

BSE News (July 2011)

Joint Research Programme with the Fire Services Department

A joint research programme on investigating fire safety of supertall buildings, underground spaces and domestic sprinklers with the Fire Services Department (FSD) was just started on 11 June, 2011. The programme is led by Professor W.K. Chow, assisted by Dr. N.K. Fong and Dr. Gigi C.H. Lui. The research team in FSD is led by Mr. T.K. Tam, Mr. K.Y. So and Mr. Y.K. Mau. Five young energetic fire officers with good knowledge in fire engineering were selected to work with the Research Centre for Fire Engineering for one year.

There will be regular meetings on the topics. Results investigated by each officer will be prepared as a dissertation. Bench-scale experiments on materials combustibility and fire equipment calibration will be carried out at the fire engineering laboratory of PolyU-BSE. Full-scale burning tests on real fire scenarios will be arranged at the Fire Services Training School (FSTS) of FSD. Results from this joint research project will be compiled into fire codes and standards for supertall buildings, underground spaces and domestic sprinklers in Hong Kong.

There had been long-term collaboration between FSD and Professor Chow since 1986. Example projects include upper limit of fire load density in buildings, review on performance-based design projects starting from the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and later, the mega project at the Chak Lap Kok Airport. The most recent project was on evaluating the performance of portable breathing apparatus. That project lasted for over one year. Several sets of full-scale burning tests on evaluating the performance of portable breathing apparatus under post-flashover fires were carried out at FSTS. Results were accepted by the authority.



The Joint PolyU/FSD Research Team