

香港工程師學會

THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS



UK Chapter Newsletter

November 2009

To All UK Members of HKIE

Presidential Visit December 2009

We are pleased to confirm that our President Ir Dr Andrew K C Chan will be making a Presidential visit to UK in December. He will have meetings with kindred UK Institutions and host a reception for all members of the UK Chapter of HKIE at IoD in London.

The reception will be on **Tuesday 8 December** at IoD in Pall Mall. The reception will commence at 6.30pm and the President will speak at 7.00pm. All members of the UK Chapter are cordially invited to attend.

If you wish to attend but have yet to book a place please inform Jan Cheung before 27 November by email jan.cheung@hkie.org.hk so we can finalise numbers for catering arrangements. Guests are welcome, but a charge of £20/head will be made to offset the cost (please send a cheque made out to 'HKIE UK Chapter' together with guest names to William Kemp, 70 Chartwell Avenue, Wingerworth, Chesterfield, S42 6SP).

Members will have an opportunity not only to meet the President but also Mrs Monica Yuen, Secretary of HKIE, who will be accompanying President Chan on his visit to London.

Chinese New Year Lunch

On Saturday 7 February 45 members and guests gathered at the Phoenix Palace Restaurant to celebrate Chinese New Year. This was our fourth visit to the Phoenix Palace which not only serves delicious food in bountiful quantity but is also centrally located less than 5 minutes walk from Baker Street tube station in London.

Among our guests were Keith Berryman, who gave us an excellent presentation on Crossrail in Autumn 2008 and Neil Tsang, from Imperial College where we hope to set up a student Chapter. Our guest of honour was, Sarah Wu, Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office.

We had a lively and noisy lunch and in anticipation of this our Chairman Ir William Kemp gave his brief speech of welcome at the start before the decibels peaked! Sarah Wu responded with New Year greetings and an encouraging view of the economic situation in Hong Kong.

We were entertained by Vice Chairman Thomas' mind-bending quiz which gave rise to much head scratching and not a little laughter. The party eventually broke up after 6.00pm and we happily made our way home.



Ir Thomas Lai and Guests



Sarah Wu and Chairman Ir William Kemp

Dragon Boat Races

On a hot and sunny June Sunday in London's Docklands on a course parallel to the London City Airport runway The London Dragon Boat Championships were held. These races not only attract enthusiastic amateurs such as HKIE but also semi-professional crews who race regularly.

PK Tse and his crew had their reputations from 2008, when they reached the final for the first time, to defend at the Festival on 28 June. They were expected to reach the final again and they duly obliged after some closely fought races. In the final they paddled very well to finish a more than creditable 6th place out of nine.

London Walking Tour

On Saturday 18 July Vice-Chairman Ir Thomas Lai led a party of 15 members and guests on a walking tour around some of the engineering wonders of the City of London. We assembled in the newly constructed Paternoster Square Development which provides a much improved setting for St Paul's Cathedral than its 'brutal' post-WW2 predecessor. Of particular note was the restored Temple Bar, which forms the background to the group picture. This structure formerly stood on Ludgate Hill at the entrance to the City of London but was exiled to Hertfordshire in an early 20th century road widening. It looks splendid in its new location. After a quick look in St Paul's itself we crossed the Thames by the Millennium 'Wobbly' Bridge, now stabilized by an intricate damping system, which we examined in detail. A brief visit to the Tate Modern (formerly Bankside power station) followed. Then our leader took us east along the South Bank past the restored Globe Theatre to Southwark where besides looking in the Cathedral we took time to lunch and rest our weary legs. The younger enthusiasts couldn't resist a visit to Borough Market, while the 'oldies' rested.

Restored by lunch it was on past the Greater London Assembly Building, whose architecture is a matter of taste, but which has some innovative energy saving features, with the upper floors overlapping the lower ones on the

south side to provide shade and reduce solar gain. We admired the sculptures in Hays Galleria before crossing Tower Bridge and allowing tired legs a tea break at St Katharine's dock. We were not allowed to flag by our guide and it was off through the Tower of London grounds and back over Tower Bridge. We were treated to the now rare site of a bridge lift to allow a pleasure steamer through.

It was 'downhill' now and after a brief stop at a design museum we arrived for dinner at Brown's restaurant on the South Bank, east of Tower Bridge. We had a splendid meal in the open-air but thankfully under a large sunshade as the warm and sunny July day ended in a rain shower!



Walkers at Temple Bar



Greater London Authority HQ (The Motorcycle Helmet)

Future Events

President's Talk - 7 December 2009

Ir Dr Andrew Chan will give a talk on 'Recent Development Projects in Hong Kong and Mainland China' at the Institution of Structural Engineers, 11 Upper Belgrave Street, London SW1 at 6.00 for 6.30 on 7 December. This will be a joint meeting HKIE(UK Chapter)/IStructE(North Thames Branch)/ICE(London Region). An email with further details has already been circulated.

Chinese New Year Lunch – 20 February 2010

We will celebrate Chinese New Year with our traditional lunch at the Phoenix Palace Restaurant. Further details will be circulated to members by email.

St Pancras Station Refurbishment – March 2010

Ian Gardner of Arup will give an address on the refurbishment and remodelling of St Pancras Station to accommodate HS1 rail services to Europe. Ian was Design Director for the project and will give an extra dimension to the story of one of the great engineering projects of the first decade of the 21st century. Further details by email early in the New Year.

River Trip to Greenwich – May 2010

We are planning a summer social for a Saturday in May 2010 to which we can invite our partners and our friends. The provisional plan is to take a riverboat from Westminster Pier to Greenwich, possibly taking a cruise round the Thames Barrier en route. At Greenwich we will disembark for a few hours allowing time for a visit to The National Maritime Museum and a leisurely lunch. We will return to Westminster Pier by riverboat in the late afternoon and possibly adjourn for an early dinner thereafter. If you might consider joining us please email the Chairman – william@wrkemp.fsnet.co.uk – to get an early idea of possible numbers. Any suggested modifications to our ideas are welcome.

Regards

Your UK Chapter Committee

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