

## **NEC Workshop 2 - Experience Sharing on HKSAR Government's 1st NEC Project: Improvement of Fuk Man Road Nullah in Sai Kung**

Due to the overwhelming response to the 1st NEC Workshop held on 4 January 2012, the Civil and Building Divisions, the ADR Committee and HKU Centre for Infrastructure & Construction Industry Development (HKU CICID) jointly organized NEC Workshop 2 on 2 Feb 2012, which was attended by a full house of over 100 participants.

The workshop began with an opening address by Ir T. C. Chew, member of the HKU CICID Management Committee who also chairs the NEC Users' Group (Asia-Pacific). He drew on his previous NEC experience and recommended its use which would contribute to sound project management.

Ir K. K. Chan, Assistant Director/Projects & Development of DSD, then took the participants through the past 5½ years of the Government's NEC journey and shared the administration experience as the first Government's NEC Project Manager. He stressed the need for training which focused on nurturing a collaborative and partnering culture of staff from the contracting parties (Employer / Consultant / Contractor) for better project management.

This was followed by Ir Kelvin NF Lau, Associate Vice President of Black & Veatch Hong Kong Ltd, who gave a detailed comparison between the GCC and the NEC, and explained clearly the changes in the role of the Consultant - from "the Engineer under the GCC" to "the Supervisor under the NEC". He emphasized the need for change in mindset and the willingness to be transparent and in sharing risk and responsibility.

Ir Ken W. N. Ko, Assistant General Manager (Construction) of Chun Wo Construction & Engineering, shared the Contractor's secrets in tendering and subletting under the NEC contract and the beauty of the early warning notification in making the parties deal with actions at the time of the event or as close to rather than leaving it until much later which is typical of other standard forms. He also explained the relationship between the compensation events and the gain/ pain share mechanism, and the importance of timely rectification of defects.

Ir David Lau, Deputy Chairman of the Civil Division then conducted Q&A session. The questions on who would be the final winner in this approach and the suitability of Option C for tunneling works attracted interesting discussion.

In closing, Ir C.C. Chan, Director of Drainage Services, noted that experience gained from this first pilot contract would better pave the way for launching other NEC contracts. As more

government NEC contracts are in the pipeline, he strongly pleaded for consultants and contractors to be more conversant with the NEC forms and spirit of contract, and work with Government in successfully delivering these NEC projects.

Finally, Ir Sidney P. K. Tong, Hon Secretary of the Building Division delivered the Vote of Thanks and Ir Prof C. K. Lau, Chairman of the ADR Committee, presented souvenirs to all the speakers.