Professor Albert Chan, Associate Head of the Department of Building and Real Estate, received the nomination of the Efficiency Unit of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the invitation from Dr Christina Liu, Minister, Council for Economic Planning and Development (CEPD), Taiwan to share his professional views on the hot topic ‘Dealing with Construction Permits’ in ‘APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Seminar on the First Steps of Successful Reform in Doing Business’ in Taipei in early October 2010.

Organized by CEPD of Taiwan, the Seminar aimed at reinforcing the development of the domestic business environment in consistency with the APEC Ease of Doing Business Action Plan. There was a big turn-out of 22 experts from 14 APEC economies and more than 80 delegates from Taiwan’s business, governmental and academic fields.

In accordance with the Doing Business 2011 Report of the World Bank, Hong Kong’s smart procedures in the issue of ‘dealing with construction permits’ has earned the top ranking amongst 183 economies for two consecutive years. It is one of the indicators of assessing an economy’s Ease of Doing Business. In the Seminar, Professor Chan elaborated that Hong Kong’s reform of administrative procedures has effectively stuck a balance between the simplification of application process and the needs of public safety and health when dealing with construction permits. In 2008, the establishment of a ‘one-stop centre for warehouse construction permits’ was a great success in handling concurrent applications for different approvals and reducing the number of procedures as well as shortening the application time. This is the primary reason for Hong Kong’s remarkable achievement in this ranking.

In recognition of Professor Chan’s contribution and endeavor in developing the Doing Business indicators, the World Bank has conferred the ‘Doing Business Award’ on him for four consecutive years since 2006. Congratulations go to Professor Chan on his achievement.
22 experts from 14 APEC economies participated in the Seminar

Prof Albert Chan shared his views on ‘Dealing with Construction Permits’ in the APEC Seminar