



Disasters: Preparedness, Response and Recovery **- an HKIE-SSC conference**

18 July 2008 (Friday)
08:45 – 17:30

Chiang Chen Studio Theatre, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Event Report

In response to the increased concerns on engineering safety issues as a result of Sichuan Disaster, the HKIE-SSC, in collaboration with AES, CUBE, HKARMS, HKCT, PolyU Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics, supported by 36 professional organizations and institutions from local and Mainland, organized a one-day conference on “Disasters: Preparedness, Response and Recovery”.

The Conference, chaired by Ir Dr. The Hon Raymond Ho Chung-tai, successfully provided a platform for engineers, safety professionals and managers from different industries to share their views and experience in the preparedness of, response to and recovery from disastrous events. Over 250 engineers, safety practitioners, Government officials, Representative of Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR (Dr Zhong Hua), Academic Institution Representatives (Prof CH Chan & Prof Wu Xue Zhen) had attended this meaningful sharing.

Ir Dr Vincent HO, Past Chairman of SSC and Chairman of the Conference Organizing Committee welcomed the participants and kicked off the event. Discussion topics covered in the Conference were wide and deep. In the morning session, Ir Dr. The Hon Raymond HO, Representative of Engineering Functional Constituency of the Legislative Council, elaborated the role of engineers in preparedness and response to disasters; subsequently, Ir Dr. Louis Lock, the HKIE-SSC Chairman, passed the souvenir to Dr Raymond Ho. Followed by that, Ir Raymond K. S. CHAN, JP, Head of the Geotechnical Engineering Office, explained how two programmes (LPM & LPMitP) enhanced the slope safety in Hong Kong; Mr. Linus WONG, Director (Global Client Services) of Control Risks, unravelled the response and recovery actions in disastrous events; Ir James S. O. CHAN, Assistant Director/Technical of Highways Department, showed the engineering safety measures adopted in some recent transport infrastructure projects and how



Highways Department responded to major incidents; Ir MAK Chai Ming, System Operations Manager of CLP Power Hong Kong Limited, talked about the prevention and preparedness against power system blackout.

After the lunch break, Professor CHAN Lung Sang from HKU Department of Earth Sciences, began the presentation with discussing the Sichuan earthquake and earthquake prediction; Ir Dr. C. W. TSO, General Manager (Projects) of The Hongkong Electric Co. Ltd., demonstrated the risk and protective measures for Hong Kong electric's submarine gas pipeline; Mr. LEUNG Kwun Hong, Divisional Commander of Hong Kong Fire Services Department, presented the disaster management of Hong Kong Fire Services Department; Mr. SHAM Man Fai, Head of Strategy Department of The Hong Kong and China Gas Limited, gave an overview on the proactive crisis management system of Towngas; Mr. YU Shu Xi, Vice Director General of Bureau of Work Safety Guangzhou, shared the research on preventive function of emergency rescue proposal in industrial accidents.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, Ir Dr Vincent HO gave a vote of thanks to the guest speakers, sponsors, supporting organizations, and the Conference participants for their unfailing support to SSC events. Ir Dr King Wong, IPC of HKIE-SSC gave the closing remarks. Lots of information, experiences and innovative ideas were shared and discussed. Positive feedbacks were received from both speakers and audience. The conference is successful and ended with a round of loud applauds.

