

 Academic Matters

Department appoints Adjunct Professors

The Department appointed two illustrious lawyers as Adjunct Professors to teach relevant modules on the Joint KCL-NUS M. Sc. (Construction Law and Arbitration) programme.

His Excellency **Mr Michael Hwang SC** is an Open College Scholar of Pembroke College, Oxford University (1962-1966). He obtained his BA, BCL and MA from Oxford University. He is a Barrister at Law of Gray's Inn, an advocate and solicitor of both Singapore and West Malaysia, and barrister and solicitor of Victoria, Australia. He is also a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK).



Mr Hwang sat as a judge of the Supreme Court of Singapore (1991-1992). He is now a Senior Counsel of the Supreme Court of Singapore. Mr Hwang was appointed as a Visiting Professor of the Faculty of Law, NUS in 1999. Mr Hwang is a Commissioner in the United Nations Compensation Commission. He is also a member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration. Mr Hwang represents Singapore as the Non-Resident Ambassador to Switzerland.



Mr Philip Jeyaretnam SC has been conferred the title of Senior Counsel, the highest form of recognition in the legal community in Singapore. Currently, he leads the fraternity of lawyers as the President of Singapore Law Society. He is the Immediate Past Chairman of the Society of Construction Law.

Mr Jeyaretnam is a member of the SIAC Regional Panel of Arbitrators. He heads the Projects, Construction and Investment Practice in Rodyk & Davidson, a large and well-established law firm in Singapore. As an indication of his current standing in the construction law market, he represents one of the two main parties in the historic and most important case of substantial magnitude concerning the recent collapse of the on-going excavation works of the Circle Line station at Nicoll Highway.

Master's programmes accredited by professional bodies

The MSc (Building Science) and MSc (Project Management) programmes have been accredited by the Professional Engineers Board (PEB) under the PEB CPD Programme for 390 PDUs each. Another Master's programme, the KCL-NUS MSc (Construction Law and Arbitration) programme has also been accredited for 288 PDUs.

Additionally, the MSc (Project Management) programme has been accredited by the Singapore Institute of Architects/Board of Architects (SIA/BOA) for 7-9 CPD points. Applications for accreditation of the MSc (Building Science) and MSc (Construction Law & Arbitration) programmes have been submitted to the SIA/BOA.



Department joins Infrastructure Services Mission to India

Professor George Ofori and Assoc Prof Philip Chan joined the Infrastructure Services Mission led by Mr Cedric Foo, the then Minister of State for National Development. The delegation visited New Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai. The mission, which took place from 10 to 16 April 2005, was organised by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore).

The members of the Singapore delegation comprised government officials, and representatives of architectural and real estate companies. Prof Ofori and Assoc Prof Chan took the opportunity to arrange other meetings with some key tertiary institutions in India to discuss with staff members of relevant departments, possibilities of collaboration. The objectives of the visit were to establish or strengthen links with selected tertiary educational institutions in India and discuss collaborative initiatives with them, and to explore opportunities for the extension of the department's educational activities into India. Special focus was put on the MSc(Construction Law & Arbitration) programme for which it was believed that there were good prospects in India.

Read more about the mission from the [joint media release](#) issued by BCA and IE Singapore.

Events

“Current Developments in Construction Law” seminar

This was an international seminar with two speakers from the UK, one from Malaysia and two from Singapore, covering the areas of Security of Payment, Sustainable Building and Safety in the Construction Industry. The speakers included HHJ Humphrey LLOYD QC, Mr Philip Britton from King’s College, London, Mr Wilfred Abraham who is Deputy President of the Society of Construction Law (KL and Selangor), Adjunct Professor Philip Jeyaretnam SC and Adjunct Assoc Prof Chow Kok Fong. The seminar was held on 6 June 2005.

Click here for [seminar details](#).



HHJ Humphrey LLOYD QC

Public lecture on “Urban Climatic Mapping and the Air Ventilation Assessment System for Planning”

The Department organised a public lecture on Urban Climatic Mapping and the Air Ventilation Assessment System for Planning on 13 May 2005. The speakers were Prof Lutz Katzschner from University of Kassel, Germany, and Prof Edward Ng from Chinese University of Hong Kong. ([Public lecture details](#))

Research

Academic staff make their mark at building conference

Dr Evelyn Teo’s paper was among the best presentations at the 10th International Conference on Durability of Building Materials & Components (10DBMC), ranked for the overall quality of their presentation, as “the best of the stream”. Dr Teo’s paper was titled “An assessment of factors affecting the service life of external paint finish on plastered façades”.



