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**Chinese National Engineering Research Centre for Steel Construction
(Hong Kong Branch)
Newsletter – Special Issue (February 2026)**

Outstanding NEC Team Performance Awards 2025
The Winner Award in Excellence in Innovation and Technology Adoption

On 30 January 2026, **Prof. K.F. Chung** attended the **Outstanding NEC Team Performance Award 2025 Presentation Ceremony**, and received *the Winner Award in Excellence in Innovation and Technology Adoption* together with **Ir Michael H.S. Fong, Director of Civil Engineering and Development**, **Ir Joyce Y.Y. Lau, Project Manager of North Development Office**, and senior engineers owing to the success of a CEDD construction project using ultra-high strength S960 steel. The Award was presented by **Ir Ricky C.K. Lau, Permanent Secretary (Works), Development Bureau**.



A group photo of Ir Ricky Lau and the winning project team led by Ir Michael Fong and Ir Joyce Lau, and Prof. K.F. Chung

Among a total of about 60 public projects, the CEDD project of applying S960 high strength steel in two large-scale pedestrian footbridges, namely, Footbridges F4 and F6, in the North Metropolis Area of the New Territories was selected to receive the Winner Award. The title of the winning project was “*The World’s First Ultra-high Strength S960 Steel Footbridges in the Northern Metropolis*”. The project client was Civil Engineering and Development Department while the project team was led by AECOM Asia Co. Ltd. and Joint Venture of Daewoo E&C, Chun Wo C&E, Kwan Lee Holding.

Owing to a lack of technical guidance on structural design of S960 high strength steel, it was decided to perform a series of research and development to formulate “*an innovative technology for effective use of S960 high strength steel in construction*”. Under a MOU signed between CNERC and CEDD in June 2023, Prof. K.F. Chung was engaged by the Joint Venture in the past three years to develop the effective use of S960 steel stiffened box sections for Footbridges F4 and F6 as replacements to in-site reinforced concrete box girders. Project deliverables include:

- a comprehensive review on current design rules and related information for S960 steel members and sections available in the literature;
- a series of systematic experimental and numerical investigations into structural behaviour of stiffened box sections of S960 steel;
- drafting of test reports and design reports;
- welding procedures specifications for shop fabrication using automatic welding systems;
- developing robotic site welding, and training of robotic welding operators; and
- control of distortion in welded sections, and inspection of welding defects.

All these were completed together by Prof. K.F. Chung, Dr. H.C. Ho, Dr. Y.F. Hu, Dr. B. Li and Dr. M.F. Zhu.

Owing to an effective collaboration among all parties of the project team at various construction stages, significant savings in materials, and construction costs and time were achieved.

The Presentation Ceremony was held at the Hong Kong Palace Museum of the West Kowloon Cultural District, and it was attended by about 250 engineers and construction professionals. It should be noted that the event was officiated by **Ir Ricky C.K. Lau, Permanent Secretary (Works) of Development Bureau**. It should be noted that only eight projects were awarded out of about 60 entries.



Ir Lau promoted strongly on effective collaboration among project team members.

During his Opening Speech, Ir Lau emphasized on the importance of collaboration among clients, consultants and contractors in successful project delivery. He also promoted strongly on construction innovation through the use of new materials, efficient methods and effective advanced technology.



A group photo of all attendees at the venue.



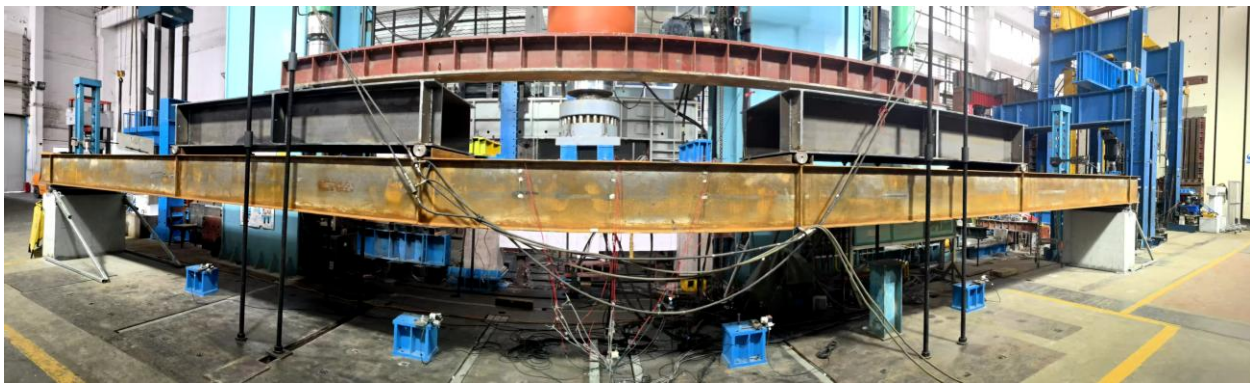
The Winner Award of **Excellence in Innovation and Technology Adoption**
“World’s First Ultra-high Strength S960 Steel Footbridges in the Northern Metropolis”



