2012 Annual Meeting and 25th Symposium of Acoustical Society of The Republic of China

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The seminar on “The Sound of Speech” jointly organized by the Hong Kong Institute of Acoustics, HKIOA IVE (Morrison Hill) Student Branch, and the Hong Kong Society of Audiology was successfully held on 8 April 2013 (Monday) at IVE (Morrison Hill).

The speaker, Dr. Kevin, Yuen Chi Pun from the Department of Special Education and Counselling, The Hong Kong Institute of Education gave the participants a very inspiring and in-depth talk about how different speech sounds are created by the generation of sound energy from vocal folds with differential distribution of sound energy via different positioning of structures in the vocal tract. The talk also touched on the physiology and acoustics of phonation and the acoustic properties of various speech sounds. For HKIOA members, who most likely are engineers in environmental disciplines, the talk them with knowledge understanding of how vocal tract, and the

Overall, the talk was well received by over 25 participants and it helped spread the acoustical knowledge to professionals in other related disciplines.
PolyU Student Branch of HKIOA

Since early autumn in 2012, HKIOA had started planning to organize the first university student branch at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University with the aim of connecting students and professional acousticians in the industry. Thanks to the support by the committee members of HKIOA in this half year, the branch was officially established on May 14th 2013 with an inauguration ceremony held on PolyU campus. During the ceremony, HKIOA committee members, PolyU professors and the branch committee members had much sharing on the prospect of the industry and acoustic education.

Mission of the Branch – “Connecting Students and Professionals”

Along with the growth of environmental awareness in recent years, tertiary education in Hong Kong is now putting more concern and resources on the environmental discipline by introducing many new and related programmes/courses to educate and equip students to satisfy the demand on human resources from the industry. The branch aims to act as the bridge between the students and the experienced acoustic professionals so that they can lay foundation in their future career while the acoustic industry can also benefit from the talent bank in the University.

News of the Branch

Branch Promotion

With the aim of connecting students and professionals, the branch had already started promoting it to students two months before the inauguration. PolyU professors showed their kind support to the branch by allowing the committee members to have promotion during their precious lecture hour. The branch has now recruited 73 student members from Departments of Building Services Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. The response from the students is very good. Thanks to the professors!

Activity Planning

After getting the students involved in the branch, the branch would now turn the focus to create opportunities to get them connected with the expert acousticians in industries. The planned activities include but not limited to technical visit, workshop and seminar. With the help of HKIOA, professionals joined a career sharing workshop to meet the students (Refer to another report of this function for details).

Many Thanks!!

Lastly, the branch would like to express sincere gratitude to committee members of HKIOA, Dr. K.W. Cheng and the branch advisor Dr. Randolph C. K. Leung for assisting the establishment of the branch. Thanks also for the guests joining the inauguration ceremony.

Career Sharing

Upon the end of university term, many students are going to graduate and start developing their career. To provide them with an opportunity and a platform to learn more about the prospect of the environmental and acoustics related industries, PolyU Student Branch of HKIOA organized a career sharing activity on July, 19th 2013 at PolyU campus with invited elites from various disciplines of the industry as the guest speakers. During the event, the speakers had much sharing on their experiences, expectations on students and views on the prospect in different fields. There was much idea exchanging between the students and the speakers. The speakers also had much sharing among themselves.

Broad Disciplines of Senior Professionals

Thanks to the support of HKIOA, senior professionals from different sectors in the field, including consulting firms, contractors, government department, R&D companies and mass transport service provider, who participated in the career sharing to let students have a broad view about the environmental and acoustics industries. Different from traditional career talk, the session was held in an informal atmosphere. Snacks and drinks were served. Students could ask questions freely and the invited speakers could discuss with one another and elaborate more on topics that students found interesting. There was much chemistry in their discussions!

Sharing by the Elites

During the session, the speakers were keen on sharing with the students not only on the prospect of the industries but also the personal qualities required to build a career path towards success. In addition to the knowledge and technical skills learned from university education, all the speakers stressed the importance of soft skills in communication, presentation and job interview. Interestingly enough, one of the speakers was the recruitment examiner during job interview of another speaker in the past. They also told many special stories encountered in their careers.
Students Showing Interest in Joining the Field

Many students showed interest in joining the environmental and acoustics industries by asking questions about the prospect and recruitment period of internships or full time jobs provided by companies or department of the speakers. They were also interested to know the preparation they could do before joining the field. The speakers were keen to provide the associated information and delighted to have many newcomers joining their team.

Many Thanks!!

Lastly, the branch would like to express sincere gratitude to the illustrious guest speakers for providing students with the invaluable chance of getting a broad view on the industries and learning from their rich experiences. We would also like to give praise to the students for being motivated to seek opportunity for building a successful career. What a nice evening!

