

1 November 2006

To:

**Janab S.H.Musaliar**

Chairman

TKM Trust

**Kollam**

**Copies to:**

**Dr.M.C.Philipose**

The Principal

TKM College of Engineering

**Kollam**

**Prof. S.Parameswaran**

General Secretary

TKMCE Alumni Association

**Kollam**

Respected Sirs:

It is my privilege to introduce myself, an alumnus of TKMCE in Mechanical Engineering from 1982 batch as the current General Secretary of TAGA- TKMCE Alumni Global Association.

As you are well aware, TAGA was formed in September 2004, a culmination of the e-group founded in 2002. In the two years of its operation, with the blessings and support from the management and college authorities, TAGA has been able to bring the students and alumni closer. TAGA has instituted 10 scholarships and two sponsorships for needy students of TKMCE. Our membership base has expanded considerably and we have members in over 16 countries, covering 6 continents, making it the truly global association of TKMCE alumni.

However, we accept the fact that TAGA is not well-received or understood by the management, faculty and student community. It is my objective, as the new General Secretary, to clear any misconception and present to you what we really stand for.

At TAGA, we believe in working closely with all alumni chapters, e-groups and members towards our common goal- helping the students, faculty and management of TKMCE to improve the quality of education and enhancing the reputation of TKMCE as among the best, if not number one. We are happy and willing to join hands in any activity or project towards our common interest without any prejudice. TAGA has no conflict with the Founding Chapter at TKMCE (TEAA) or any other chapter. In fact, TAGA has been promoting formation of new chapters through our network, which has helped in the birth of Bangalore and Chennai Chapters. New Delhi and Mumbai Chapters will soon follow. We hope this continues and Alumni Chapters of TKMCE are formed in every city where at least 20 members are present.

Here, I would like to mention our relationship with the Founding Chapter at the College (also called Parent Association). Mr.Jameskutty Thomas, our past General Secretary and myself visited TKMCE on 14 August '06 and had protracted discussions with Prof.S.Parameswaran, the current General Secretary of TEAA, in presence of Dr.Philipose, Principal. The meeting ended cordially, with Prof.Parameswaran agreeing to arrange a joint meeting of TEAA and TAGA representatives with Management and Principal to clear any misconceptions and to provide an atmosphere for working together. This has not materialised yet. However, let me summarise the views expressed by TAGA in the above meeting:

- a) TAGA was formed not as a deliberate attempt to undermine or take over the College Chapter. It was an accidental culmination from an e-group. However, no one can now dispute or disagree with the existence of TAGA- we are a reality. And we are a separate entity. The need for such an organization could have only come from the inadequacies of existing Chapters, which was acknowledged by Prof.Parameswaran.

- b) TAGA's acceptance of student membership is as per its constitution. Our objectives are clear on this regard- giving the students an insight into the outside world and preparing them to meet the challenges, providing career and vocational training support and so on. Further, TAGA has nothing secretive shared amongst the alumni members that should be hid from students. Most of our information is on public domain. Both Prof.Parameswaran and Dr.Philipose agreed with our views.
- c) TAGA fully acknowledges and accepts TEAA as the one closer to the student, faculty and management and being the first to be formed. While this gives them some unique strength and advantages, TAGA also has its strengths, being able to reach across the globe and provide connectivity with chapters all over. We at TAGA have been cooperating with different chapters and will continue to do so, with no preference (either way) with the College Chapter. TAGA does not believe in a "One-up" relationship with the "Parent Association" and expects them to reciprocate. We are willing to work in a "workgroup" network, not as a "Client" to a "Server". TAGA is willing to co-operate and extend its support on any project or activity initiated by any Chapter, which would help in enhancing the quality of education and reputation of TKMCE and benefit the student community.

