

Report from member society

New cabinet of the Hong Kong Geotechnical Society (HKGES)

In January 2019, a new cabinet of the Hong Kong Geotechnical Society (HKGES) has been formed for the session 2018/2020, led by Ir Dr Johnny Cheuk.

The primary aim of the HKGES is the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and experience amongst geotechnical practitioners in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) with the view of contributing to the achievement of excellence in geotechnical engineering for the benefit of society. The Hong Kong Geotechnical Society also aims to promote international cooperation amongst engineers and scientists for the advancement of knowledge in the field of geotechnics and its engineering applications.

The HKGES promotes its aim by holding regular local technical meetings, site visits and seminars. It also organizes and participates in the organisation of international and regional conferences and symposia, exchange information with counterparts, and cooperates with other organisations whose aims are complementary to those of the HKGES, the Geotechnical Division (GD) of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) and the ISSMGE. More detailed information about the HKGES can be found in the website <http://www.hkges.org/home.vbhtml>.

Members of the HKGES can enjoy numerous benefits and rights, including:

- become a member of the ISSMGE automatically;
- access to ISSMGE publications, such as bulletins and reports released by ISSMGE Technical Committees;
- submit papers to conferences and symposia organised by ISSMGE and its Technical Committees;
- pay lower registration fees for attending conferences, workshops and seminars;
- access to the work of the ISSMGE in various fields, including education, communications and technology transfer;
- be a Hong Kong representative in one or more of the 38 ISSMGE Technical Committees working on specific topics;
- be nominated and sponsored by the HKGES to attend events of the ISSMGE, such as the South East Asian Geotechnical Conferences, Asian Regional Conferences and Young Geotechnical Engineers Conferences;
- be nominated for the awards and honours presented by the ISSMGE and HKGES;
- build lasting contacts with geotechnical practitioners all over the world.

The HKGES is composed by a group of 14 core members from industry and academic sectors.



Ir Dr Johnny C. Y. CHEUK
President

Johnny is a chartered civil and geotechnical engineer. He obtained his PhD from Cambridge University and is currently Director of Operations and Executive Director of the geotechnical operations of AECOM in Hong Kong. Johnny handles a wide spectrum of geotechnical projects for public and private clients. Recent major projects include the West Kowloon Terminus of the Express Rail Link, the Tuen Mun - Chek Lap Kok Link and the Pilot Study of Underground Space Development in Selected Strategic Urban Areas. Johnny was named the Young Engineer of the Year in 2013 by the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE). Johnny has also won numerous local and international awards, including the Tan Swan Beng Best Paper Award by the Southeast Asia Geotechnical Society, R.M. Quigley Honourable Mention by the Canadian Geotechnical Society and the British Geotechnical Association (BGA) Medal. He is a HKIE Fellow and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Hong Kong.

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Ir Tony Y. K. HO
Vice President

Tony is serving in the Development Bureau, the Government of the HKSAR. He has been practicing in the field of civil and geotechnical engineering for over twenty years. His professional experience covers many different aspects, including landslip preventative and mitigation, natural terrain hazard assessment, ground investigation and laboratory testing, site formation, foundation and underground excavation. In recent years, he has been actively promoting the use of rock cavern and underground space for sustainable city development and steering a number of strategic studies, including formulation of Cavern Master Plan and related policy initiatives to facilitate wider applications of underground space in Hong Kong. Tony has also supervised a number of projects concerning the use of innovative and smart technologies (e.g. remote sensing, Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence) for various engineering applications.



Ir Patrick A. CHAO
Immediate past president

Patrick is a Registered Professional Engineer (Civil, Geotechnical) in Hong Kong and has practiced in the field of civil and geotechnical engineering since 1986 after obtaining his BEng in Civil Engineering in the UK. In Oct 2013, he managed over 1000 staff in Asia in his capacity as Senior Vice President, Civil & Infrastructure for AECOM. The projects he oversaw encompass underground metro projects, major water & wastewater engineering projects, and tunneling projects spread across Asia. His current role in AECOM includes overseeing the Operations across multiple disciplines and countries.



Dr Andy Y. F. Leung
Secretary General

Andy obtained his PhD from University of Cambridge, UK, and is currently Assistant Professor at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Before joining the academia, he had practised as geotechnical engineer in Hong Kong and the United States. His research interests include soil-structure interaction, reliability assessments in geotechnical engineering, and geomechanics of methane hydrate-bearing sediments in gas production operations. Andy is keen to bridge the gap between research and practice in geotechnical engineering, working to provide various platforms such as forums and training workshops to facilitate communications among different sectors of the profession.

