

**BSE CPD Public Lecture: A Review of Rocket-Triggered Lightning Experiments  
at Camp Blanding, Florida on 2 November 2012**

The Department of Building Services Engineering (BSE) of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) held a CPD Lecture on "A Review of Rocket-Triggered Lightning Experiments at Camp Blanding, Florida" on 2 November 2012. BSE was honored to have Professor Rakov from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of University of Florida, USA as the speaker. Professionals in the industry and research students attended the lecture.



**Prof. V.A. Rakov from  
University of Florida, USA**



**Brief introduction by Prof. DU**

After a short introduction by BSE Professor DU Yaping, Professor Rakov presented lightning-triggering techniques and selected results from the rocket-triggered-lightning experiments at Camp Blanding, Florida. Since 1993, triggered-lightning experiments have been conducted at the International Center for Lightning Research and Testing (ICLRT) at Camp Blanding, Florida. Over 40 scientists and engineers from 15 countries representing 4 continents have participated in joint experiments at the ICLRT.

In addition, to emphasize the significance of such experiments, Professor Rakov stressed that every year there are some 25 million cloud-to-ground discharges occurring in the United States alone. There are more Americans being killed by lightning than tornadoes and hurricanes combined. A lightning strike to an unprotected object or system can be catastrophic. From an academic point of view, many aspects of the physics of the lightning discharge and its interaction with objects and systems can only be properly understood by way of measurements made on very close lightning. Furthermore, Professor Rakov explained how the study of the properties of the lightning discharge and the effects of close lightning could be made practical via the use of artificially initiated (triggered) lightning.

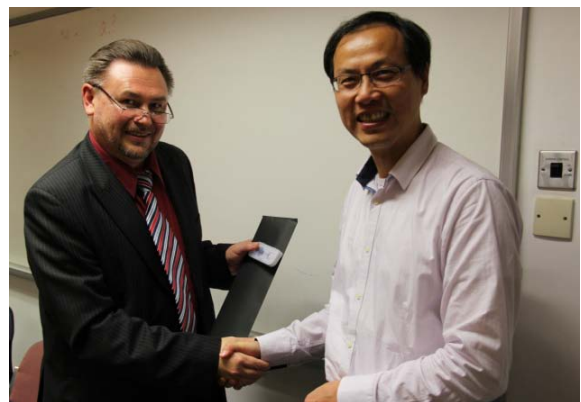
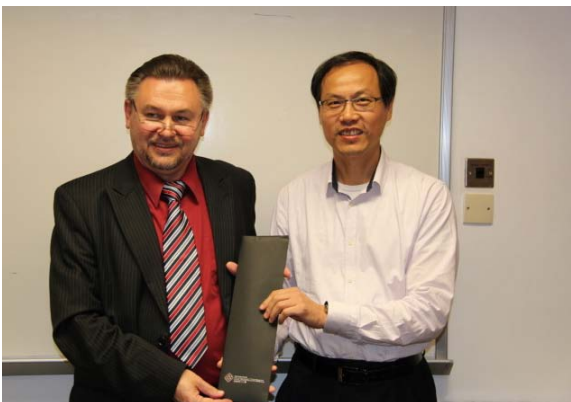


**Participants in the lecture**

Before the lecture came to an end, there was a 15-minutes long Q&A session to facilitate understanding. There were some meaningful questions raised by the participants.



**Q&A Session - Questions from participants**



**Prof. Du Presenting souvenir to Prof. Rakov**

Professor Rakov received the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from the Tomsk Polytechnical University, Russia, in 1977 and 1983, respectively. He is currently a Professor at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Florida, Gainesville, and Co-Director of the International Center for Lightning Research and Testing (ICLRT). He is the author or coauthor of 2 books - "Lightning: Physics and Effects" and "How Dangerous Is Lightning?", 16 book chapters, 32 patents, and over 500 other publications on various aspects of lightning, with over 200 papers being published in reviewed journals.

He is Co-Chairman of URSI WG E.4 "Lightning Discharges and Related Phenomena" and Convener of CIGRE WG C4.407 "Lightning Parameters for Engineering Applications". He is a Fellow of 4 major professional societies, the IEEE, the American Meteorological Society, the American Geophysical Union, and the Institution of Engineering and Technology (formerly IEE). He is also a recipient of 2012 ICLP Karl Berger Award for distinguished achievements in lightning research, developing new fields in theory and practice, modeling and measurements.

9 November 2012