

Conference on

“Regulative Requirement on Building Inspection for Better Building Safety”

18 September 2010 (Saturday) 14:00 – 18:00

Cheung On Tak Lecture Theatre (TU201), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Event Report

With the sudden collapse of a building at Ma Tau Wai Road in To Kwa Wan in February 2010, the concern of Building Safety and Maintenance has been a spot-light topic in the society. In view of providing more in-depth analysis on building services inspections, regulatory controls, fire safety ordinance implementation, building defects identification and potential maintenance works to be carried out. Construction Professionals' Development Centre (CPDC), The Hong Kong Institute of Utility Specialists (HKIUS) and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Faculty of Construction and Land Use, Department of Building & Real Estate, Department of Civil and Structural Engineering and Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics and supported by 16 professional organizations jointly organized a Conference on “Regulative Requirement on Building Inspection for Better Building Safety” which was held on 18 September 2010 at 2:00-6:00pm in Cheung On Tak Lecture Theatre of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

The conference successfully provided a platform for professional engineers and construction industry professionals and specialists to provide recommendations for policy review, proactive preventive measures and also shared their views and experience in the aspects of building, fire inspections and ordinances. Over 150 Engineers, Surveyors, Safety Practitioners, Construction Industry Professionals and Government officials attended this meaningful event.

The event was kicked off by the welcoming speech by Ir Dr. King WONG (黃敬博士工程師), Chief Executive of CPDC. He elaborated the role of engineers and public in the response to building inspection and he presented souvenirs to the joint organizations and supporting organizations on behalf of CPDC. Followed by **Mr. CHOW K.P., Alex** (周劍平先生), Assistant Director of Buildings Department, HKSAR, presented “Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2010 – Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme & Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme”. Mr. Chow discussed the implication of the current situation which regular building is not adequate care culture and the building authority was not empowered to require owners to carry out periodic inspections and preventive repairs. He explained how Building Bill 2010 would rectify this situation; **Dr. Lai H.K., Joseph** (黎鴻傑博士、工程師), Assistant Professor of Department of Building Services Engineering, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, indicated that the building service works were governed by many statutory requirements, administrative mechanisms through different procedures of licensing, inspection, testing, examination and certification by competent workers, examiners, registered specialist engineers and contractors.

After the tea break, the third speaker, **Ir TAM Tai Keung** (譚棣強工程師) who is AP/RSE under Buildings Ordinance and as well as the Senior Divisional Officer (New Project) of Fire Safety Command, Fire Services Department, HKSAR. Mr. Tam talked about the role of Fire Services Department and the enforcement procedures of the Fire Safety (Building) Ordinance (Chapter 572) gazette on 2001 which was passed by Legislative Council in July 2002 and enacted in July 2007. Finally, the fourth speaker, **Ir Prof. CHAN K.W., John** (陳國煌教授、工程師) who is the Adjunct Professor of Department of Building & Construction, City University of Hong Kong. Prof. Chan discussed the identification of a number of probable causes of building defects and the defect avoidance imperatives during the building design stage, construction planning process and quality assurance strategies.

The conference was ended by an interactive question-and-answer session. Many attendees asked for further details in this session. Many participants found this event was useful and the speakers had provided informative insights on the topic. The Conference was a great success in providing an excellent opportunity in keeping abreast of more knowledge and experience about building inspections, offering a communication channel to network with government officials and industry practitioners. Ir Dr. Wong hoped to have more similar workshops in the future, so as to strengthen the engineering communication and also to ensure building safety and most importantly to create a safety environment for all Hong Kong Citizens. Finally, the conference was ended with a round of loud applauds.



The conference was successfully held on 18th Sep at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.



A forum was held at the end of the conference.



A group photo with the Joint Organizers and Supporting Organizations.