

## ACADEMIC NEWS

### Department offers B.Sc. (Project & Facilities Management) undergraduate programme

The Department will offer a B.Sc. (Project & Facilities Management) (Honours) undergraduate programme in the full-time and part-time modes with effect from the 2006-07 academic year. The programme prepares graduates for the new challenges and career opportunities in the built environment and the broader economy in Singapore and the South-East and East Asia region.

The B.Sc. (Project & Facilities Management) programme prepares graduates to be industry leaders who make decisions, shape policies, solve strategic and operational problems, and implement best management practices in the built environment. Emphasis is placed on new knowledge, skills, tools and techniques to manage projects and facilities in both domestic and international markets. To enable graduates to be agile managers and leaders who are adept at anticipating and responding to change, the programme focuses on time management, cost management, quality management, risk management, procurement and dispute management, and strategic facilities management. The programme is also underpinned by a strong foundation in the relevant science and technology. Extensive use is made of local and international case studies in classroom learning and project assignments. Students undergo internship, arranged by the department, to gain industrial experience, locally and overseas. ([more >](#))

### Bigger intake for MSc (Project Management) programme

A bumper class of 40 new students were admitted onto the MSc (Project Management) programme for the January 2006 intake. The increase in the number and quality of applicants is very encouraging. The composition of the applicants has also changed. In the past, applicants were mainly from architecture, construction, and engineering. Now, there are applicants from other sectors such as Information Technology (IT), recreation, and manufacturing. As a result, the MSc (Project Management) programme has become generic. Students are required to complete eight project management modules at the Department of Building. They are encouraged to select two elective modules from various "clusters," namely, architecture, construction, engineering, and IT. These modules are offered by other departments and faculties.

Internationally, the MSc (Project Management) programme is well recognised. The Department is a founding member of the International Project Management Education Union (IPMEU) of universities with strong project management programmes. The Programme Director, Assoc Prof Willie Tan, is the first founding Rotational Chairman of IPMEU. He also serves as a member of the Curriculum Committee of the DNV-PMI OPM3 Certification of Assessors and Consultants and has been invited to become a member of the visiting panel under the PMI's Global Accreditation Center.

For enquiries on the MSc (PM) programme, please contact Assoc Prof Willie Tan at [bdgtanw@nus.edu.sg](mailto:bdgtanw@nus.edu.sg).

### King's College London-NUS Joint MSc in Construction Law & Dispute Resolution preview seminar

## RESEARCH

### Department collaborates with Tsinghua University in indoor environment and energy research

The Department signed an MOU with the Department of Building Science, Tsinghua University, on 12 January 2006. The purpose of this MOU is to record the two departments' understanding concerning sharing of mutual interests and expertise, and collaboration in research, in indoor environment and energy. The MOU provides for the exchange of staff and students, joint activities by students of the two institutions, and cooperative research and education including joint supervision of graduate students.



SDE Dean Prof Cheong Hin Fatt (right) and Prof Jiang Yi, Head of Department of Building Science, Tsinghua University sharing a light moment at the MOU signing.

Tsinghua University's Professor Jiang Yi, Head of Department of Building Science, and Professor Yang Xudong visited the department and its laboratories, and gave talks to staff and students on current research on building energy systems and indoor air pollution at Tsinghua University.

### SCAL and NUS conclude research on construction productivity

A research study to formulate a suitable method for estimating the productivity of the construction industry in Singapore has been completed. The vision is to help to create a construction industry which is aware of the importance of productivity, and is taking strategic action to enhance its productivity performance. The study applied the following methodology to achieve the stated objectives: a review of the literature on construction productivity, its determinant factors and the methods for its estimation; comparison, of construction productivity for Singapore with those of industrialised countries; analysis of existing methods for measuring industry-level productivity in Singapore; analysis of data on construction projects in Singapore to establish benchmarks; and development, testing and fine-tuning of a suitable model.

