STAFF AWARDS/ACTIVITIES

Awards

◆ Professor H.H.P. Fang received the Outstanding Research Student Supervisor Award from the University on November 23, 2004.

◆ Professor C.F. Lee was conferred an internal award of HK$1 million on his being elected to the Membership of the Chinese Academy of Engineering on November 23, 2004.

◆ Professor J.H.W. Lee received the Outstanding Researcher Award from the University on November 23, 2004.

◆ Dr. X.Y. Li received the Outstanding Young Researcher Award from the University on November 23, 2004.

◆ Professor A.M. Chandler has been awarded a Seed Funding Programme for Basic Research Grant in respect of his project entitled “Local factors in earthquake attenuation modelling” in February 2005.

◆ Dr. P. Ekambaram has been awarded a Seed Funding Programme for Basic Research Grant in respect of his project entitled “Developing a prototype framework for balanced scorecard based re-work and related risk management in design consultancy organizations” in February 2005.

◆ Dr. X.Y. Li has been awarded a NSFC/RGC joint research grant 2004-05 in respect of his project entitled “Sludge granulation in biological wastewater treatment: technology, mechanism and characterization” in November 2004.

◆ Dr. T.S.T. Ng has been awarded the Leung Kau Kui and Run Run Shaw Research and Teaching Endowment Funds in respect of his project entitled “A case learning centre for Civil Engineering curricular-contents and system development” and the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors Research Fund in respect of his project entitled “Construction time performance during the changing economic environment - a Hong Kong study” in February 2005.

◆ Dr. S.C. Wong has been awarded a Seed Funding Programme for Basic Research Grant in respect of his project entitled “Observational before-and-after study methodology for road safety measures” in January 2005.

◆ Dr. J. Yang has been awarded a grant from the German/Hong Kong Joint Research Scheme 2004-2005 in respect of his project entitled “Load settlement behaviour of piles in sandy soils”.

Activities

◆ Dr. A.T. Yeung:
  - Visited the Department of Civil Engineering of Zhejiang University in August 2004 and presented a seminar on "Geoenvironmental applications of electrokinetics".
  - Visited Daewon Soil Ltd. of Korea from November 9-11, 2004 with Ir Dr. Y.M. Cheng of Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Ir Dr. C.K. Lau of James Lau & Associates Ltd., Ir L.M. Mak of LMM Consulting Engineers Ltd., and Ir Ringo S.M. Yu of Fraser Construction Ltd. to discuss potential research collaboration opportunities in soil nailing. The delegation was well received by Dr. Yong-Ki Choi and Mr. Sung-eun Kim, Chairman and Manager, respectively of the company.

Professor S.H. Lo

Was invited to deliver a public lecture by Hong Kong Institution of Science on the topic “Finite Element Mesh Generation and its Applications” on October 30, 2004 at the Hong Kong Baptist University.


Others:

Professor Joseph H.W. Lee and Dr. Albert Koenig joined an official delegation of the Hong Kong SAR Government to visit solid waste treatment facilities in Japan and Korea from November 14 to 19, 2004. They were invited in their functions as a member of the Advisory Group on Waste Management Facilities, Environmental Protection Department, HKSARG (Professor Joseph Lee), and member of the Technology Sub-group of the Advisory Group (Dr. A. Koenig), respectively. Professor H.H.P. Fang, who is also a member of the Technology Sub-group, was not able to attend. The delegation visited a number of advanced waste treatment facilities ranging from incineration plants, gasification plants, and ash processing plants to food waste processing plants.

Professor Jörg Imberger (third from right) of the Centre for Water Research, The University of Western Australia, and Professor Winston Lung of the University of Virginia, U.S.A., delivered a C.P.D. Short Course on “Water Quality Modelling of Lakes and Estuaries”, held December 12-14, 2004 in the Department.

The Minister of Environment of Japan, Ms. Yuriko Koike, with the Hong Kong SAR Governmental Delegation during their Solid Waste Treatment Facilities Visit to Japan and Korea in November 2004.

Professor Harindra J.S. Fernando, Director of the Environmental Fluid Dynamics Program, Arizona State University, U.S.A., visited the Department from December 11-16, 2004 under the auspices of the Faculty of Engineering’s William Mong Distinguished Lecture in Engineering and Computer Science. Professor Fernando’s lecture entitled “Challenges in Tackling Urban Environmental Problems: An Example of a Rapidly Growing City” was delivered on December 14, 2004.

Professor Ian R. Wood, Emeritus Professor of the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand visited the Department from December 12-19, 2004 under the auspices of the Environmental Hydraulics Visiting Fellowship. His seminars entitled “Gradually varied flow over a circular weir and the smoothness criteria” and “Some comments on the early history of hydraulics” were delivered on December 13, 2004.

Staff News

Dr. A.T. Yeung:

Chaired the Organizing Committee of the Conference on Foundation Practice in Hong Kong hosted by the Centre for Research & Professional Development. This event was held at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre on September 4, 2004, and was attended by more than 200 participants.

Professor Pierre Y. Julien of Colorado State University, U.S.A. and Professor Syunsuke Ikeda of Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan delivered a C.P.D. Short Course on “River Engineering and Stream Restoration”, held December 9-11, 2004 in the Department.

