

## **ACEHK Annual Dinner 2017**

### **Chairman's Speech**

Thank you Connie for the introduction.

As you may as well know, tonight's dress code is business attire. But for the sake of sticking to tradition we've decided we'll at least make our members wear black ties, beautiful ones too (if you'll have noticed)!!

Joking aside, I would like to formally welcome you to the ACEHK Annual Dinner. I hope you all have had the chance to enjoy the cocktail reception. Tonight's schedule includes the Speech from Guest of Honour, Annual Awards Ceremony and, of course, the fantastic dinner. But before this, I would like to share with you the progress that we have made this year in our goal to pull together our members and other stakeholders across the entire industry, and furthermore, starting a dialogue with our next generation – the young engineers. Through this, I hope you will understand and appreciate our efforts, and that you will agree with me when I say that tonight is not only just another Annual Dinner, but one that celebrates our progress as an association.

This year, we have nurtured four initiatives to life. These are: regular networking lunches and breakfast talks, the ACEHK Annual Seminar, the ACEHK Annual Awards, and the ACEHK Young Members Presentations. The first three of these initiatives were aimed at strengthening links across the engineering industry. The fourth was dedicated to creating more opportunities for our next generation of engineers.

The series of networking lunches and breakfast talks were very successful. The string of events, included guest speakers:

- Ir. Wai Chi Sing's lunch talk on "Leveraging Consultants' Innovation to Enhance Quality of Urban Renewal";
- Ms. Ada Y S Fung's breakfast sharing talk on "BIM in Hong Kong"; and
- Mr. Raymond Lee's talk on "Hong Kong 2030+".

All of these received an impressive turnout of participants.

The Annual Seminar "Enhancing Project Cost Management" held on 19 June 2017, was attended more than 140 delegates. This speaks two things; one - we all need the CPD hours. Two, the engineering community thrives at each and every opportunity to learn, and enhance oneself with new knowledge.

A new event that we have added this year is the ACEHK Annual Awards. This also attracted amazing feedback. We were privileged to have Sir Gordon Wu and Ir. James Blake serving as the judging panel. Please join me in giving them a round of applause. **\*\*Audience claps\*\***

Before we get to announce the winners, which many of you have been anxiously waiting for, I would like to run through the marking attributes and express what this award means.

The ACEHK Annual Awards event was publicized through the ACEHK website calling for entries. Entrants had to document their projects on the following:

- 1/ Engineering Excellence;
- 2/ Innovation and Creativity; and
- 3/ Sustainability.

The projects presented with the ACEHK Annual Award have shown technical finesse in the respective fields of work, ingenuity of solution to the respective project constraints, and a keen eye for sustainability and environmental friendliness in the execution of the project. This award has provided us with a platform to showcase truly excellent engineering projects.

It is well known to all of us here that there are strong opposing voices from the public, and a general negative attitude towards the entire engineering industry. Some may call this a “long shot”, but I believe that if we do not at least try to impart on the public the role of the engineer, and the importance and practices of engineering, the public will only feel more and more insecure on our field of work entirely. Hence the fourth initiative - the Young Members Presentations.

We have formed a group of young engineers, all with integrity and passion in their respective fields of work. They have been delegated to speak to university students around Hong Kong to bring clarity on what the role of an engineer is, and to impress on the importance of engineering. The first two seminars were held by our Young Members Committee earlier this month. More are in the pipe lines.

During the year, our member firms are diligently exploring the Belt and Road Initiatives and have continued our efforts in combatting filibustering alongside the Construction Industry Alliance. Although we may not see immediate progress, I can assure you that through constant and close liaison with HKTDC, LegCo and government departments, we will be able to bring a brighter and more promising future for the industry together.

ICE UK’s newly appointed President – Lord Robert Mair, in his presidential address, touched upon some ideas that I feel we can enhance on. Lord Mair spoke of digital transformation and the work of his predecessor, Tim Broyd, and how technology is playing an ever vital role in the industry. A simple example being how the implementation of BIM is changing the traditional redlining process of a project. Clever use of technology enables us as engineers to present innovative and creative solutions to projects that have more and more constraints. Let me take the words of Lord Robert Mair, “**We need New and Fast – not Old and Slow**”.

ACEHK grasped the same aspiration and brought to our Breakfast talk. ACEHK will continue to advocate for the practical use of new technologies to streamline work sequences. In the face of new technologies, we need to embrace these new tools and keep an agile mind to produce value-added solutions to our clients, and the society which we serve.

On this note, I hope that you will enjoy our preparations tonight, and join me in celebrating our achievements and successes in this past year. Thank you.