

NEA and NUS embark on Building Energy Efficiency project



The National Environment Agency (NEA) has agreed to provide NUS with a grant of \$507,000 for the development of a Building Energy Efficiency Labelling Programme. The project, spearheaded by the Department of Building's Assoc Prof Lee Siew Eang will, among other deliverables, establish energy performance rating systems for office buildings, hotels, shopping complexes and hospitals. Prof Lee and his researchers will also work closely with the researchers and administrators of the US Environment Protection Agency (EPA) Energy Star Programme to ensure the relevance and consistency of the programme with internationally recognised labelling systems.

For enquiries, contact Assoc Prof Lee at bdgleese@nus.edu.sg.



CTBP kicks off energy projects in the ASEAN region

The Centre for Total Building Performance (CTBP) has commenced two research projects with the EC-ASEAN Energy Facility (EAEF) on building energy performance. The projects are: "Development of a Business Model for Building Energy Performance Services in the ASEAN Region" (total project value of 197,049 Euros) and "Development of Comprehensive Database for Building Energy Performance Benchmarking in the ASEAN Region" (total project value of 198,163 Euros). The projects are fully funded by the European Union.

Department explores collaborative opportunities with Indian institutions

As part of the effort to establish collaborative relationships with excellent international partners, two staff members from the Department visited the Indian Institute of Technology at various campuses (Madras, Bombay and Delhi), Centre for Planning & Environmental Technology (Ahmedabad) and Anna University between 21 and 25 February 2005. Associate Professors Tham Kwok Wai (Deputy Head, Research) and Chandra Sekhar (Director of External Affairs) took the opportunity to market the various postgraduate programmes to potential research scholars.

The NUS visitors were met with a warm reception by their hosts and a deep sense of collegiality with corresponding faculty members developed. Through exchange of vital information, aims and aspirations were shared, and a common understanding of the complementary areas between the Department's staff and their respective counterparts in various institutions emerged. Curriculum participation, research and professional development possibilities were discussed with some exciting opportunities identified for follow-up.

Department of Building wins safety award

The Department won the Certificate of Merit award in the inaugural Annual Safety Performance Award Competition organised by Office of Safety, Health and Environment (OSHE) which was held recently. The Annual Safety Performance Award (ASPA) is a scheme initiated by OSHE to reward and recognise departments that have made or are making significant improvements in their safety management systems and safety performance.



Head of Department Prof George Ofori receiving the award from the Guest-of-Honour, NUS Provost Prof Tan Chorh Chuan, at the ASPA ceremony.



A/Prof Tham (fourth from left) and A/Prof Sekhar (right) in the garden outside the Guest House of IIT Delhi with Head and faculty of the Department of Civil Engineering.

Professor Satyanarayana Kalidindi from the Department of Civil Engineering of IIT Madras visited the Department on 4 April 2005 to continue the discussions started during Prof Tham and Prof Sekhar's visit to India. Among issues discussed were: potential co-operation in teaching, research supervision and student exchange.

Head of Department of Building Professor George Ofori and Assoc Prof Philip Chan will be visiting IIT Madras and IIT Delhi from 10 to 16 April 2005 to discuss the details of the prospective collaboration, whilst participating in a mission led by Building and Construction Authority and International Enterprise Singapore to India which will focus on business opportunities in the construction industry.

Appointment of Visiting and Academic Professors

The Department hosted Professor Branislav Todorovic, Editor of the top-tier journal *Energy and Buildings*, as a Visiting Professor; and Professor Marija Todorovic, as an Academic Visitor from 6 March to 5 April 2005. Both visitors have a background in mechanical engineering with specialisation in the areas of heating, ventilation and air conditioning, focusing on energy issues. The two visitors are eminent academics with a distinguished research and teaching track record. During their visit, they worked with academic staff and students in the areas of Indoor Environmental Quality and Energy, led various workshops and gave talks. Among the talks given by Profs Branislav and Marjia Todorovic was one on "Water as an Architectural Element in and around Buildings; Can a Building Mimic the Thermal Behaviour of Human Body?".



Professor Todorovic sharing his experiences as the Editor of the international journal *Energy and Buildings* with faculty staff and students.

Academic Matters

Legal professionals to assist in the Joint KCL-NUS Msc programme

The Department appointed four eminent lawyers as Adjunct Associate Professors to contribute to the teaching of relevant modules on the Joint KCL-NUS M.Sc.(Construction Law and Arbitration) programme. They are Dr Colin Ong, Mr Tan Liam Beng, Mr George Tan and Mr Richard Tan.

Dr Colin Ong received his PhD in Business Law & Commercial Litigation in 1996. He is the author or co-author of several books. He is a barrister of England and Wales, Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Brunei Darussalam, member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and member of the London Court of International Arbitration. Dr Ong is concurrently the Managing Director of his law firm in Brunei, a Door Tenant of 3 Verulam Buildings and Barrister of Essex Court Chambers in London. He is the founding President of the Arbitration Association of Brunei and the legal advisor to different High Commissions and Embassies in Brunei Darussalam.

Mr Tan Liam Beng is both an engineer and a lawyer, having obtained his academic qualification of BEng from the University of Malaya and his LLB and LLM from UK. He is registered as a professional engineer in Malaysia. He is an advocate and solicitor of both the Supreme Court of Singapore and the High Court of

Chinese People's Armed Police Academy (APA) members visit department's fire laboratory

Several members of the Chinese People's Armed Police Academy (APA) made a trip to Singapore in late February 2005 and requested for a study visit to NUS to better understand the education system in Singapore as part of their mission and to foster relationships between the two organisations. During their visit to NUS, they were taken around the fire laboratory managed by the Department, by Assoc Prof Michael Chew.