In view of the above facts, we would like to present the following action plan for your consent and support:

1. **Enhancing Career Skills of Students:** TAGA would like to provide support to the students in enhancing their career skills. We propose to conduct training sessions on business, CV preparation, interview, presentation and communication skills through our eminent alumni members and other distinguished invitees. These sessions are aimed mostly at the third and final year students.
2. **Open Sessions between Students and Senior Alumnus:** Many of our senior alumni from around the world will share their professional, academic and personal experiences with students from third and final year classes. This could help them understand the global perspective on employment, higher education and cultural issues. We propose to conduct these sessions every month, depending on the availability of speakers. To start with, one of our alumni, Mr.Satish Rao from 1983 Electrical, currently working for Caterpillar Inc. as the Electric Power Territory Manager- Western Canada & Idaho (USA) at Calgary, Canada visiting Kerala in November has agreed to conduct the first session. Mr.Arun Kumar Sekhar from 1986 Production, Managing Director of Global Engineering Systems, Sharjah has consented to another session. Both these alumni were College Union Chairmen during their times. TAGA will be able to co-ordinate more of such events from our eminent alumnus.
3. **Industry Training for Students:** Many of our alumni are well placed in major organisations and some are entrepreneurs. TAGA can help the students in arranging Industry Training for undertaking project work and experience the industry environment before they embark on their career.
4. **Placement Assistance for Students:** The industry boom in India and in the Middle East has led to a severe shortage of engineers. Many organisations are recruiting fresh graduates, both in India and abroad. TAGA can help the Placement Cell in the college by providing information on availability of openings around the world. We can also help in organising campus interviews.
5. **Improving the Infrastructure of the College:** TAGA had taken the initiative to improve the networking facilities in the college. One of our members, Mr.Syam S.Pillai, Global IT Chief of Habib Zurich Bank, Dubai had personally conducted a study and submitted a report to the Principal in August 2005, requesting for mapping of the existing networks in the college for preparing a detailed project report. Regrettably, no response was received on this report from the concerned staff member involved in the discussions, which prevented TAGA from moving forward. Many TAGA members have pledged financial support for this project and we are keen to involve further. We would also be interested in supporting any other project aimed at making our college a "Centre for Excellence".

6. **Establishing Industry Services in the College:** The construction industry boom in India provides ample scope for our college to establish independent testing and calibration services for all disciplines. E.g. Concrete, asphalt, soil testing etc. in civil engineering, various non-destructive testing of metallic and non-metallic piping, testing of electrical components and switchboards and so on. Purchasing advanced survey equipment like Total Station, Theodolite, GSE and mapping software will greatly help the student community. Such facilities will give the students and faculty the opportunity to interact with the industry and better equip them in their career. It would also provide revenue to the college, which can be used to buy the latest machinery and laboratory equipment. Many of our alumni are experts in these fields with accredited qualifications as trainers, whom TAGA will be able to locate and persuade to provide their services free of cost.

The above is not an only indicative of what we believe can be done to the benefit of the students, faculty and college. As I stated earlier, TAGA is not claiming that it is capable on its own to undertake these projects, nor does TAGA intend to claim leadership on any of them for our glory. Close co-operation and interaction between all alumni chapters, management, faculty and students is required for the successful implementation.

We hope this letter would help clearing the doubts in the minds of management, faculty and the College Alumni Chapter officials. We would request the Chairman to convene a meeting between the representatives from management, faculty and alumni associations at Kollam, Trivandrum, Kochi and Central Travancore and TAGA to establish clear lines of communication, trust and co-operation. TAGA will be represented by our Office Bearers and Steering Committee members available in India.

Before I conclude, may I seek your approval to conduct the first proposed Open Session with Mr.Satish Rao on a date between 25<sup>th</sup> November and 6<sup>th</sup> December, notwithstanding the other matters to be resolved.

This letter is being entrusted to Dr.Jaleel, TAGA Treasurer to be signed on my behalf and handed over to your offices personally.

With best regards to you and TKM Trust Members,

Yours truly,

**E.S.Suresh**  
General Secretary  
**TAGA**

E.S.Suresh  
QA/QC Manager  
Al Naboodah Cont. (L.L.) Company  
Post Box 33900  
Dubai, UAE  
Ph: 00971506546033  
E-mail: [suresh@cherai.com](mailto:suresh@cherai.com)  
[gs@tkmcealumni.org](mailto:gs@tkmcealumni.org)