



香港地貌岩石保育協會
Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong

Asia-Pacific Seminar on Geological Conservation and Sustainable Development

2008

The Asia-Pacific Seminar on Geological Conservation and Sustainable Development 2008 was held in Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wanchai on August 13, 2008 with the participation of more than 200 engineers, architects, landscape architects, planners and other professionals.

The Secretary for Environment, Mr. Edward Yau JP officiated the opening of the seminar and had delivered an inspiring speech on the geological conservation of Hong Kong. Four international geological conservation experts were invited. They include Dr. Patrick McKeever of the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland, Dr. Werner Janoschek of the UN International Year of Planer Earth, Prof. Anze Chen of the China Academy of Geological Sciences and Prof. Kuiyuan Tao of the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources. They were joined by six other local experts of engineering and academic backgrounds. The speakers presented a total of 10 papers.

The presentations were then followed by a discussion forum with the involvement of invited discussion panel members and the seminar participants. The seminar was extremely successful in bringing forth the geoconservation issues and aroused the extensive interests of different professionals. It was the first geoconservation seminar in the region and would certainly act as a milestone for more similar seminars and conferences in the future.

**The appendix is the closing speech delivered by Mr. Young C Y NG



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The Seminar



Guests & speakers



Mr. Edward Yau JP



Dr. Werner JANOSCHEK



Dr. Sam K C NG



Dr. K M Yeung



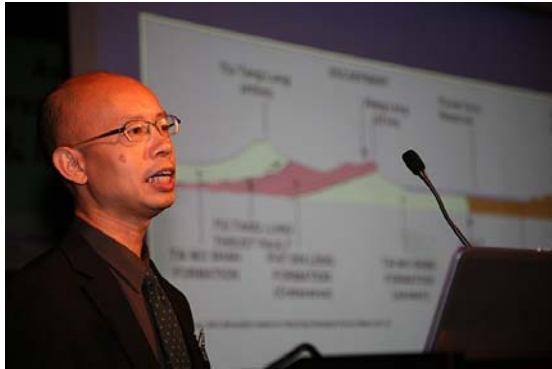
Dr. Patrick McKEEVER



Dr. Lawal MARAFA



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Mr. Julian T H Kwong



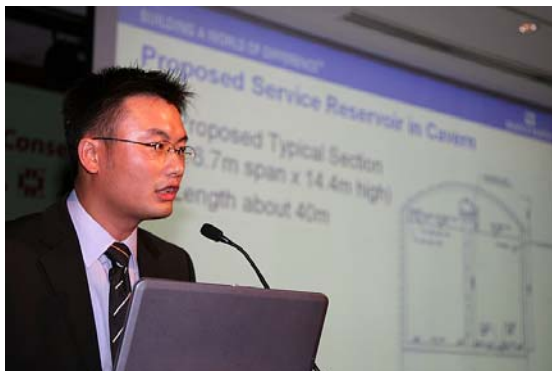
Dr. Sai L NG



Prof. Anze CHEN



Prof. Kuiyuan TAO



Ir Chris C W CHAN



Speakers and all Committee members



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Discussion Forum



Snapshots



~ We are ready ~



~ AGHK booth ~



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Appendix

Asia Pacific Seminar on Geological Conservation and Sustainable Development 2008

Closing speech, August 13, 2008

By Young C.Y. Ng, chairman of the Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong (AGHK)

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues and friends,

Thank you very much for participating in today's seminar. It is indeed my great pleasure to be here to speak a few words on behalf of the organizing committee.

Our environment is composed of both biological and physical components. Nature conservation in the past decades has been mainly focused on biological conservation. Insufficient attention has been paid to the physical, especially the geological part of it, despite the fact that it is considered as important habitats and foundation of all ecosystems. In recent years, geological conservation, or rather called geoconservation, has been upgraded into a global nature conservation movement. It has been initiated by the Unesco as one of the most important approaches to protect the physical part of our environment. With this seminar, Hong Kong is proud to act as the pioneer in geoconservation in the Asia-Pacific region and certainly be a strong supporter of this Unesco global movement.

The hard works we have done in the past two years are extremely rewarding. We are very lucky to have marvellous supports from many enthusiastic engineers and other professionals, particularly from the Geotechnical and the Young Members' Divisions of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, joining hand in hand with other organizations to promote geological conservation directly in their own professional sectors as well as to the public.

We sincerely hope that the seminar can be sustainable and will continue to bring colleagues and experts from different professional backgrounds in the region or other parts of the world to sit together and share their views and experiences. The geoconservation momentum has been ignited by all of us here and like the Olympic torch, it will never vanish as long as we are all willing to contribute a little effort to keep it going.

I encourage all colleagues and friends to continue to work together with us, for a successful geoconservation for Hong Kong and in the region. Not only we are ready to



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make Hong Kong a better place to live, we are also ready to act as a pioneer and demonstrate to the Asia Pacific region or even the world our determination to protect our geology.

I have to thank the HK Institution of Engineers, especially Dr. Eric Li and Mr. Ringo Yu, who have secured funding from the government to make possible the holding of this event.

We are also very pleased to be strongly supported by various government departments o, in particular, the Environmental Bureau, in having Mr. Edward Yau, our Secretary for Environment, acting as our Guest of Honour of the seminar, the Economic and Development Bureau, in funding this seminar; the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, in offering their wonderful manpower and logistics to promote geoconservation and geoscientific education to the public; the Civil Engineering Development Department, in substantiating all technical data for establishing baseline information for geoconservation planning and management.

We are certainly grateful to our international guest speakers, our good friends from the Unesco, Dr. Patrick McKeever and Dr. Werner Janoschek, who have both cut short their stay in Oslo, Norway, for the IUGS's 33rd International Geological Congress, to make themselves possible to come to Hong Kong to share their experiences with us.

Special thanks are also extended to Prof. Anze Chen from the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Beijing and Prof. KuyuanTao from Nanjing Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources. They are currently the two most important national leaders of geoconservation in China. Their views and experiences are invaluable to all of us.

The success of this seminar, of course, cannot be achieved without the great help of the Secretariat, especially Ms. May Ho and all our dedicated volunteers from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers and Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong. Their powerful support to every detail of the seminar ensures the smoothness of the running of the whole event. To all of you, I would like to say “thank you”.

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues and friends, I hereby declare the closing of the seminar and wish you all very good health and all the best.

Thank you very much.

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