The APA was founded by the State Council of China in 1981 and is under the direct lead of the Ministry of Public Security, PRC. It is a training institution for fire officers, police officers, immigration officers and members of other special security task forces in China. APA runs degree and postgraduate courses for trainees.

Malaysia. He is also an English barrister. Mr Tan is a director of, and heads the Building and Construction Business Group in, Drew and Napier LLC. He is the co-author of a book entitled, "Standard Form of Sub-Contracts – An Annotation".

Mr George Tan is an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore and holds an LLB (Hons). He is a Fellow of both the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK) and the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators. He is an Executive Committee Member of the Senate of the Singapore Academy of Law and the immediate past Vice-President of the Law Society of Singapore. Mr Tan is a member of the Standing Committee, Commission on Post-Construction Liability of the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB). He is also the Legal Advisor to the Singapore Contractors' Association Limited. He is an accredited panel member of arbitrators with the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC).

Mr Richard Tan is an advocate and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore and holds an LLB (Hons). He is a Fellow member of both the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK) and the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators (SI Arb), of which he is the immediate past President. Internationally, Mr Tan is a member of the Advisory Board to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on a programme for dispute resolution. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC). He is a member of the panels of accredited arbitrators of the SIAC and the World Intellectual Property Organisation for domain name disputes.

Student Matters

Student Internship Programme

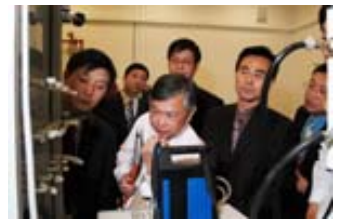
Eugene Lam (Building, Year 2) has been selected for the Student Internship Programme (SIP). The SIP was initiated by NUS, Department of Political Science, in co-operation with the Public Service Division (PSD) in 1993. Its objective is to give the undergraduates a good experience of working life in the Singapore Civil Service, and a better understanding of the public mission and values that drive public policies.

Lee Foundation Student Exchange Awards

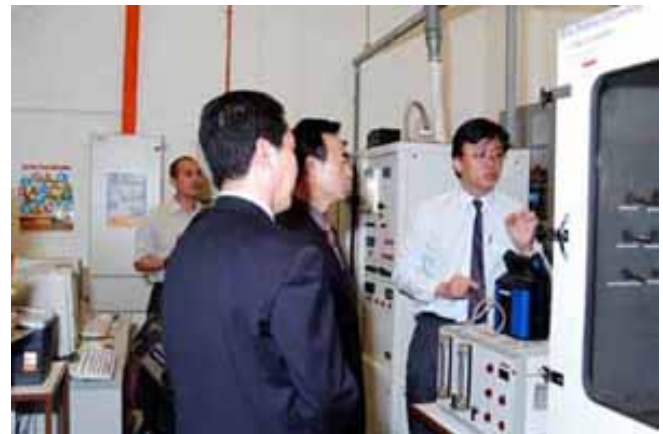
Three Building Year 2 students, **Ang Bang Yao**, **Khoo Li Ling** and **Pee May May**, have won the Lee Foundation Awards for them to go for the Student Exchange Programme at University of British Columbia (UBC).

This award was created in 2003 through a generous donation from the Lee Foundation to help fund NUS students on exchange to UBC. UBC has been a close partner of NUS and both universities share comparable education standards and similar internationalization goals. Both are recognised as leading research-intensive universities in their own right. Over 200 students from both NUS and UBC had participated in the student exchange programme between the two institutions in the last 8 years.

The delegation comprised Senior Colonel Zhao Lian Qi (Vice-Principal of APA), Senior Colonel Zhou Li Chao (Deputy Head of Political Department), Senior Colonel Zhang Wen Xin (Deputy Director of Administrative Department), Colonel Du Wen Feng (Deputy Head of Fire Engineering Department), Colonel Zhang Xue Kui (Deputy Head of Fire Command Department) and Captain Qu Bo (Secretary of External Affairs).



Members of the APA delegation scrutinising the equipment in the Department's fire laboratory.



Assoc Prof Michael Chew (right) led the lab tour.

Alumni Matters

Newsgroup to strengthen ties with MSc (Project Management) Alumni

A newsgroup for the MSc (Project Management) alumni has recently been set up by Assoc Prof Willie Tan, Director of the MSc (PM) programme. The newsgroup is intended to strengthen ties among the alumni. Members can update their own particulars such as their latest email addresses and stay in touch.

The site is used to announce events (such as short courses, seminars, and conferences where members will be given a 10% discount on fees), disseminate newsletters, exchange views on project management issues, post employment and business opportunities, and source part-time teachers who can contribute their valuable experience to all our programmes.

The Department is in the process of inviting members cohort by cohort to join the network. It can be viewed at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nuspmalumni/>. MSc (PM) graduates can also contact Ms Koh Swee Tian at bdgkohst@nus.edu.sg to update their particulars and be invited as members.

BEMA Updates

The Building and Estate Management Alumni (BEMA) is organising the following events:

1. A seminar titled "**Enbloc Collective Sales - 10 Years On, What's Happening Now?**" on 8 April 2005.
2. **BEMA Treetop Walk** at Venus Drive Carpark on 24 April 2005.
3. **BEMA Fund Raising Golf 2005** at the Laguna National Golf and Country Club.

For more information on the events, please visit BEMA's website at <http://www.bema.org.sg/>.



Seminar on Security of Payment (SOP) Act

The Department hosted a seminar on "The Impact of the SOP Act on Public Sector Projects - 2005 editions of PSSCOC and SCONSC" on 30 March 2005. The seminar was attended by about 70 professionals from the industry and students. Assoc Prof Philip Chan was the speaker at the seminar. Details of the seminar can be obtained from the [seminar brochure](#).

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