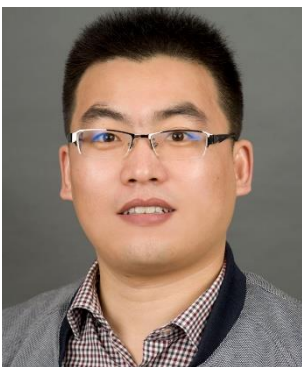
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Ir Ringo S. M. YU
Honary Treasurer

Ringo graduated from McGill University, Montreal, Canada with a Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics in 1982. He is a Registered Professional Engineer and Fellow Member of HKIE in the Civil, Geotechnical and Structural Disciplines. He is the Founder and Managing Director of Fraser Construction Co., Ltd. With over 30 years of experience working for both the consultants and contractors, Ringo is actively serving the Hong Kong community in different public bodies: the HKIE, Construction Industry Council, Engineers Registration Board, Hong Kong Construction Association, Construction Workers Registration Board and Employee Compensation Assistance Fund Board. He was awarded the Bauhinia Leadership Volunteer Award in 2016.



Dr Dongsheng CHANG
Core member (Assistant Secretary)

Dongsheng is a project geotechnical engineer of AECOM Asia Company Ltd. He received his PhD degree in January 2012 from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He has over 11 years of experience on Engineering Design and Academic Research on a number of Civil and Geotechnical Topics (e.g., Deep Excavation, Ground Improvement, Slope Engineering, Dam Engineering, and Debris Flow-barrier Interactions). He won the second prize of the Natural Science Award of the Ministry of Education of China 2017. He is the winner of the HKIE Outstanding Paper Award for Young Engineers 2014. He is responsible for the design of ground improvement works for Tung Chung New Town Extension and Development of Lok Ma Chau Loop Projects currently.



Ir Dr Raymond W. M. CHEUNG
Core member

Raymond is a HKIE member, Institution of Civil Engineers and Institution of Structural Engineers in the UK, and American Society of Civil Engineers in the US. He has been involved in a number of mega civil engineering projects in Hong Kong under the Airport Core Programme, including Airport Railway, Chek Lap Kok Airport site formation and Western Harbour Crossing, before joining the Hong Kong SAR Government in the late 1990s. Since then, Raymond has participated in various areas of geotechnical engineering like the administration of landslip prevention and mitigation works, preparation of Geoguide 7 (Guide to Soil Nail design and Construction), slope greening, quantitative risk assessment (QRA), technical development of debris mobility modelling, flexible debris-resisting barriers and earthquake engineering. He is currently a Deputy Head of the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department responsible for landslide emergency service, and control of geotechnical works, mining operation and quarrying. He is also the Chairman of a Steering Committee overseeing the development of Innovation and Technology in the GEO.

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Ir Sammy P. Y. CHEUNG
Core member

Sammy works in the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department. He is an experienced geotechnical engineer with more than 29 years of experience, particularly in slope stabilization, setting of geotechnical standards and guidelines, foundations and application of information technology. Sammy is also leading the innovation and technology developments in GEO, which include the digital transformation and integration of the emergency management systems. Currently, he is the Chief Geotechnical Engineer of the Slope Safety Division responsible for executing the public education strategy, which focuses on emergency preparedness and response, community resilience and recovery.

Sammy was the Chairman of the Geotechnical Division of the HKIE in 2017/18 session and has also served in a number of committees in the HKIE.



Ir Edwin K. F. CHUNG
Core member

Edwin is a Director of Black and Veatch (Hong Kong) Ltd. and now is a CRE administrating a major civil engineering project. He obtained his MASc from UBC, Vancouver Canada and conducted his research on cyclic behaviour of Sand. He has over 40 years practical experience in both public and private geotechnical projects in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta (PRD). Most notable was plan, design and construction supervision of an innovative and environmental friendly scheme to house an existing service reservoir inside a cavern to make room for the development of the HKU Centenary Campus. Edwin is now VP of HKIE and in the past twenty years, he has been actively involved in serving HKIE in different committees and boards and was the Chairman of the Geotechnical Division in 2014. He has been a core member of HKGES for 15 years.



Dr Clarence E. CHOI
Core member

Clarence is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Hong Kong (HKU). His research is on sustainable development against subaerial and subaqueous landslides. He is Chair of the debris flow and steep creek hazards mitigation committee of the Association of Geohazard Professionals (AGHP), board member of the International Consortium of Landslides of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), chair-nominated member of TC208 (slope stability) of the ISSMGE, and Hong Kong's representative for the Joint Technical Committee (JTC1) on natural slopes and landslides. Dr Choi received the 2017 Telford Premium Prize from the Institution of Civil Engineers in UK and the 2017 R.M. Quigley award from the Canadian Geotechnical Society.