Dr Teo at the 10DBMC.

The 10DBMC was held from 17 to 20 April 2005 in Lyon, France.

Assoc Prof Michael Chew presented a keynote paper on “Building maintainability and diagnostics” at the conference.

Click [here](#) for the conference website.

Student Matters

Top students share their formula for success

“Passion and commitment” are the two factors that contributed to

Patent granted for durable sealant

Assoc Prof Michael Chew’s invention “Heat and hot water-resisting polyurethane” was granted a US patent. Prof Chew’s invention aims to provide users with a new polyurethane sealant that is highly resistant to heat and can withstand immersion in hot water.

Polyurethane is a high-performance sealant that is widely used in the joints of pavements, walls and floors. Although highly polymeric, it is susceptible to degradation due to environmental factors such as heat, moisture, UV rays and other factors. The newly developed product would have commercial application in areas requiring a sealant which is highly resistant to heat and subject to hot water immersion, such as concrete pavements and building façades.

The advantages of this new sealant lie principally in its ability to prevent water-swelling, water-absorption and hydrolysis, thereby increasing the thermal stability of the seal and enhancing its adhesion to a porous material (for example, concrete), immersion in hot water or when it is subject to the conditions of a warm and humid atmosphere.

For more information, contact [Assoc Prof Michael Chew](#).



Chipping of the old sealant.



Removal of the old sealant and surface cleaning.

her academic success, 1st class honours graduate Fu Ailian shared. Her achievement is noteworthy, considering she had to take additional German language modules for the Student Exchange Programme and her co-curricular activities. For her sterling results, Ailian won the Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal, Sally Meyer Medal, SCAL Gold Medal and SISV Gold Medal.

Passion is also a vital ingredient for success for another top student, Wee Chorng Yee. However, in his case, it is the passion of the teaching staff for their work that motivated him during the 4-year programme.

Besides obtaining 1st class honours, Chorng Yee also won the SISV Gold Medal. Ailian and Chorng Yee received their graduation certificates and medals at the Commencement ceremony this month... ([more>](#))



Grit blasting.



Priming.



Pouring of the new sealant.



Resealing completed.

The application process of resealing an expansion joint on a concrete runway.



SDE reunion dinner and exhibition

As part of NUS's centennial celebrations, the School of Design and Environment (SDE) will be organising a reunion dinner for its alumni from Architecture, Industrial Design, Building, Estate Management and Real Estate. The event will be held on 12 November 2005 at the Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre. Click [here](#) for more information.

BEMA Financial Assistance Scheme for needy students

The Building and Estate Management Alumni (BEMA), the alumni association whose members are graduates of the Department of Real Estate and Department of Building, has set aside a fund to assist needy students in the two departments. It will be an outright grant. The grant is intended to help only those who are really in need of assistance. Only local students (Singaporeans) who are pursuing a bachelor degree in one of the departments and are in urgent need of financial assistance need to apply for this assistance.

BEMA updates

Seminar on Novation of Contracts and Unfair Contract Terms, 13 July 2005, York Hotel

Seminar on Lifts of the Future, 25 August 2005

For more information, please visit the [BEMA website](#).

Professor invited to speak on education and research

Professor George Ofori visited the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang, on 7-8 June 2005 at the invitation of USM Press. USM is the second oldest university in Malaysia.

The main purpose of the visit was to participate in the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the USM and the International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB). The MOU provides for the production of a new "Journal of Construction in Developing Countries" as the publication vehicle of CIB W107 on Construction in Developing Countries, of which Prof Ofori is the Co-ordinator. The second reason for Prof Ofori's visit was to deliver a lecture on "Attaining Excellence in Education and Research".

Prof Ofori also discussed the possibility of collaboration in research and staff exchange with Professor Ir Dr Mahyiddin Ramli, Dean of the School of Housing, Building and Planning.

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