

**Griffith University – Workshop on
Residual Soils, Slopes and Landslides in Hong Kong**

- Dr TAM Heng-kong – M.Eng., Ph.D.

The Programme (18 and 19 February 2009)

	18 February 2009	19 February 2009
9:00 – 10:30 am	Session 1 Topography, Geology, Residual Soils, Rainfall – Hong Kong	Session 5 Ground Investigation, Field Instrumentation, Monitoring, Workshop Exercise
10:45 – 12:15 pm	Session 2 Rainfall and Landslides	Session 6 Landslide Investigation, Emergency and Remedial Works
Lunch Break		
1:00 – 3:00 pm	Session 3 Landslides History in Hong Kong, Types of Landslides, Case Studies <i>[A Video on Landslide History in Hong Kong (5 minutes)]</i>	Session 7 Global approach on Slope Safety in Hong Kong – Part 1
3:30 – 5:00 pm	Session 4 Fundamental Soil Mechanics Principles, Laboratory Tests, Stability of Slopes, Workshop Exercises	Session 8 Global approach on Slope Safety in Hong Kong – Part 2 <i>[A Video on Safe and Green Slopes in Hong Kong (3 minutes)]</i>

Introduction

Hong Kong's steeply hilly terrain, heavy rain and dense development make the community prone to risk from landslides. The slopes are of deeply weathered rocks resulting in thick layers of residual soils so slope failures are very common during the rainy season. The rainfall is high with an annual average of 2,300 mm which falls mostly in the summer months between May and September, and very often the rainfall intensities are very high. Hong Kong's total land area is only about 1,100 square kilometres, and there is severe shortage of flat land. Many residential properties and facilities have been developed on hilly terrain so the consequences of these slope failures are often disastrous.

Some notable landslides between 1972 and 2008 are described to illustrate the disastrous consequences. The establishment of a comprehensive Slope Safety System over the last three decades in Hong Kong has played an important role in the prevention of landslide disasters and reduction of the landslide risk to the community. On-going improvements to the Slope Safety System are made based on the lessons learned from these landslides.

Bio-data

Dr Tam Heng-kong obtained his M.Eng. and Ph.D. degrees respectively from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok in 1981 and the City University, UK in 1992. He now works as a Senior Geotechnical Engineer in the Public Works Central Laboratory, Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. He has geotechnical experience in many countries since 1981, including Singapore, UK, Australia before joining the HKSAR Government in 1995.

7 February 2009