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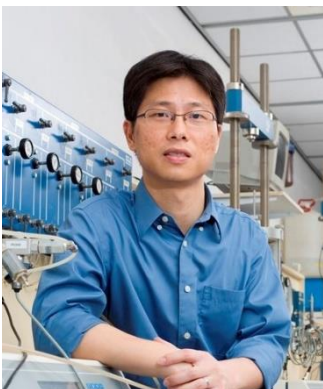
Dr Anthony K. LEUNG
Core member

Anthony is an Assistant Professor and the Associate Director of the Geotechnical Centrifuge Facility at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). Prior to his appointment at HKUST in 2018, Anthony was a Senior Lecturer and have been working in the Discipline of Civil Engineering at the University of Dundee, UK for five years. His expertise is unsaturated soil mechanics, root biomechanics, vegetation effects on slope hydrology and stability, tree stability. Anthony is the awardee of the *International Award for Innovation in Unsaturated Soil Mechanics* by TC106 (Unsaturated Soils). Anthony is the Editor-in-Chief of the Bulletin of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE). He is also serving the Editorial Boards of international journals, including *Canadian Geotechnical Journal*, *Landslides*, and *Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE)*, *Geotechnical Engineering Journal*.



Ir James Sze
Core member

James is the Leader of Geotechnics & Maritime Group in Arup Hong Kong and manages a pool of resources and skills development of over 200 technical staff. The Group houses expertise in Geotechnics, Tunnel, Maritime and Energy. He has taken a leading role in various aspects of infrastructure projects including site investigation planning, land study, reclamation, pile study, foundation design, slope inspection, slope stability assessment, retaining wall design, tunnel and deep basement excavation & lateral support design. The projects he has been involved cover a wide range of structures and construction cost located in Hong Kong as well as overseas. James was the Chairman of the Geotechnical Division of the HKIE in 2016/17 session and has served in various committees/panels/boards for the institution as well as the Hong Kong government. He is an adjunct associate professor with the Civil Department of the HKU.



Dr Yu WANG
Core member

Yu is an Associate Professor of geotechnical engineering at City University of Hong Kong. He is a Registered Professional Civil Engineer in Hong Kong and an elected Fellow of ASCE. He served as president of ASCE Hong Kong Section in 2012-2013. His recent research efforts have focused on analytics and simulation of spatial data, machine learning in geotechnical engineering, geotechnical uncertainty, reliability and risk, and numerical simulation of large deformation problems in geotechnical engineering. His research has earned several international recognitions, including the Highly Cited Research Award by the international journal of *Engineering Geology* in 2017, the First Class Award of the Natural Science Award in 2017, Hubei Provincial Government, China, the GEOSNet Young Researcher Award by the Geotechnical Safety Network (GEOSNet) in 2015 in the Netherlands, and the Wilson Tang Best Paper Award in 2012 in Singapore. Dr Wang has authored/co-authored more than 140 technical publications, including about 90 journal papers and 2 books by Wiley and Springer respectively.

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Dr Louis L. N. WONG

Louis is an Associate Professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Hong Kong (HKU). He is also the Programme Director of the Master of Science in the field of Applied Geosciences and Postgraduate Diploma in Earth Sciences. His teaching and research interests are in engineering geology, rock mechanics and underground engineering. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment* (Springer). He won the Richard Wolter's Prize from the International Association of Engineering Geology and Environment in 2014.

Promoting geotechnical engineering to undergraduates in civil engineering

The first event organised by the new cabinet of the HKGES was an education session in May 2019, supported by the Geotechnical Division (GD) of the HKIE. This is in line with the 'Geotechnical Pioneer' programme of the GD to promote Geotechnical Engineering. The event was a two-hour session aiming to promote the geotechnical engineering professions and introduce geotechnical engineers' challenges to undergraduate students. The event was taken place at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) during a core course entitled "Discovering Civil and Environmental Engineering" lectured by Dr Anthony Leung.

The invited speakers were Ir Chris LEE (from C. M. Wong & Associates Lid.; Fig. 1), Ir Maureen NG (from ESA Consulting Engineers Ltd.; Fig. 2), the chairman-elect and vice-chairlady-elect of the GD, HKIE, respectively, and Miss Lotty LEE (Fig. 3), a fresh graduate geotechnical engineer working for the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO), Civil Engineering Development Department (CEDD), HKSAR. The moderator of the event was Dr Anthony Leung.

The session was interactive. After the speakers' introduction and sharing, students have been actively asking a lot of interesting and intelligent questions; for example, what is the role of innovation and technology in geotechnical engineering sector under this very fast-transforming digital era; the importance of geotechnics in creating a more sustainable built environment; differences of overseas practice and chartership etc.



Fig. 1. Chris introducing geotechnical engineering and major tasks of geotechnical engineers



Fig. 2. Maureen sharing her work experiences in consultants

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Fig. 3. Lotty sharing the importance of university education and training in her daily practical work

There are more upcoming events and activities organized by the HKGES. Please follow their updates in the society's website: <http://www.hkges.org/home.vbhtml>.