



Certificate Holders: Among those completing Engineering Department training during 2002 were, back row from left, Awny Malak, Roger Mays, Joel Sandberg, Suzanne Schmutzler and Frank Foster. Front row from left, Ajith Peiris, Andi Wang, David Chong, Ben Mendoza and Al Ong.

Engineering Dept. Completes Technical and Leadership Training

By STEFANIE SPIKELL (Jan. 4, 2002) MTA Engineering, in an effort to enhance its performance, recently completed a year of technical and leadership training. It was the second year of departmental training under the guidance of Human Resources.

Developed by Deputy Executive Officer Joel Sandberg, in consultation with Human Resources and the PMA consultant, the first year of the program was designed to enrich the Engineering Department staffs' writing capabilities.

To encourage cooperative efforts between Engineering and Procurement, the Engineering Department invited its contract administrators to join the monthly sessions held during 2001. The focus was on team-building and leadership.

The opportunity to see issues from each other's perspectives drew the group closer in its analysis of problems and generation of solutions.

More in-depth leadership training

As the joint group enters 2002, more in-depth leadership training will be the focus. As Engineering and Procurement work more closely together in the training sessions, their performance together on actual projects is becoming refined.

"If our engineers understand how the contract administrators operate and vice versa, we are more likely to find ways to expedite processes," said Sandberg. "Our process improvement focus has helped us to streamline our jobs and we have seen many positive changes in 2001, as a result."

"When the Engineering Department initiated this program, I took note of their motto 'Engineering Tomorrow's Mobility Today', and quickly came to an appreciation that this was a forward-thinking group, ready for some new challenges," said Juli Fowler, senior Training and Development specialist. "The program we have developed together has been a testament to the department's eagerness to work cooperatively with their counterpart organizations."

At the final session for 2001, Sandberg presented attendance recognition certificates to more than half the 70+ participants who completed the bulk of the sessions.

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