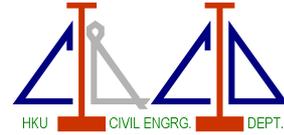




Department of Civil Engineering
The University of Hong Kong



Centre for Infrastructure and
Construction Industry Development

SEMINAR

jointly organised by
Department of Civil Engineering and CICID, HKU
with **HKIE Building Division, CIOB HK and ACMA**

Understanding the Duties and Liabilities of Construction Industry Professionals

by
Dr Asanga Gunawansa
Assistant Professor, Department of Building, National University of Singapore

Date: **June 2, 2009 (Tuesday)**

Time: **6:00 – 7:00pm**

Venue: **JG05, James Lee Science Building,
The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong**

ABSTRACT:

Construction projects are a breeding ground for contractual disputes that result from a variety of factors, including, unfair allocation of risks, multiple contracts, presence of multitude of parties with diverse interests, unrealistic expectations, and poorly drafted contract documents. The construction industry professionals are key parties to construction contracts. Professionals such as Architects, Engineers and Quantity Surveyors are hired for their services by both developers and contractors. Depending on the contractual matrix agreed between the parties to a construction project, the construction professionals may provide their services as independent contractors to developers or contractors. This talk will focus on understanding the key duties and liabilities of construction industry professionals in contract and tort. The emphasis will be on the practical aspects of professional negligence. Further, the recent legal developments in the following areas will be addressed: (a) Economic loss and defective buildings; (b) Claims by contractors in tort against consultants; and (c) Standard of care

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Dr Asanga Gunawansa is an Attorney -at- Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. He holds a Ph.D. in law from the National University of Singapore (NUS) and a LL.M in International Economic Law from the University of Warwick, United Kingdom. He is an Associate Member of the Executive Committee of the Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Law. He is also a member of the Editorial Committee of the International Journal of Law in the Built Environment. His teaching and research areas include construction law, dispute resolution, legal aspects of infrastructure development, and international environmental law.

Prior to joining NUS in 2007, Dr. Gunawansa worked for over six years as a Legal Officer for two agencies of the United Nations Organization, the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). At the UNCC, with a group of international lawyers, Dr. Gunawansa helped process the largest war reparations claims handled an international commission to monitor, assess, restore and compensate damages to natural resources, and losses relating to trade and corporate transactions, resulting from the 1991 Gulf War. From 1993 to 2000, Dr. Gunawansa worked for the Govt. of Sri Lanka as a State Counsel attached to the Department of the Attorney General. Dr. Gunawansa has presented many papers at international conferences and seminars in the areas of construction law and legal aspects of sustainable development. He is the joint author of the book "Asia Pacific Construction Law Case Book 2007".

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