeting](#) in Tempe, Arizona. The motion to form Region XIII was presented and voted with an overwhelming majority. The motion was passed favorably with the exception of two negative votes (the former Region X DRC and the Lebanon Chapter President). As the meeting came to a closure, Yim Hon Wa thanked Ron Kessner for his full support and for his sincere parting words: "You guys got to make it work!" The Far East Chapter members who attended this meeting were as listed below.

Hong Kong Chapter	Singapore Chapter
Past President Francis Pang	President Vincent Tong
Secretary Alan Lam	Secretary Dr Teh Soo Lee
Malaysia Chapter	Taiwan Chapter
President Yim Hon Wa	
President-elect Hing Fook Yong	

In June of 1997, the motion was voted at the Planning Committee and recommended for approval at the Regions Council meeting in Boston. At the Council's Sunday meeting, the motion was passed with a majority vote and was recommended to the Board for approval. At the Board's Wednesday meeting in Boston, the Board passed with a majority vote to have the Far East region formed and officially recognized as Region XIII at the Toronto meeting in June of 1998. In January of 1998 at the [San Francisco meeting](#), Hong Kong Chapter Vincent Tse was nominated to be the first DRC (Director and Regional Chair) of Region XIII. Other regional officers were nominated:

Hong Kong Chapter	Singapore Chapter
Assistant Regional Chair Wong Wai Kwong	RVC TEGA Raymond Wong
RVC Chapter Program Phil Yu	Regional Historian Henry Lee
Malaysia Chapter	Nominating Member Dr. Ng Eng Hong
RVC Research Promotion Dr. Ow Chee Sheng	Taiwan Chapter
RVC Refrigeration Bernard Loh	RVC Student Activities Dr. Liang-Jyi Fang
Nominating Alternate Hing Fook Yong	RVC Membership Promotion Dr. Jimmy Wang

On August 14 & 15, 1998, Region XIII held successfully its first CRC (Chapter Regional Conference) at the Traders Hotel in Singapore. Singapore Past President Henry Lee chaired the [CRC '98](#). Subsequently, on August 27 & 28, 1999, Hong Kong Chapter hosted the [CRC '99](#) held at Kowloon Shangri-La Hotel in Hong Kong. CRC '99 events were awesome. The success of this CRC was attributed to the General Chair Dr. Roger Chu and his subcommittee chairs that provided the ambiance of teamwork. The upcoming CRC 2000 will be held in Malaysia and will be chaired by Past President Adrian Tan.

At the recent CRC '99 in Hong Kong, Society President Bill Goodman chartered the Philippines Chapter as the fifth chapter of the Region XIII. In addition to that, Region XIII looks forward to the chartering of the Thailand Chapter by CRC 2000.