



Paper on Joint MOE-NUS Research Wins Prestigious Project Management International Award



From L-R: Mr Winston Wee (Development Management Executive, MOE), Mr Eng Wee Tong (MOE Collaborator), Mr Faisal Manzoor Arain (with the award plaque) and Professor Low Sui Pheng (Principal Investigator).

One of the Department of Building's graduate students, Faisal Manzoor Arain, has won the prestigious Donald S. Barrie Award for 2005 of the PMI Educational Foundation. The Project Management Institute (PMI), based in the US, is the premier grouping of project managers. The competition for the award is held annually. Faisal was invited to present his paper, "Strategic management of variation orders for institutional buildings: Leveraging on information technology", and to receive the award, at the PMI Global Congress in Toronto, Canada on 10 September 2005. Faisal's research work is based on a joint project with the Ministry of Education. His supervisor and the Principal Investigator of the research project is Professor Low Sui Pheng.

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CTBP inks MOU with VTT

Centre for Project Management and Construction Law established

The department has set up the Centre for Project Management and Construction Law (CPM&CL). This new centre capitalizes on, and gives expression to, the expertise and experience of the department in these two important areas, exemplified by its highly successful and well-established M.Sc. (Project Management) programme and the Joint NUS-King's College London M.Sc. (Construction Law & Dispute Resolution) programme. The new centre will provide a focus for the department's research and professional development programmes in the two areas of core expertise. The centre will seek to attract external funding for research, and seal partnership and collaboration agreements with leading educational and research institutions in the world to pursue programmes and activities. The department aims to build it up to become a centre of excellence with global recognition in the medium term.

The Co-Directors of the centre are Associate Professor Philip Chan and Associate Professor Willie Tan.

Anna University Vice Chancellor visits SDE

The Vice Chancellor of Anna University, Professor Doraisamy Viswanathan visited NUS on 23 September 2005. He paid a visit to the School of Design and Environment (SDE) and met with SDE Dean Professor Cheong Hin Fatt and Department of Building's Assoc Prof Tham Kwok Wai, Deputy Head of Research. The Vice Chancellor and his team were taken on a tour of the Field Environmental Chamber and Indoor Air Quality Chamber and briefed on the research activities of the department. The Vice Chancellor also visited the International Relations Office and the Faculty of Engineering.



From left: Dr V Murugesan (Chairman, Faculty of Science), Prof D Viswanathan and Dr R Jayavel (Director, International Division)

The Centre for Total Building Performance (CTBP) of NUS and the VTT, Technical Research Centre of Finland signed an MOU on 7 October 2005 to collaborate in research. Under the terms of the MOU, the parties agree to develop new knowledge on a total building performance framework for construction processes with the usage of advanced ICT applications, and develop advanced technologies and intelligent management systems for environmental and economic performance of buildings.

The VTT of Finland is a contract research organisation involved in many international assignments. With its 2800 employees, VTT provides a wide range of technology and applied research services for its clients, private companies, institutions and the public sector.



The MOU signing ceremony was held on 7 October 2005. Picture shows SDE Dean Prof Cheong Hin Fatt (left) shaking hands with Mr Jouko Suokas, Executive Director of VTT Industrial Systems. The ceremony was witnessed by the Second Minister for Trade & Industry, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, and the visiting Finnish Minister for Foreign Trade and Development, Ms Mari Kiviniemi.



Bronze medal for PhD student in Taewondo competition

A research student of the Department of Building, Fadeyi Moshood Olawale, represented the NUS Taewondo Club in the 32nd National Pesta Sukan Taekwondo Championships in August 2005 and won the Bronze medal in the Welter weight Brown Belt category.

Project wins prestigious awards



The Yuhu Primary School and Community Center has received a 2005 Jury Commendation for Innovation.

Dr Lim Guan Tiong of the Department of Building was a collaborator on a project which won two prestigious awards. Yuhu Elementary School Expansion project in Lijiang, China, won the 2003 7th Environmental Design Research Association US (EDRA/PLACES) best design Award and the 2005 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation. The project was also featured in *Architecture Review* (UK), one of the top Architectural practice publications and in *Places* (US) in October 2004. Dr Lim was involved in the research work, feasibility study, design and construction of the building structure.

The 2005 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards for Culture Heritage Conservation recognize newly-built structures which demonstrate outstanding standards for contemporary architectural design which are well integrated into historic contexts. For 2005, the inaugural Heritage Awards Jury Commendation for Innovation drew 12 entries from six countries. These include two religious buildings, two institutions, one residential building, five commercial properties, and two urban interventions. The awards were presented to two projects of newly-built structures.

Located within the UNESCO World Heritage site of Lijiang, the Yuhu primary school project was commended "for its beautifully-nuanced design which evocatively reinterprets traditional architectural traditions within the context of modern building practice".

Professor presents keynote paper at construction forum

Professor George Ofori visited Tanzania from 25 to 30 August 2005 at the invitation of the National Construction Council (NCC) to deliver a keynote paper at the Construction Industry Forum 2005. The Forum is a bi-annual event which brings together all the key players in Tanzania's construction industry. It is organised by the NCC, which is the equivalent body of the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) in Singapore. The theme of the Construction Industry Forum 2005 was: "Pre-requisites for Competitiveness of the Tanzania Construction Industry: Lessons from the South".

Prof Ofori was the only Keynote Speaker at the Construction Industry Forum. Besides the keynote paper "New Developments in Construction Industry in Singapore", he also spoke on "New Issues on Construction in Developing Countries: Plans and initiatives of the CIB".

During his visit, he met top government officials, including the Prime



Moshood (extreme left) on the winners' stand.

Minister of Tanzania, the Honourable Frederick T. Sumaye, and industry players. Prof Ofori also delivered a lecture on "Attaining Excellence in Education and Research" at the University of Dar es Salaam.

 Events

Seminars on international arbitration and adjudication

The Department organised a seminar on the "Latest Developments in International Arbitration in China, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Brunei" on 22 August 2005. The speakers included Mr Philip Yang, Chairman of The Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC) who spoke on the latest developments in international arbitration in China and Hong Kong; and Dr Colin Ong, an internationally recognized lawyer concurrently practising in ASEAN countries and in the UK, who spoke on the latest developments in international arbitration in Malaysia and Brunei.



Dr Colin Ong (left) and Mr Philip Yang



(Left-Right) Mr Tomás Kennedy-Grant QC, Mr Nicholas Gould and Mr George Tan

An International Adjudication Seminar was held on 19 September 2005. The speakers were Mr Nicholas Gould, a partner with Fenwick Elliott, who gave his view on adjudication strategy under the 1996 Act which has been in operation for close to ten years; Mr Tomás Kennedy-Grant QC who has acted as adjudicator under the New Zealand Construction Contracts Act 2002, who commented on the use of documents in an adjudication; and Mr George Tan of ChanTan LLC who is the lead author in the Building and Construction section of Volume 2 of the Halsbury's Laws of Singapore. Mr Tan explained whether and to what extent, if any, that there is a shift in the role and duty of the certifier of interim payments in the light of the provisions of the 2004 Act given that there is now a scheme of payment prescribed by statute which may co-exist with the contractual scheme of payment.

Assoc Prof Philip Chan was the chairperson for both events.



Alumni Matters

Seminar on Indoor Air Quality

The Building and Estate Management Alumni (BEMA) is organising a seminar on "Indoor Air Quality - Security and Health Risks" on 16 November 2005 at York Hotel. The speakers are Associate Professors Tham Kwok Wai, Chandra Sekhar, David Cheong and Steven Ooi Peng Lim.

For more information, please contact [Miss Zainon](#).

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