HKIOA Delegation Visit to Environmental Protection Bureau in Macau

Dr. K.W. Cheng & Dr. C.W. Law

Some of you may recollect that HKIOA had organized a delegation visit to “澳門環境委員會” in December 2002. With the rapid changes and new developments in Macau throughout the years, our members are excited to revisit the place and meet their friends.

Against the above background, HKIOA organized a delegation visit to the Environmental Protection Bureau (EPB) “環境保護局” in Macau on 14 June 2013. The event indeed received overwhelming responses from members, and all 15 places were reserved within a few days after the flyer circulation on 23 May 2013. The delegation comprised members from different disciplines, including those from acoustics related consultants, contractors, suppliers, MTR as well as executive committee members.

We arrived at Macau Ferry Pier at around 10:30 am, and were received by Jacky Choi from EPB (See photo 1). Shortly after that we arrived at the EPB office and met with their Deputy Director, Ms. Man Hung Vong; Head of Environmental Planning and Assessment Department, Ms. Weng Chin Fong, Annie; Head of Environmental Pollution Control Department, Mr. Ip Kuong Lam, and their a few colleagues.

The exchanges went well starting with their presentations on overview of environmental noise situation and legislative control in Macau, followed by their noise mapping via mobile measurement vehicle(s) and fixed noise monitoring stations (See photos 2 & 3). Their legislation on control of neighborhood noise is on its way. It was interesting to note that their role at present is to support other licensing authorities to enforce the noise control requirements. However, as more and more structured noise control legislation is in place, they are switching to take up the full responsibility for enforcing the legislation. Dr. Kin Cheng from HKIOA also briefly presented the traffic noise situation in Hong Kong, followed by presentation on noise control framework made by Dr. C.W. Law (See photos 4 & 5). In the end, there were fruitful discussions and sharing among the participants as many questions were raised which required in-depth knowledge and experience to deal with. Indeed, the programme overran until 1:00 pm (See photos 6 & 7).

Afterwards, the delegation also visited one of their fixed noise monitoring stations nearby (See photo 8).

After a quick lunch, the delegation went to a local market during pouring rain, but was happy to be able to shop for some souvenirs prior to rushing back to the Macau Ferry Pier. The delegation returned to Hong Kong at 5:00 pm, and members were exhausted. Overall, the delegation was fruitful and members were able to network with the Macau EPB officials. We were asked by Ms. Vong of EPB to organise further exchange in future.
In many architectural designs, acoustics performance is one of the most important aspects to be considered and evaluated with a view to enhancing users’ comfort and privacy. In fact, the overall acoustics of a given architectural design is determined by a host of factors in which the acoustics performance of individual building elements certainly play a crucial role. Therefore, having been able to quantify and know these acoustics characteristics via laboratory/field testing is critical to the success of the design.

Many international standards have been adopted by architects and engineers for years to quantify the acoustic performance of various building elements. Some of these standards have been revised and will be continued to do so. The seminar aimed to provide architects and engineers an overview of laboratory/field acoustic tests for building elements and the latest updates.

The Acoustic Specialist Speaker

To provide a broad view of the standard acoustic tests for building elements, the organizers invited the acoustic specialist, Ir Dr. Fan Chong, to present a wide range of laboratory/field acoustic measurements. Ir Dr. Chong has more than 20 years of experience in research, development and implementation of various standard acoustic tests. He obtained his Ph.D in Acoustics, Noise & Vibration Control from PolyU in 2000 and is currently the Managing Director of Acoustic Testing Services Limited.

Programme Highlight

The seminar was successfully held on 7th, August 2013 at PolyU campus with participants from different sectors such as acoustic consultants, architects and engineers. The seminar received overwhelming responses with more than 80 registrations. Thanks must go to the support of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects (HKIA) and PolyU for their concerted effort in properly promulgating the event.

During the talk, Ir Dr. Chong briefed the audience the testing requirements of various international standards for acoustic tests of building elements including sound absorption, sound insulation, ceiling attenuation/franking path transmission, impact sound, rain impact test, silencer attenuation performance, etc. He also illustrated via photos the actual setups of individual acoustic tests to enable audience to gain in-depth understanding on the testing requirements, the parameters to be measured as well as the computation techniques to quantify and classify the acoustics performance of individual building elements.

Interaction among Audience from various Sectors

Audience consisting of acoustic consultants, architects and engineers enjoyed lots of interactions among themselves. It was a great time as they could get to know each other and understand more about their different roles. It also provided opportunities for cooperation in the future.

Lastly, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the speaker Ir Dr. Chong for his effort in delivering such a wonderful and informative talk. Thanks for the audience from various disciplines in the field for participating.