The research study is a collaboration between the Singapore Contractors Association Ltd (SCAL), and Department of Building and Department of Civil Engineering, National University of Singapore (NUS). It was funded by the SCAL, Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and NUS. ([more](#))

The King's College London and NUS joint MSc programme launched its new 2006–2007 Prospectus and Application Package in January with a preview seminar held on the evening of 14 January 2006, during the Semester 2 Weekend 1 intensive teaching session. Prospective applicants had the opportunity to hear the programme director, Assoc Prof Phillip Chan, speak about the part-time programme. Prof Phillip Capper, of King's College London and partner of international law firm Lovells, spoke on behalf of King's.

The joint MSc programme is planning a second preview seminar on **18 February**, at 6.30pm in Lecture Room 425 (SDE3, 4th floor). Anyone interested to find out more about the programme may contact the programme manager, Anita Teo-Russell (6516 5115 / [bdqthla@nus.edu.sg](mailto:bdqthla@nus.edu.sg)), to register for the preview seminar.

The [programme](#) is open for application.

## ALUMNI NEWS

### Graduate of part-time programme wins Lifelong Learner Award



Mr Rajasegaran s/o Ramasamy (left), who graduated from the part-time BSc (Building) programme, received the Lifelong Learner's award on 28 November 2005 from President S.R. Nathan. Rajasegaran was described as an "exemplary worker who never gives up and he has adopted this mentality throughout his learning journey".

The Lifelong Learner Awards 2005 is organised by MediaCorp Radio Singapore Pte Ltd and the Singapore Workforce Development Agency. ([more >](#))

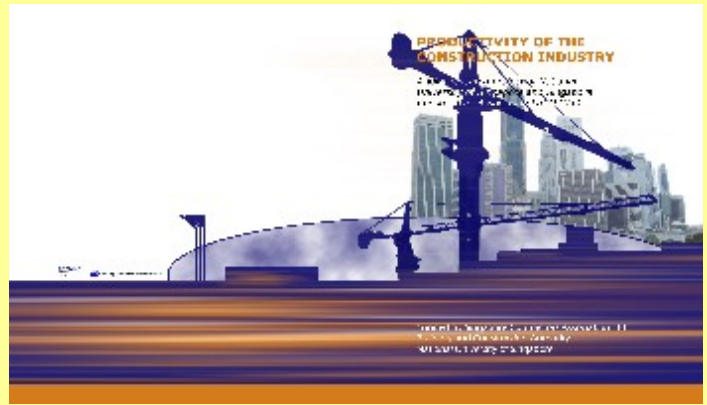
### Energy Smart Building Scheme launched for sustainable energy use in buildings



Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee, Senior Parliamentary Secretary at the Environment and Water Resources Ministry, addressing the audience at the seminar on Energy Smart Office to launch the Energy Smart Building Scheme.

A new energy-efficiency labelling scheme aimed at bringing Singapore closer to its vision of a truly green city with environmentally sustainable development was launched on 16

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For enquiries on the project, please contact [Professor George Ofori](#).

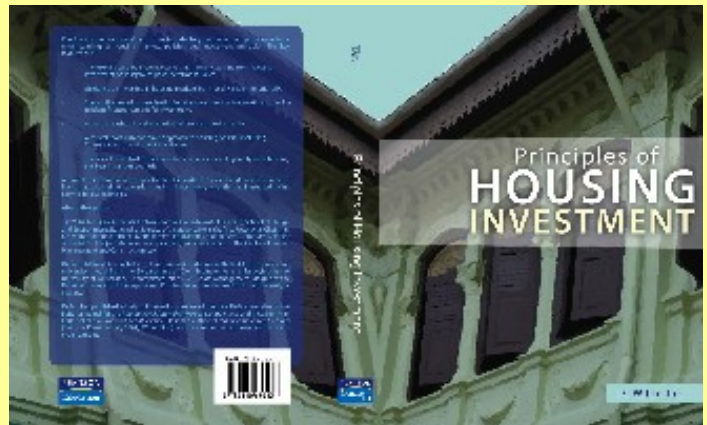
### Department explores collaborative ties in East Europe

Assoc Prof Tham Kwok Wai went to Belgrade from 29 November to 4 December 2005 to present an invited paper at the 36th HRAC conference titled "Total Building Performance – a new paradigm for building delivery". At the same time, he took the opportunity to establish ties with universities participating in the 36th HRAC conference convened by the Serbian Society of HVAC for the purposes of possible collaboration in research and graduate student recruitment.

