

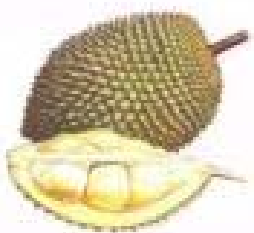
Headquarters Highlights

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Highlights from Singapore

Durian Confirmed



Durian is a fruit which is well liked in Southeast Asian countries, but westerners usually do not want to try it because it has a pungent smell that is difficult to describe. Some people compare the penetrating odor of durian to cheeses like Limburger. Airlines and hotels in Southeast Asia do not allow clientele to enter them with durian in their possession. The flesh is like a thick, rich, mildly sweet custard or soft cheese like Brie. It is often eaten with sticky rice and coconut cream or used to flavor ice cream.

One authority on the Internet has stated, "It has the texture of a cold cow pat, it smells like a poorly maintained public convenience but the taste is worse!" This is how the Asian fruit durian was first described to me by western experts living in Singapore. Unsurprisingly, I avoided it like the plague. Then I met some local connoisseurs, who hold this fruit in very high regard, they claimed, "The texture is like baked custard, while the smell and taste are simply indescribable but delicious".

I have discovered two restaurants on Olympia that carry durian products. Both are Southeast Asian. One carried durian ice cream. One carries a soft drink made from durian. When I asked the proprietor if he ate it, he replied, "Smells bad – tastes good!"

The importance of this research was in preparation for my trip to Singapore. Singapore is apparently the capitol of durian production. While there, locals confirmed everything I had heard with some embel-



Left to right in the photo above are Russ, Ms. Lim Siew Eng, deputy director (electronics) of Nanyang Polytechnic, and Lin Boom Huat, manager of Rohde and Schwarz, Singapore.

ishments of their own.

As for me, I have yet to marshal the courage to eat ice cream that smells bad but tastes good!



Ms. Lim Siew Eng (right), deputy director (electronics) of Nanyang Polytechnic, explains school of engineering programs to Russ.



Russ manning the NARTE booth at EMC Zurich in Singapore.

NARTE at EMC Zurich in Singapore

NARTE has been working with representatives from Nanyang Polytechnic University and Rhode and Schwarz to establish a NARTE EMC certification base in Singapore. The 17th International Zurich Symposium in Electromagnetic Compatibility and Exhibition on EMC & RF/Microwave Measurements and Instrumentation was held in Singapore February 27 to March 3, 2006. NARTE was invited to staff a complimentary booth and present a workshop on certification at the show. The week prior, Nanyang Polytechnic presented a refresher course on EMC. As a result, 21 people signed on for the examination. Of those, 17 actually made it to the examination. The examinations are on their way to NARTE to be scored.



Sweating out the EMC examination



Russ explaining NARTE to a local engineer.

NARTE is continuing a dialog with Nanyang Poly to establish a proctoring site and eventually to export the EMC refresher course and certification to mainland China. Singapore is uniquely positioned to work with China because one of the national languages is English and another is Mandarin which is used throughout China. Singapore is a natural for translating the program.

Other Headquarters Matters

Is Your Certificate Current?

We find that people rely on their employer to pay for their certification renewal. There are two ways to check currency. The first is the annual renewal invoice sent to the certificate holder 45 days before the renewal date. The invoice goes to the individual certificate holder of record, not necessarily the person who pays for the renewal.

The second method to check is to call NARTE (toll free) at 1-800-89NARTE and ask if the account is current or when the renewal date is. This can also be done by email by writing to narte@narte.org.

NARTE does send out follow-up notices if we do not hear from the certificate holder by their renewal date. If we do not get a response by the fourth notice, we transfer the account to the inactive file. The file can be resurrected at any time, but if more than five years pass, the candidate will have to re-examine to be reinstated.

NARTE Exam at ESD Forum 2006 Philippines

The NARTE ESD examination was administered at the Philippine Electrostatic Discharge Forum 2006, held in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Philippines, March 7-8. The NARTE exam was held at the conclusion of the forum on March 11. Twenty-one examinees pre-registered for the session. This exam session was coordinated with the assistance of a local NARTE-certified ESD engineer, Jess Munoz, of Intel Technology Philippines.

Don't Drop Out – Take A Retirement Certificate

Your long history of certification is not something to give up casually. I encourage you to think about the options that you have available. If you are no longer able to work or are considered to be retired, you can apply for retired status. Retired status is less expensive (about \$25 per year) and still maintains your certification status. If you become active full time later, you would then switch back to active professional

standing. Details about retired certification are on the NARTE web site at www.narte.org.

If retirement is not the appropriate solution, but you cannot renew at this time, there is an alternative. You have five years from your last renewal to reinstate your certification to full standing. If you wait longer than five years, you would have to re-examine to be reinstated. You could opt to just wait until your circumstances change and renew then. NARTE will just move your file from active to inactive status while we wait. That would buy you some time to get back on track.

DoD E3 Meeting

The Department of Defense Electromagnetic Environmental Effects community has been holding an annual meeting in the spring each year. The location varies. Last year NARTE was contacted both by the meeting organizer and the Army to attend this year. The Army invitation was particularly significant in that they had had a heated debate over certification that was closed when they realized that no one with the facts was available. NARTE attended both to support the Army and to scope out the value of participation. NARTE was the lead speaker for Army day but the party who had started the argument did not attend so questions were limited.

KEC Holds Largest EMC Exam Session Ever

On February 24, the NARTE Japan EMC Certified Review Committee and Chapter held an EMC examination session in Tokyo, Japan. The Japan CRC administered the EMC Engineer exam to 153 applicants and the EMC Technician exam to 18 applicants. This is by far the largest number to sit for the NARTE EMC exam in one sitting.

Japan now has about 470 EMC and more than 200 product safety personnel certified. The administrator of the EMC certification, Mr. Kudo, formerly of Panasonic, plans to retire from KEC in March of 2007. NARTE staff will be meeting with Mr. Kudo and Mr. Tetsuo Ikeda (emeritus of the Institute of Technology) on May 4. He probably will not attend next year's review meeting. We are currently negotiating a protocol document to preserve the agreements we have made as a part of daily operations.