

CNERC Meeting with Urban Renewal Authority, Hong Kong SAR 2017.04.20

CNERC was pleased to have a meeting with the Urban Renewal Authority on 20th April 2017. A fruitful discussion was set with details as follows:

Mr. Victor So, Chairman of Urban Renewal Authority welcomed the CNERC delegates to attend the meeting, and introduced Mr. Alan Li, Managing Director of Goldwave Steel Structure Engineering Limited to the CNERC delegation team. Mr. So called this meeting in raising his concern for the need of steel prefabrication in Hong Kong, and he wanted to line up the academic expertise in this area with the construction industry.

Prof. K.F. Chung introduced the background, establishment and positioning of the CNERC to the members. He also informed the members about the recent establishment of “Steel Construction and Fabrication Committee” with the support of the Development Bureau, and emphasized the importance of having a coordinated industrial platform on steel construction for the construction industry.

Mr. Alan Li, founder of the Goldwave Steel Structure Engineering Limited, shared his experience and track record of adopting steel materials instead of concrete for his construction projects. The importance of commercial drive, in terms of cost and time saving, for promoting the use of steel in construction projects was well noted.

Dr. Michael Yam was pleased to know recent adoption of steel materials in the commercial sector of Hong Kong construction industry, and Prof. Chung sincerely looked forward to further collaboration with Mr. Li, as well as to share the research output of effective use of high strength steel materials - Q690 and Q960.

Mr. So strongly agreed that the time saving factor was very crucial to public housing construction, and he would urge the Hong Kong Government to advocate the use of steel materials in residential and commercial buildings. Also, prefabrication was another significant factor to efficient public housing construction, which he would draw the attention of Hong Kong Housing Society for adoption of steel prefabricated structures.

Ir Joseph Mak also pinpointed that materials only comprised 20% of the total construction costs, hence if the developer can save the construction time and take advantage of associated benefits such as earning more from leasing incomes, which could readily offset the relatively higher cost in using steel materials. It is agreed that education to the industry including clients, consultants and practitioners in the use of steel was essential.

Both Mr. So and Prof. Chung concluded that it was a fruitful meeting, and he wished this meeting would kick off a synergy among various stakeholders of the construction industry in adoption of steel materials and prefabricated structures.



From left to right: Ir Joseph Mak, Prof. K.F. Chung, Mr. Victor So, Mr. Alan Li and Dr. Michael Yam