The Minister of Environment of Japan, Ms. Yuriko Koike, with the Hong Kong SAR Governmental Delegation during their Solid Waste Treatment Facilities Visit to Japan and Korea in November 2004.

Dr. Yeung with one of the speakers of the conference, Professor Harry G. Poulos of Coffey Geosciences. Professor Poulos was selected as the Terzaghi Lecturer 2004 by the ASCE.
Others:

- Dr. Albert T. Yeung and Dr. Jun Yang were elected to be Secretary and Director, respectively, of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Hong Kong Section 2004-2005.
- Dr. Albert Koenig and Dr. Albert T. Yeung were appointed to the Scientific Committee of the 2005 International Conference on Energy, Disasters, and Environment to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, U.S.A, July 24-30, 2005.

Reciprocal Recognition Agreement between the HKIE and the National Administration Board of Engineering Registration (Structural) of the Ministry of Construction

From November 22-25, 2004, Dr. Francis T.K. Au and Dr. D.J. Guo attended a training course and an examination in Guangzhou organized jointly by the HKIE and the Ministry of Construction for reciprocal recognition of structural engineers in Hong Kong and Mainland China. They both passed the examination and obtained the qualification of Class I Registered Structural Engineer (一級註冊結構工程師) in Mainland China. Together with Mr. Peter K.K. Lee who obtained this qualification through reciprocal recognition through IStructE some years ago, there are now a total of 3 members of full-time staff in the Department with this qualification.

To prepare our BEng graduates to better explore the opportunities made possible by CEPA, the new elective course “Engineering Practice in Mainland China” will be offered in the second semester of 2004-05. The course will be taught by Dr. H.J. Pam together with Adjunct Professor H.K. Ng and part-time lecturers Mr. Philip S.F. Kwong and Dr. Morgan W.W. Yang.

News from CICID (Centre for Infrastructure and Construction Industry Development)

First SMILE-SMC Dissemination Workshop – September 18, 2004

The ‘First Dissemination Workshop’ on ‘Strategic Management with Information Leveraged Excellence’ (SMILE) for ‘Small and Medium Contractors’ (SMCs), in the SME Development Fund sponsored SMILE-SMC project was held on Saturday September 18, 2004. This Workshop targeted the dissemination of interim R&D outputs.

The aim of the SMILE-SMC project is to empower the continuous improvement of construction contractors in general, and SMCs in particular, by providing a SMC-friendly framework and innovative tools for continuous improvement in boosting productivity, quality and image, through strategic information and knowledge management.

Apart from the HKU R&D team and industry collaborators/supporters, about 100 participants attended the workshop, representing a cross-section of contractors, suppliers and specialist contractors. Other important participants included those from BD, EPD, TID, Housing Department, and many other clients. The SMILE-SMC R&D team presented the basic structures of the overall SMILE-SMC system, and developments within various specific modules. Two ‘open discussion’ sessions generated useful discussions.

The SMILE-SMC project is coordinated by Dr. Mohan Kumaraswamy and Dr. Thomas Ng. The R&D Manager is Dr. Motiar Rahman. HKU-SPACE and CITA played important roles in the success of the this First Dissemination Workshop, along with other SMILE-SMC team members, including Dr. Victor Lo and Dr. S.W. Poon from sister Departments at HKU.

November 2004: Participation in International Symposium on “Globalisation and Construction – meeting the challenges, reaping the benefits” – jointly organized by CIB W107 (Construction in Developing Economies), CIB TG23 (Culture in Construction) and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), on November 17-19, 2004, at AIT, Bangkok, Thailand.

CICID contributions to the above included active participation by Dr. Mohan Kumaraswamy in the Scientific Advisory Committee and session chairing. A paper entitled “Top-down and bottom-up construction industry development” generated considerable interest in the two reported ongoing R&D projects that are being carried out by CICID researchers.

December 2004: Public Lecture by Dr. Roy Barton entitled “Value for Money in Public Projects”, co-organised with the Dept. of Real Estate & Construction, Master of Interdisciplinary Design & Management, the Faculty of Architecture and the HK Institute of Value Management.

December 2004: CICID Team members participated in the CII HK Conference on ‘Construction Partnering’. CICID research into ‘Relational Contracting for Effective Teams and Added Value’ was presented by Dr. Motiar Rahman.
January 2005: Visit by a team from George Mason University (GMU) – which is a CICID collaborating institution. Members of the GMU ASCE Students Chapter visited Hong Kong with Professor Wil- liam Roper from January 15-23, 2005. Interesting technical and so- cial events were organized by the Hong Kong ASCE Chapter, by the Civil Engineering Society of HKU and by CICID. These included visits to the MTRC and KCRC Control Centres, the GEO and a memorable visit to the Hong Kong - Shenzhen Western Corridor megaproject.

February 2005: Conference on “Public Private Partnerships – Opportunities and Challenges”
– held on February 22, 2005 at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre
– jointly organised by HKU CICID and the Civil Division of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers. Outcomes from this Conference will be presented in the next Newsletter.

