

The Outstanding BRE Alumni Award 2016 – Awardee Brief Biography



Mr. CHEUNG Hau Wai, SBS

*Higher Diploma in Building Surveying and Technology
(Year of Award : 1968)
Hong Kong Technical College*

Mr. Cheung Hau Wai studied Building Surveying and Technology in the then Hong Kong Technical College (currently, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University) from 1965 to 1968 and was awarded a Higher Diploma in Building Surveying and Technology.

He still remembers well the advice he received from his Section Head on the first day of his study in the Surveying Section in the College. “There will be plenty of practical bricklaying, plumbing, woodwork and plastering work in the workshop and if one does not wish to get his or her hands dirty, one should not continue with the study”. He of course pressed on, but the workshop laid the very foundation for any person wishing to join the construction industry.

After graduation from the Hong Kong Technical College, Mr. Cheung joined the Hong Kong Government in 1968, and continued his part time study and was elected a Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in 1970. He is also a Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors.

In his professional career, he was posted to the then Buildings Ordinance Office, Architectural Office, Building Development Department and the Buildings Department. He took part in the Kotewall Road landslide and other natural disaster remedial operations and investigations to prevent re-occurrence. In the process, he fully experienced and still wishes to advocate the need for different disciplines of the building professions (structural, civil, fire, building services, surveying, etc.) to work together to tackle issues related to the built environment.

Mr. Cheung retired from the Government as Director of Buildings in 2009, and was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star.

After retirement, Mr. Cheung continues to serve the building industry through his appointment as a Member of the Construction Industry Council (CIC), which he also served as the Chairman of the Site Safety Committee. He led the review of the nature and causes of safety incidents on construction sites. He also co-ordinated the issuance of CIC’s Safety Guidelines and Alerts to address many of the safety issues and to protect the safety of construction workers, whose aspiration he knows well from the days of bricklaying, plumbing, plastering and wood work in the workshops of the Hong Kong Technical College.

The CIC Safety Committee also took part in organizing Construction Site Safety Week, now an annual event to promote and engage stakeholders and workers on site safety.

On voluntary charitable work, Mr. Cheung joined the professional team led by Sr Professor Francis Lau Shiu Kwan in organizing and providing building professional support for the reconstruction of essential facilities and buildings in the country side of Sichuan, which were damaged by the 2008 earthquake.

Mr. Cheung is also a Member of the Town Planning Board. Mr. Cheung was appointed Chairman of the Hong Kong Green Building Council on 1 January 2016. Apart from implementing Hong Kong’s own green building rating system ‘BEAM Plus’, the Council is now looking into how it may facilitate Hong Kong in meeting the target set by COP21 in Paris in late 2015. Mr. Cheung is pleased and grateful to have another opportunity to work with different disciplines of building professions and environment experts in promoting sustainable building development and green living lifestyle in the community.