



Department of Civil Engineering
The University of Hong Kong



Centre for Infrastructure and
Construction Industry Development

SEMINAR

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Department of Civil Engineering and CICID, HKU

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PROMOTING ETHICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY – A SINGLE PROFESSIONAL CODE?

by

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Date: **May 7, 2008 (Wednesday)**

Time: **5:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

Venue: **JG04, James Lee Science Building**

The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong

ABSTRACT

The subject of ethics is currently a high profile topic within the construction industry. The key professional bodies have well established ethical codes applying to their members. Increasing numbers of contractors promote ethical code as part of their literature. This paper examines the benefit of promoting a single ethical code for the construction industry using the Society of Construction Law Code of Ethical Principles. There is a wider discussion about the relevance of ethics to the industry and the different situations in which ethics can operate. Studies from UK, USA, Australia and South Africa establish the extent of the problem to be tackled in respect of unethical and illegal behaviour. Enforcement activity in EU and UK are also considered. Amongst the conclusions reached is the observation that ethics do not operate in a vacuum and that the promotion of a single code will only bear fruit when seen as part of a larger raft of measures including longer term relationships and collaborative working and a higher profile for ethics in training/education.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Jim Mason is a Senior Lecturer in Law with the Department of Construction and Civil Engineering, Faculty of the Built Environment, University of the West of England. He is programme leader for Quantity Surveying and has recently established an industry supported Masters programme in Law for Construction Professionals.

Jim is a non-practising solicitor specialising in the discipline of construction law; and his research is in the area of collaborative contracts, partnering, good faith and the ethical improvement of the construction industry. He has published widely in refereed journals and conferences. He is a member of the editorial board of the International Journal of Law in the Built Environment. Jim is heavily involved in the CIB Working Commission W113 in Law and Dispute Resolution in which he is joint co-ordinator of the LARC study group and a member of COPA study group.

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