4th International Symposium on Environmental Hydraulics (ISEH) and 14th IAHR-APD Congress

The Department hosted the 4th International Symposium on Environmental Hydraulics (ISEH) and the 14th Congress of the Asia and Pacific Division of IAHR (International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research) on December 15-18, 2004 at the Sheraton Hotel, Kowloon. The main theme of the conference was “Sustainable Water Management in the Asia-Pacific Region”. More than 350 scientists, engineers and research workers participated in the busy meeting which proved to be a successful forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences on recent developments in environmental hydraulics and water management.

Technical visits were arranged on December 18. The delegates went on five different visits. The most popular was Penny’s Bay Reclamation Site where the delegates witnessed the construction of some 60 hectares of land for the Disneyland Theme Park and the implementation of environmental impact monitoring and mitigation measures for the protection of water quality.

The best paper awards were presented at the conference banquet. The best paper award of the host country which is China including Taiwan and Hong Kong went to the paper “A vertical stability theory and model for red tide forecasting”. Congratulations to Mr. Ken Wong, our Ph.D. student and Professor Joseph Lee who authored this paper. There were two winners of the best paper award from outside the host country as the Award Committee decided that the two papers were equally excellent. The award went to the papers “A field study on near-bottom turbulence and resuspension of
5 of our 2004 graduates won the ICE Paper Competition in 2004. In the “Highways, Railway and Transportation Discipline” Miss Ngai Yin Ying won the Best Paper Award and Miss Cheng Sze Sze won the Award of Merit. In the “Construction Practice and Management Discipline” Miss Lee Lai Ying won the Best Paper Award and Mr. Tam Sin Bun won the Award of Merit. Miss Li Kit Man won the Award of Merit in the “Geotechnical Discipline”.

Mr. Chan Shu Ning and Miss Chu Mei Ling (Year 1 BEng students) were awarded the HKIE Prize for Potential Engineering Students 2003/04.

Mr. Ken Chan, our graduate (BEng) of 2001, went on to obtain his MSc from Imperial College London in 2004. He is now reading for a PhD at Imperial College and has obtained the prestigious award of a Hutchinson-EPSRC Dorothy Hodgkin Postgraduate Scholarship. His current research focuses on determining the performance and analysing the structural behaviour of structural steel oval hollow cross-sections through numerical modelling and precise laboratory experiments. The core objective of this project is to devise statistically verified design rules, including cross-section classification limits, effective section formulations, buckling curves and interaction formulae. The findings will be disseminated in the form of technical research papers and structural design guidance for practising engineers on the use of structural steel oval hollow sections.
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

◆ The 6th International Conference on Tall Buildings (ICTB-VI) will be held during December 6-8, 2005 in Hong Kong. The Conference is jointly organised by the Department, along with the China Academy of Building Research and Tongji University. Please visit the Conference website www.hku.hk/civil/conference/ictb6 for full details.

◆ The Inaugural Y.K. Cheung lecture entitled “The High-Rise Building – How High Can We Go?” will be delivered by Dr. Leslie Robertson, Director of Design of Leslie E. Robertson Associates on September 1, 2005 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Lecture has been established by the Department and the Structural Division of HKIE to recognise Professor Y.K. Cheung’s contributions to the engineering profession and education. Please visit the Department website or call 2241 5532 for full details.

◆ The Quality Assurance Team has approved that graduates from the Department’s MSc. (Eng) in Transportation Engineering programme will be granted full exemption from the Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE) leading to the Membership of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong.

◆ The Western Harbour Tunnel Company Limited has established a scholarship in the Department called “The Western Harbour Tunnel Scholarship”. It will be made available to first-year students starting in the 2005-06 academic year for the degree of Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) in Civil Engineering. One scholarship will be awarded each year covering all tuition fees for the entire undergraduate curriculum, subject to annual renewal based on excellent academic progress. The student awarded the Scholarship will be known as the Western Harbour Tunnel Transport Scholar. He/She will be given a summer placement contract during their first and second years of study. An internship may also be assigned by the Company for each year’s scholarship. In addition, the Company and the Department may set a topic for the Scholarship recipient’s Final Year Project so that they can gain practical experience on traffic issues. After their graduation, the Scholar is expected to offer their services to the Company as a first choice of preference for a period not less than three years, subject to the availability of a suitable vacancy and their passing of the usual recruitment scrutiny by the Western Harbour Tunnel Company Limited.

◆ Our Alumnus Mr. Patrick C.N. Yim (嚴鎮南), who was one of the directors of Maunsell, passed away on September 29, 2004. Mr. Yim was a very keen supporter of the Department’s activities.

◆ Three of our staff Mr. Lo Yiu Fu, Ms. Bridget Lam and Ms. Christina Leung received the HKU Long Service Award at the Presentation Ceremony held in Loke Yew Hall on February 16, 2005. Mr. Lo has served the University for 25 years and Ms. Lam and Ms. Leung for 15 years.

Newsletter by Email

To view a soft version of this Newsletter, please visit our Department website on http://www.hku.hk/civil, or if you prefer to receive a soft version of this Newsletter by email, please send notification to civdept@hkucc.hku.hk.