

Association of Consulting Engineers of Hong Kong

香港顧問工程師協會

July 2017

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



As the heat and humidity embrace us, I hope you all are enjoying the start of your summer. Allow me to share with you our progress since April!

Your continuous support has fueled our success in implementing our initiatives this year. The Breakfast Sharing Talk by Mr. Raymond Lee, Director of Planning, held on 15th of May, provided us with insight on our role as Consulting Engineers on Long Term Planning of Hong Kong. A review of the second talk, by Ms Ada Y S FUNG, is provided below.

I am pleased to announce that the ACEHK 40th Anniversary Album Launch Cocktail Event held on 13th of June was successful; likewise with much success, our ACEHK Annual Seminar saw a solid turnout of participants. We have launched the ACEHK Annual Awards Event, the details of this event have been posted on our website www.acehk.org.hk. The Young Members Presentation initiative has been progressively and proactively reaching out to different academic bodies as preparations for seminar presentations have been finalized.

ACEHK will continue to liaise closely with our newly seated Chief Executive to make a firm stand against filibustering in the coming year. We will maintain our efforts in campaigning for a better future for the industry, as well as for the community we serve.

On the Belt and Road Initiative, ACEHK will continue to focus on strengthening relationships with HKTDC, the Liaison Office of Central People's Government, and the Infrastructure Financing Facilitation Office.

As always, I look forward to seeing your support at our upcoming events, I am sure our initiatives implemented this year will prove to be the secured foundations to strengthening our connections across the entire industry.

Francis KUNG

MATTERS OF THE MOMENT

ACEHK ANNUAL SEMINAR

19 June 2017 (Monday) – The ACEHK Annual Seminar on “Enhancing Project Cost Management” was held at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and attended by around 260 delegates and speakers.



The Seminar was opened by Ir Hon Chi-keung, Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) who emphasised the importance for controlling the costs of projects in Hong Kong and the role the profession has to play in this. In his Keynote Address to start the morning session, Ir John Kwong, Head of Project Cost Management Office, Development Bureau, talked about the work of his office to strengthen cost management for public works projects. Ar Ada YS Fung, Deputy Director of Housing (Development and Construction) provided the Keynote Address for the afternoon, speaking on “Quality Public Housing – Creating Value with Rational Use of Resources”

Procurement strategy was a common theme for several speakers, namely ensuring the choice of contract and tendering process are compatible with the overall objectives. Some presenters spoke positively about the NEC contract form, but it was also noted that the NEC family of contracts does not suit all arrangements. Practical examples of the use of information technology to improve construction efficiency were presented – from BIM to managing product deliveries on site – and an alternative, statistical way of assessing project costs was explained. The importance of assessing risks and market constraints in estimating project costs was emphasised.

Many of the presentations are available on the ACEHK website at:
http://www.acehk.org.hk/news/detail.shtml?news_id=95&category_id=1

40th Anniversary Book Launch Cocktail Event

13 June 2017 (Tuesday) – To celebrate our 40th anniversary, ACEHK organized a photo competition entitled “Creation from Engineers”. The competition aimed to celebrate the contribution of consulting engineers to the development of Hong Kong. Many of the best entries have been published in a book launched at this cocktail event.



BREAKFAST SHARING TALK

14 July 2017 (Friday) - Ms Ada Y S FUNG, Deputy Director of Housing (Development & Construction) challenged the assembled audience at the Breakfast Sharing Talk by posing the question “BIM in Hong Kong: What is your contribution?”.

Drawing on her work as Chairperson of the Construction Industry Council's Committee on Building Information Modelling, Ms Fung described how countries around the world have implemented BIM and spoke of what has been achieved in Hong Kong. She then explained how government was seeking to take note of developments in Hong Kong and elsewhere in setting requirement for Hong Kong. She noted the considerable opportunities offered by adopting BIM and challenged the industry to step up, embrace these and demonstrate leadership in making full use of this important technology.



MARKET OVERVIEW

CONSTRUCTION / CONSULTANCY FORECAST / ANALYSIS

Construction Industry Activities/ Overview

- Buildings Department is in the process of finalizing the draft of the new Wind Code. ACEHK is collaborating with other professional organisations on making representations on some elements of this.
- The consultancy business has suffered from Legislative Council (LegCo) filibustering for several years. The total funding approved over the past three years was only in the range HKD 33 to 85 billion, well down on the proposed levels of expenditure. However, by 2nd June in the 2016-17 legislative year, only five new capital works projects have obtained funding approval, totalling about HKD 4.8 billion. This represents less than 6% of the planned target HKD 86.8 billion.

To raise our members concerns we have joined the Construction Industry Alliance on 8 June, when our vice-president, Tommy Ng, represented ACEHK at a meeting with Carrie Lam. The Chief Executive elect patiently listened to the difficulties faced by the construction industry arising from LegCo filibustering. She noted our collective concerns and gave assurances she will work to improve the situation in the coming legislative years.

BELT & ROAD

Our Chairman, Francis Kung, attended a roundtable meeting in Beijing in early July.

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council will be holding a one day Belt and Road Summit on 11 September 2017.

Under the theme "From Vision to Action" it will highlight how Hong Kong helps companies unlock opportunities under the Belt and Road Initiative.

For details visit:

<http://www.beltandroadsummit.hk/en/index.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- A. The ACEHK Annual Awards 2017 are now open for entries. The awards are to promote awareness and enhance the presence of the engineering industry; to showcase and give due recognition to truly excellent projects; and to share and highlight practices and management of successful projects. To be eligible a project or related work must have been completed. Application forms are available on the ACEHK website. Entries must be received by 31 August.
- B. 20 November 2017 – the ACEHK 40th Anniversary Annual Dinner.
- C. The visit to CHINCA originally scheduled for July has been postponed to a date yet to be fixed.
- D. A team of young engineers will be sharing their enthusiasm for the industry in a series of school talks. They will be seeking to demonstrate the critical, but often overlooked role that engineers play in making our society a safe and enjoyable place to live and work.

FEEDBACK CORNER

Event updates have also been posted in <http://www.acehk.org.hk>

Members can provide feedback on any current issue to chairman@acehk.org.hk