Recent Awards

◆ The paper entitled “Design Thermal Loading for Steel Bridges in Hong Kong” co-authored by Dr. F.T.K. Au, Mr. M. Tong and Dr. L.G. Tham was awarded the HKIE Transactions Prize 2002 Civil on September 13, 2002.

◆ Professor Y.K. Cheung was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada on November 22, 2002.

◆ Professor J.H.W. Lee was elected Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences on December 20, 2002.

Research in Earthquake Engineering

The Department’s Centre for Earthquake Engineering Research (Directed by Professor A.M. Chandler) actively conducts research in engineering seismology and earthquake engineering, with the involvement of up to 11 academic staff members and a large number of collaborators in China, Australia and elsewhere. Nowadays the need for seismic-resistant design for buildings and other structures in Hong Kong is becoming increasingly recognized, and the Centre is aiming to provide research and teaching expertise to meet this need.

Since 1994, Centre researchers have received a total of HK$6.2 million in 24 research grants directly or indirectly addressing seismic issues. More than 60 papers and reports related with seismic effects on Hong Kong have been published in local/international journals or conferences.

The Centre has additionally been commissioned by various departments of the Hong Kong Government to conduct three major studies related to seismic hazard analysis of the South China region and seismic risk evaluation of key infrastructure projects in Hong Kong.

Research activities in earthquake engineering have included:

◆ comprehensive studies of the seismic activity in the South China Region;
◆ prediction of design-level seismic ground motions and response spectra;
◆ analysis of site effects and seismic response spectra for soil sites;
◆ structural risk assessment for tall buildings based on displacement (drift);
◆ seismic detailing studies, and
◆ structural component analysis and testing.

With the addition of a new appointee in April 2003 as Research Assistant Professor in Earthquake Engineering, the Centre’s activities are set to expand even further, and a web site is planned for those who wish to learn more about this important growth area of research. Details will be provided in a future Newsletter.
The Hong Kong-Mainland China Geotechnical Lecture Series No. 6

The Lecture Series No. 6 was successfully carried out between December 9 and 13, 2002 at HKU, HKIE, and GEO. The invited speakers were Professor ZHENG Ying-Ren (鄭錫然院士), Chongqing Logistical Engineering University and member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and Professor ZHU Wei-Shen (朱維申教授), Shandong University. Professor Zheng’s three lecture topics were Landslide Investigations in Chongqing Three Gorges Reservoir, National Standard Technical Codes for Slope Engineering, and Finite Strength Reduction for Slope Stability. Professor Zhu’s lecture topics were Shiplock Slopes of the Three Gorges Project, Slope Stability in Complex Ground Conditions, and Stability of Underground Openings. The Lecture Series is financially supported by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. The Lecture Series No. 7 will be held in June 2003.

The Centre for Infrastructure and Construction Industry Development (CICID)

The Centre for Infrastructure & Construction Industry Development was established in November 2002. The aims include fostering continuous improvements, while targeting excellence in the construction industry in general and infrastructure development in particular, through the development of innovative strategies and techniques.

One of the start-up activities was a demonstration of a prototype web based Decision Support System (EOTDSS) for assessing Time Extension claims (developed by a team from the Centre) to a group of delay analysis experts.

The Centre’s Inaugural Seminar on ‘Innovations in Infrastructure and Construction Industry Development’ will be held on Wednesday, 12 March 2003 at Loke Yew Hall in The University of Hong Kong. Professor Tomasz Arciszewski (George Mason University, USA), Ir C.K. Mak (Director, Highways), and Ir Russell Black (representing the Provisional Construction Industry Co-ordination Board) are a few of the distinguished guest speakers invited for the Seminar. All interested are welcome and attendance is free. For details visit http://www.hku.hk/cicid or call Ms. Betty Tsang on 2859 2286.

Awards

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Date of Award</th>
<th>Awarding Body</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. HUI Sun-Lam</td>
<td>The Best Final Year Students of Higher Education Awards 2002</td>
<td>12/11/02</td>
<td>The China Civil Engineering Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss KWONG Tsz Yan, Mr. MAK Chun Man &amp; Miss HO Ka Yee</td>
<td>Best Student Awards</td>
<td>21/11/02</td>
<td>Joint Structural Division, HKIE</td>
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The Inter-Disciplinary Design Project (IDDP) was organized with the Department of Architecture and the Department of Mechanical Engineering in September 2001 to promote shared learning and professional expertise across disciplines. Civil Engineering students work on an urban development project alongside students from other departments. Rather than playing a traditional supportive role to confirm ideas of the architect, engineering students are encouraged to participate actively from the beginning of the design process. This year, three design projects have been offered to students. Studio A is the redevelopment of an existing building, Studio B is a new development project.
of the HKU campus between the Run Run Shaw Buildings and the University Drive to meet the future demand of the university. Studio B is the design of the New Star Ferry Terminal that fits into the mode of transportation of the modern time. Studio C is the design of an optical fibre factory at the Tai Po Industrial Estate in a form of high-tech building complex meeting elaborative environmental controls and special structural and building services requirements.

Industrial Training

As an important component in the award of the B. Eng. in Civil Engineering degree, all students of the Department have to undergo a two-month industrial training. Apart from within Hong Kong, the Department has been striving to provide training opportunities in the past, in places such as Singapore as well as the Three Gorges and Daya Bay in Mainland China. This year, with strong support from the Association of Engineers in Society Ltd. and the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR and the coordination of the Chinese Association of Science and Technology in Beijing through the China Civil Engineering Society, the Department has been able to extend the arrangement of placements with the Beijing construction industry. Students will receive on-the-job training in various major design and/or consultancy institutes there. Initially, up to thirty students will be arranged to participate in this scheme. Dr. D.J. Guo (Tel No.: 2859 1978), our Training Manager will be in charge of the coordination for industrial training both outside and within Hong Kong.

RECENT/UPCOMING EVENTS

1. September 2002, Establishment of the Centre for High-Performance Structures
2. October 24, 2002, Second Lumb Lecture

3. November 18-19, 2002, Workshop on Regional Eutrophication and NOWCAST Model for Hong Kong