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A visit by Prof. David Nethercot, Advisor of CNERC

2017.02.21-24

CNERC was honoured to have Prof. David Nethercot, Emeritus Professor of Imperial College London and Distinguished Chair Professor of Structural Engineering and Steel Construction at PolyU, as well as Advisor of CNERC visited the Centre during 21 to 24 February 2017.

Prof. Nethercot delivered a lecture entitled “Designing Buildings to Better Resist Progressive Collapse” jointly organized by CNERC and FCE at PolyU on 21 February 2017 with about 120 people in attendance.



Prof. Nethercot delivered a lecture entitled “Designing Buildings to Better Resist Progressive Collapse” on 21st February 2017.



From left to right (back row): Dr. T.M. Chan, Prof. K.F. Chung, Prof. Y.L. Xu, Prof. H.K. Lam, and Dr. Robin Sham
(front row): Ir Y.K. Cheng, Prof. J.M. Ko, Mrs. Elaine Anson, Prof. David Nethercot, and Prof. Michael Anson.

During his visit, Prof. Nethercot has also shared his thoughts on how to enhance the international visibility of the CNERC, and also his view on research directions on steel construction.

International visibility

Prof. Nethercot pinpointed the importance of stating the purpose of existence of the “Center”, stressed the rationale behind the establishment and explained who we are and why we are the one to tackle the strategic challenges in steel construction. Prof. Chung and Dr. Chan shared his views and introduced the Center’s website <https://www.polyu.edu.hk/cnerc-steel/about-mission.html> to illustrate the mission statement and the objectives of the establishment.

Prof. Nethercot also stated the importance on showing the achievements to date. The current completed projects on “Effective design and construction to structural Eurocodes” and “Selection of equivalent steel materials to European steel materials specifications” <https://www.polyu.edu.hk/cnerc-steel/publications.html> have demonstrated the impact to the steel construction industry.

Research directions on steel construction

Prof. Nethercot shared his thoughts regarding the needs on the continued research on structural response of steel structures to man-made and natural hazards. This echoes with the current research projects funded by the Center <https://www.polyu.edu.hk/cnerc-steel/research-projects.html> under the work themes of “Sustainable infrastructure development” and “Structural engineering on modern steel construction”.

Prof. Nethercot also highlighted the strategic importance on understanding the current market on steel industry in Hong Kong and shared his experience in the United Kingdom. Prof. Chung and Dr. Chan concurred with his thoughts and have shared the current project “Marketing strategies for development of steel industry in Hong Kong” led by Prof. Albert Chan to address this issue.

On behalf of the Center, we would like to express our sincere gratitude towards Prof. Nethercot for his invaluable sharing.



Prof. K.F. Chung, Prof. Nethercot and Dr. T.M. Chan on 24th February 2017.