

Technical Visit to Hong Kong

IEM PENANG BRANCH



by Ir. Sim Siew Ping,
Catherine

Note: This is a summarised version of the report. The full report may be viewed on the IEM web portal at www.myiem.org.my.

IEM (Penang Branch) organised a technical trip to Hong Kong from 22-26 September 2010 led by its Immediate Past Chairman, Ir. Lim Kok Khong. In conjunction with the visit, HKIE organised a series of technical presentations, forums, talks, technical

walking tours, and get-together sessions which provided opportunities for sharing of experiences and identification of potential collaboration areas, with the ultimate goal of enhancing local engineering knowledge and skills.

BRIEFING ON GEOTECHNICAL CONTROL IN HONG KONG BY MR. C.K. WONG

by Ir. Quak Boon Kwong

Hong Kong has a hilly terrain with a substantial portion of urban development located near hillsides. Altogether, about 60% of Hong Kong is hilly land. As Hong Kong's population grew, more and more hillsides have been used for urban development. As a result, more relatively steep man-made slopes and retaining structures were built close to buildings, as well as infrastructure such as public roads. Thus, the risk of landslides has increased over the years. In order to minimise the landslide hazard, GEO of CEDD was established in Hong Kong, and has developed an overall landslide risk reduction strategy. To minimise the risk arising from new development, GEO audits all new private slopes and implements strict planning of land use.



Figure 1 (Clockwise) – Group photo at entrance of CEDD Building; Souvenir Exchange between HKIE Geotechnical Engineering Office represented by Mr. Mak Shu-hei and IEM Penang Branch Immediate Past Chairman, Ir. Lim Kok Khong, Group photos at CEDD Conference Room; Presentation by HKIE, Forum/discussion participants

PRESENTATION ON LANDSLIDE PREVENTION BY MR. MAK SHU HEI OF HONG KONG CIVIL ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (CEDD)

by Engr. Law Chun Teik

The Deputy Head of the Geotechnical Engineering Office, GEO (Island) gave a presentation to the team on the Landslide Prevention Action System in Hong Kong. Delegates were briefed on pertinent regulations and the general functions of GEO, including auditing the design of geotechnical works and ensuring required

safety standards were met in every new development project. With the introduction of the Landslide Preventive Measures (LPM) Programme, delegates were briefed on the control and monitoring system from planning stage to project launching stage, management of financial resources, monitoring of expenditure and progress, undertaking maintenance works, and other functions. GEO has also introduced the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP), where the objective is to supplement the LPM by handling landslide risks associated with inherited man-made slopes and the natural hillside catchment.

GEO exercises geotechnical control over private development through the statutory authority of the Buildings Department (BD). The BD reviews and approves the following plans from a developer or its consultant before the commencement of physical works.

- Building Plan
- Demolition plan
- Ground Investigation Plan
- Site Formation Plan
- Foundation Plan
- Excavation or Lateral Support Plan

GEO provides BD with geotechnical advice during the submission and approval process. During construction, it is a statutory requirement that the construction work must be inspected and monitored by a qualified site

supervisor who is also the registered structural engineer or registered geotechnical engineer's site representative. Site auditing by the authority is also conducted from time to time to detect any potential non-compliance with the approved plans. For planning and land use, GEO provides the Planning Department with geotechnical input at the early stages of land development, identifying geotechnical constraints and advising on the suitability of land for specific use.

GEOTECHNICAL CONTROLS OVER EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

The Hong Kong Government has implemented an on-going program that involves systematically selecting and examining all government slopes, followed by maintenance and upgrading of any site that is proven to be substandard. For privately-owned slopes, the government actively encourages the owners to maintain the

slopes regularly and to upgrade them, if found necessary. The authorities will serve the statutory 'dangerous hillside order' to the relevant party if there is any slope which is deemed dangerous. By taking necessary preventive measures, the risks associated with new projects are kept small, and this has helped substantially to slow down the overall trend of increase in landslide risk in Hong Kong. ■

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