The Spain Study Tour

On 25-30 May 2009 a group of year 2 students studying Building Engineering and Management together with two professors (Dr. Michael Yam and Dr. Steven Tsang) of the Department of Building and Real Estate, PolyU went to Barcelona and Valencia for international study. The tour was organized by an organizing committee formed by students. The committee learnt to strike a balance between technical/academic visits and cultural visits/sightseeing.

Things ran smoothly for this successful event. They have visited several organizations and institutions.

- Fargas Associats Arquitectes (architecture firm)
- Contratas y Obras Empresa Constructora, S. A. (contractor firm)
- The Agora (construction site)
- The Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Familia (construction site)
- Universitat Politécnica de Catalunya (university)
- Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (university)
- Network of International Civil Engineering Students (student union)

The international study programme consisted of seminars, lab. Visits, construction site visits and gathering with local students from Spain. Although this tour was only limited to 6 days, students’ exploration would never end, as it has already opened their eyes to the global village. This tour was highlighted by visiting Mr. Josep Maria Fargas Falp, the founder of the Fargas Associats Arquitectes. His design showed students how he planned to make buildings more sustainable and life cycle cost effective. Reporters from TV3 interviewed Mr. Fargas at the time when students visited his studio and architectures. “What interests me the most when designing a building is to make sure that it lasts longer than a common building”, he said.

Sustainability in the building & construction industry is the hottest debate for years in Hong Kong. It is believed that after this Spain study tour, students could make good use of their knowledge they gained and share new ideas with the community.