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Chinese National Engineering Research Centre for Steel Construction (Hong Kong Branch) Newsletter – Special Issue (July 2022)

1 July 2022 marks an important milestone for the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. President Xi Jinping visited Hong Kong to preside over the celebration of Hong Kong's return to the motherland.

On the afternoon of 30 June 2022, President Xi Jinping accompanied by Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, visited the Hong Kong Science Park. As a key member of Hong Kong's Functional Constituency – Technology and Innovation, Prof. K. F. Chung, Director of CNERC joined the academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Engineering, scientific researchers, and representatives of young innovation and technology enterprises in Hong Kong to welcome President Xi Jinping and have a cordial exchange with the President.



Exchange between President Xi and the academicians and researchers

The CNERC was invited to participate in the Hong Kong Innovation and Technology Industry Exhibition, to show President Xi the research and development work and engineering application results of the CNERC, and to introduce the world's first application of Chinese Q690 high strength steel to a large-scale infrastructure project, Cross Bay Link Double Arch Steel Bridge in Tseung Kwan O, to promote Chinese steel products to the world.



Exhibits of CNERC

On 1 July 1 2022, President Xi’s speech at the “25th Anniversary Conference of Hong Kong’s Return to the Motherland cum Inauguration Ceremony of the Sixth Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region”, he explained that “China emphasizes great importance to technological innovation work and implements the innovation-driven development strategy. Supporting the establishment of an international innovation and technology center in Hong Kong is included in the ‘14th Five-Year Plan’ and has high expectations for Hong Kong. It is hoped that Hong Kong will fully make use of its advantages, gather global innovation resources, and combine with the mainland cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area to strengthen the innovation synergy of industry, academia and research, and strive to build a global technological innovation highland. Hong Kong science and technology personnel are an important force for my country to implement the innovation-driven development strategy and build an innovative country. I hope that everyone will continue to carry forward the tradition of loving the country and Hong Kong, strengthen self-confidence in innovation, aim at the frontier of science and technology in the world, actively meet the country's major strategic needs, focus on conquering key core technologies, and contribute to building my country into a world power in science and technology.”



In response to President Xi's above-mentioned speech, Prof. Chung said:

The construction industry in Hong Kong must have a close collaborative and complementary relationship with Mainland China. According to a survey, in the past five years, the average output value of the construction industry accounted for 6% of Hong Kong's local GDP, and if all related professional and financial businesses are considered, the proportion is as high as 8%. China has a huge steel output since 2015, which accounted for more than 50% of the world's steel output. More importantly, steel structures are produced in huge quantities in coastal areas of China, as well as in areas such as the Greater Bay Area, and can be shipped to Hong Kong by sea and land. Here are two suggestions:

- Due to the excellent structural properties and cost-effectiveness of Chinese steel, the construction industry in Hong Kong should widely use high-quality Chinese steel for construction steel structures. It is worth noting that the Hong Kong construction industry has used British and European steel specifications for many years, but has limited understanding of the standards, quality control and supply of Chinese steel. This situation needs to be improved. The Cross Bay Link Double Arch Steel Bridge in Tseung Kwan O is a very successful example, proving that the Chinese steel structure can meet the strict requirements of EU's material, design and construction standards, and the Hong Kong SAR Government is also happy to accept the adoption of Chinese steel structure. This project clearly demonstrates that the Hong Kong construction industry is fully capable of promoting the application of Chinese steel structures in world-class construction projects.
- Modular Integrated Construction (MiC), which has been heavily promoted by the government in recent years, is a good example of the adoption of Chinese construction products in the Greater Bay Area in Hong Kong, especially the completion of 50,000 self-isolation units between March to May 2022. After accumulating these experiences, the Hong Kong construction industry should work closely with its counterparts in the Greater Bay Area to set up MiC units specially built for Hong Kong, thereby alleviating the housing demand in Hong Kong. After collaborating with counterparts in the Greater Bay Area and accumulating sufficient experience, a stable supply chain can be established for the Hong Kong and overseas markets.

On 4 July 2022, the “Hong Kong Science and Technology Symposium on Learning and Implementing the Spirit of President Xi Jinping's Important Speech” co-hosted by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Academicians Alliance and the Beijing-Hong Kong Academic Exchange Center was held in the Hong Kong Science Park. Mr. Tan Tieniu, Deputy Director of Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, Prof. Sun Dong, Director of Innovation and Technology Bureau, and Prof. Nancy Ip, Chairman of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Academicians Alliance attended the meeting and delivered speeches.

A number of academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Engineering, Presidents of local universities, representatives of the Technology and Innovation Sector, representatives of technology companies and other industry talents in Hong Kong discussed about their expertise knowledge, understanding and profound experience of the spirit of President Xi's important speech based on their respective fields, as well as suggestions on enhancing scientific research exchanges and collaboration between Hong Kong and Mainland China.



“Hong Kong Science and Technology Symposium on Learning and Implementing the Spirit of President Xi Jinping's Important Speech”

Prof. K. F. Chung, Director of CNERC, was invited to attend the Symposium. Prof. Chung believes that many large-scale infrastructures in Hong Kong currently use steel produced in the Mainland, and Hong Kong can play an active role in helping the export of Chinese steel to all over the world.