

The First International Conference on Utility Management and Safety ICUMAS.2009

The First International Conference on Utility Management and Safety was held on 1-4 March 2009. Apart from soccer match on 1 March and technical and sightseeing visit on 4 March, most importantly, the two days conference was held at Kowloon Shangri-La Hotel from 2-3 March 2009. ICUMAS was pioneered and jointly organized by Hong Kong Institute of Utility Specialists (HKIUS) and Hong Kong Utility Research Centre (HKURC), co-organized with Construction Industry Council (CIC) and Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (LSGI, Polyu) with over 70 supporting organizations from government departments, academic institutes, professional associations from local, mainland china and overseas.

The overall conference had attracted over 500 engineering, surveyors, safety and utility practitioners, government officials, professionals, academics and consultants to attend including the soccer match, conference, opening banquet and technical visit. The ICUMAS was a great success in providing an excellent platform and opportunity in keeping abreast of more knowledge and experience about utility management and safety, offering a communication channel to network with each other and promoting continuous cooperation among utility industry worldwide.

ICUMAS comprised of various sections, which featured keynote and guest lectures, parallel sessions respectively on 2nd March and 3rd March and a forum on 3rd March as well.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was held on 2 March in which Chairman of ICUMAS Organizing Committee, Ir H.S. KWONG, GBS, JP delivered a welcome message to each delegate and marked the opening of ICUMAS. The Hon Ir Dr. Raymond C.T. HO, MBE, JP and The Hon Ir Dr. Samson W.H. TAM, JP were also invited as officiating guests for the ceremony. Followed by a simple yet elegant ribbon cutting ceremony led by our key guests, the ICUMAS was marked begun.



Ir H.S. KWONG, GBS, JP delivered a welcome speech in greeting all the conference delegates.



The Hon Ir Dr. Raymond C.T. HO, MBE, JP, our officiating guests in the opening ceremony



The Hon Ir Dr. Samson W.H. TAM, JP, another officiating guests in delivering a speech to our delegates



A ribbon cutting ceremony led by the OC Chairman, officiating guests, keynote and guest speakers.



Keynote speakers and Dr. Raymond HO



Guest speakers and Dr. Samson TAM

Conference on 2nd March

On the morning of 2nd March, two keynote speakers and guest speakers respectively were invited to deliver the speeches. The first keynote speaker, Ir L.T. MA, JP, Director of Water Supplies, HKSAR delivered a lecture on the topic “Implementation of a Territory-Wide Programme of Rehabilitation and Replacement of Water Mains in Hong Kong”, followed by a guest speaker, Prof. Jun ZHANG, Deputy Director of R&D Department of China Academy of Surveying and Mapping who presented a lecture on the topic “Establishment of Digital Pipeline Network and Information-sharing Mechanism in City”. Next, another prominent keynote speaker, Dr. Dec DOWNEY, Chairman of International Society for Trenchless Technology gave his speech regarding “Pipeline Construction and Reconstruction for the 21st Century” and the morning session was ended with another guest speaker, Mr. Raymond WONG, Chief Executive Officer of the UtilityINFO Limited who introduced to the delegate “One Call Centre for Utility Information in Hong Kong”.



Keynote Speaker, Ir L.T. MA, JP in illustrating water mains replacement programme in HK



Keynote Speaker, Dr. Dec DOWNEY explained pipeline construction and reconstruction



Q&A session

The afternoon session of 2nd March was loaded with three parallel sessions, [A] Asset and Data Management, [B] Field Techniques and Materials and [C] Innovation, Quality, Safety and Health, in which 21 speakers presented their papers which had been approved and accepted by the Technical Review Board previously to the conference delegates. Each parallel session was moderated by a session chairman and responsible to assess the performance of each speaker based on the presentation contents, interpretation, implications, presentation skills, visual aids and interaction with the audience. The highest score from each category will be given the Best Presentation Award and the award would be presented at the closing ceremony on 3rd March.

HKIUS 6th Anniversary and ICUMAS Opening Banquet

ICUMAS opening banquet was organized together with HKIUS in celebrating its 6th Anniversary at the Kowloon Shangri-La Hotel. The evening gathered guests of 16 tables from government chief officials, association chairmen, professionals and academics. It was also our greatest pleasures to have invited 13 Honorary Guests to our event. The dinner was commenced by a welcome speech by HKIUS President, Ir Damien C.C. KU, in addressing and reporting to us the key milestones of the development of HKIUS. It was followed by the inauguration of the new session of HKIUS Council 2009/10 with the witness of our Honorary Guests. In addition, the Honorary Fellow was given to Mr. C.S. WAI, Director of Highways, HKSAR this year, who has shown remarkable effort in enhancing utility development in Hong Kong. The award presentation was discharged by Ir H.S. KWONG, GBS, JP, Chairman of ICUMAS Organizing Committee. The dinner was announced started right after the toasting led by our Honorary Guests on stage.

Cocktail reception





Honorary Guests at the opening banquet



President of HKIUS, Ir Damien KU delivered a welcome message



Inauguration of the HKIUS Council, session 2009/10



Ir H.S. KWONG, GBS, JP presented Honorary Fellow certificate to Mr. C.S. WAI, JP



Toasting led by key council members and honorary guests on stage

It was pleasurable to meet all HKIUS friends in this occasion, and in order to update guests the status and development of the institute, HKIUS related questions were prepared and asked, in which guests that had answered correctly will be given a prize. This game had received enthusiastic participation from our guests.