Assoc Prof Tham met Professor Karel Kabelle, Head of the Department of Micro-environment and Building Science of Czech Technical University (CTU) in Prague to discuss collaboration in the areas of indoor environment and energy, and joint supervision of PhD students. He also visited La Rochelle University (France), a newly established research intensive university, with focus on graduate training and research; Technical University of Civil Engineering, Bucharest, Romania; Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade, and University at Thessaloniki (Greece).

### Book on housing investment published

A new book authored by Assoc Prof Willie Tan has just been published. The title of the book is "Principles of Housing Investment". It is a text for his GEM2007 Political Economy of Housing and a general reference for housing investors. The book, published by Pearson Prentice Hall, provides a framework for housing investment. Topics include housing investment strategy, selection of cities for investment, dynamics of the housing market, market failure, housing policies, screening of properties, financial analysis, post-investment issues, and indirect investment in housing.



For enquiries, please contact [Assoc Prof Willie Tan](#).

December 2005. Jointly developed by the National Environment Agency (NEA) and the Energy Sustainability Unit of the National University of Singapore, the Energy Smart Building Scheme accords recognition to buildings in the top 25 per cent of their class for achieving exemplary energy efficiency without compromising the indoor environmental quality. ([more >](#))

## EVENTS

### Seminar on energy performance contracting and benchmarking

In February 2005 two EU grants were awarded to NUS's Energy Sustainability Unit by the EC-ASEAN Energy Facility Programme, through the support of the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) to develop a business model for building energy performance services in the ASEAN region, and a comprehensive database for building energy performance benchmarking in the ASEAN region. At the seminar on "Energy Performance Contracting and Benchmarking" held on 13 January 2006 at NUS, detailed information on both projects was presented by a panel of researchers and industry players.

The seminar was aimed at gathering feedback for the final development of energy performance model and guidelines that will significantly reduce energy services business cost, enhance energy services procurement know-how, and develop professionalism within the energy services sector as a whole for Singapore and the region. For more information, please contact [Assoc Prof Lee Siew Eang](#).

### ASHRAE Technical Talk on productivity research

The Department organised a technical talk with ASHRAE Singapore Chapter on "Productivity research in theory and in practice. Current status and future challenges" on 17 January 2006. The speaker was Professor David Wyon of the International Centre for Indoor Environment and Energy, Technical University of Denmark. Prof Wyon is also a Visiting Professor of the department. ([more >](#))



Professor David Wyon

### School of Design and Environment celebrates NUS Centennial with reunion dinner and exhibition



Former Heads of Department, Professor Victor Torrance (3rd from left) and Mr Eric B.H. Lim (4th from left) at the reunion dinner, flanked by current Head of Department, Professor George Ofori (right), Dr Goh Bee Hua (2nd from left) and Ms Jessie Yeo.

The School of Design and Environment organised a reunion dinner for our Architecture, Building, Estate Management and Real Estate alumni as well as an exhibition to showcase the contributions they have made towards the development of Singapore in their role as architects, builders and real estate professionals. It was held on Saturday 12 November 2005 at Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre. Mr Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development was the Guest-of-Honour for the event.

Besides providing an opportunity for the three departments' alumni as well as friends from the real estate and construction industry to meet, the School also raised money for the School's Scholarship and Bursary Fund through the event.

Go to the [SDE Reunion Dinner picture gallery](#).

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