In this evening, the result of the Best Paper Award was announced. One of the most outstanding papers was selected by the Technical Review Board based on the paper's research content and its impact to the research community as well as the society, the significance of content related to the theme of the conference, the existence of adequate references, written clarity and the proper format of the paper. The paper that achieved the highest

score was by W.K. Pun, A.C.S. Lai and D.O.K. Lo on the topic “Code of Practice on Monitoring and Maintenance of Water-carrying Services Affecting Slopes”. Prof. Albert K.H. KWAN, chairman of technical review board was invited to present a trophy and certificate to the winner on stage.



Prof. Albert KWAN presented the Best Paper Award to the winning team.



Entertaining game and attractive prizes



Dinner gathered friends worldwide in celebrating the conference and 6th anniversary of HKIUS

We here to serve the HKIUS members and improving the professionalism of the utility industry. From left: Ir Jim KO (Vice President), Ir Damien KU (President), Mr. Zico KWOK (First Vice President) and Mr. Raymond WONG (Honorary Secretary)



In addition, karaoke was prepared in which songs were prepared in languages from Cantonese, Mandarin to English, in which guests representing different countries were invited to sing and amazingly, Ir Damien C.C. KU, President of HKIUS of the new session also sang us a song and gained a burst of applause. Last but not least, Mr. Zico K.Y. KWOK, First Vice President of HKIUS delivered a vote of thanks to all the dinner participants, especially to sponsors for the dinner. Without your earnest support, the dinner would not be successfully held. We truly hope that you had an enjoyable evening.

Conference on 3rd March

The last day of conference at Kowloon Shangri-La was commenced by a keynote lecture delivered by Ir John S.V. CHAI, JP, Director of Civil Engineering and Development Department, HKSAR on the topic “The Advancement of Utility Planning and Management in New Developments”. His lecture was informative in the sense that it covered the latest utility coverage in those new town regions. The keynote lecture was then followed by parallel sessions in which 9 speakers presented their papers in the morning. For the afternoon section, it featured guest and keynote

lectures. Ir Dr. Prof. William C.G. KO, SBS, Founding President of Hong Kong Utility Research Centre delivered to us “Utility Profession- Towards the New Era” which covered the historical development and the challenges encountered by the utility industry. In addition, Ir Gary SOO, Secretary General of Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre also introduced “Potential Disputes and Alternative Dispute Resolution for Utility Industry”, such as the concept and procedures of arbitration agreement and services offered by HKIAC.



Conference delegates listened attentively



Prof. Michael FORDE explained development and improvements for GPR



Dr. Yehiel ROSENFELD illustrated ways in enhancing construction safety



Forum aroused active discussion of the panel members

Above all, prominent keynote lecturer, Prof. Michael C. FORDE, Carillon Chair of The University of Edinburgh of Institute for Infrastructure and Environment demonstrated to the delegates “Issues Regarding the Use of Ground Penetrating Radar in Underground Service Detection”. Through discussing the development, principles of GPR, he also suggested advanced GPR development employed in other countries and provided concrete suggestions of using GPR in detecting utilities. Dr. Yehiel ROSENFELD, Head of Construction Management Program, Technion- Israel Institute of Technology, another eminent keynote speaker, illustrated to us the topic “Getting Maximum Safety from Limited Resources”. He demonstrated to us how we can enhance our safety by utilizing with very few resources. Eventually, Ir Dr. King WONG, Secretary General of Hong Kong Utility Research Centre introduced to us the “Utility Safety Index in Hong Kong”, in what ways it is significance to the utility development in HK and in what aspects the index can be established.

The two days conference was innovative and effective in encouraging active discussion among the delegates. A forum was held thereafter and chaired by Ir Dr. Albert YEUNG with 7 other panel members. Violent and construction

discussion was generated among the group regarding the utility planning in different countries and the role plays by the government in utility planning and development.

ICUMAS was adjourned by a closing ceremony with award presentation, and we were delighted to have Hon Prof. Patrick S.S. LAU, SBS, JP, as our officiating guests in presenting the Best Presentation Awards to our outstanding speakers in the parallel sessions. The winners of each category were:

Category	Winners	Topics
Asset & Data Management	Alice LAI	Code of Practice on Monitoring and Maintenance of Water-carrying Services Affecting Slopes
Field Techniques & Materials	Philip FERGUSON	Condition Assessment of Water Pipelines for Different Economies
Innovation, Quality, Safety & Health	Albert YEUNG	Non-destructive Detection of Underground Voids



Winners of the Best Presentation Awards together with closing ceremony officiating guest, Hon Prof. Patrick S.S. LAU, SBS, JP and keynote speakers on stage



Souvenirs presented by Prof. William KO to all supporting organization representatives



Souvenirs presented by Ir Damien KU to all organizing committee members



Ir Damien KU delivered a thank you speech in expressing our deepest gratitude for generous support from various parties.

Without the support of our supporting organizations and organizing committee, ICUMAS would not be successfully held and able to gather experts and professionals worldwide. In order to extend our immense gratitude, Prof. William KO and Ir Damien KU presented souvenirs to our supporting organizations and organizing committee respectively. The objectives were achieved in general by facilitating constructive exchange of innovative ideas regarding utility management and safety, we truly wish that each delegate found the conference inspiring and we look forward to seeing you all again in our coming activities!