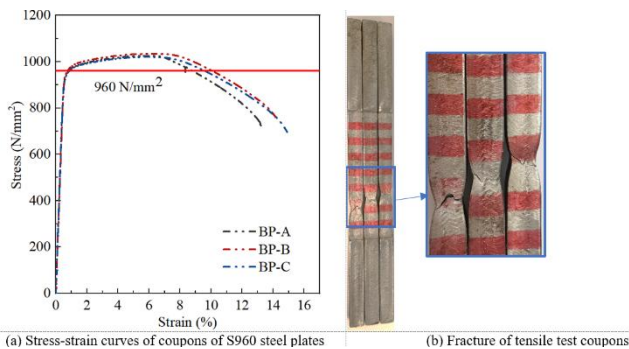
Footbridge F4 across Ng Tung River



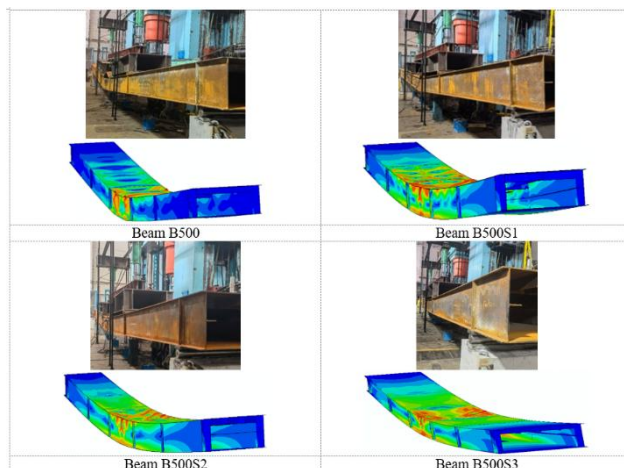
Footbridge F6 at Lung Yeuk Tau Interchange



Experimental investigation into structural behaviour of S960 stiffened box sections under lateral loads
 Cross-section dimensions: $D = 500 \text{ mm}$, $B = 1,270 \text{ mm}$, $t = 10 \text{ mm}$. Beam span, $L = 16 \text{ m}$.



Engineering stress-strain curves of S960 steel obtained from standard tensile tests



Numerical investigation into structural behaviour of S960 steel stiffened box sections

The Outstanding NEC Team Performance Awards 2025

The Outstanding New Engineering Contracts (NEC) Team Performance Awards (“Awards”) were organised by the Development Bureau (www.devb.gov.hk) to recognise outstanding project teams of construction / maintenance works in Hong Kong, which have exemplified the core NEC principles of mutual trust and cooperation to enhance project performance through effective collaborative partnering.



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OUTSTANDING NEC TEAM PERFORMANCE AWARDS 2025

The Awards celebrate exceptional efforts contributory to remarkable collaboration among clients, consultants, and contractors — demonstrating how teamwork, synergized with excellence in site supervision, contract administration and problem solving, can translate the concept of collaboration into tangible, impactful outcomes. By recognising project teams which have truly displayed the NEC spirit to overcome challenges and achieve outstanding project outcomes, the Awards highlight best practice and share successful stories within the industry.

The Awards aim to continuously inspire and motivate Hong Kong’s construction industry to embrace the NEC ethos and foster a collaborative culture that drives excellence in project outcomes.

There are two award categories:

- **Excellence in Partnering 卓越夥伴合作獎**

To recognize project teams which have embraced and successfully applied the core principles of NEC in making transformative changes in their contracts, leading to remarkable project outcomes.

- **Excellence in Innovation & Technology Adoption 卓越創新科技應用獎**

To recognize project teams who have excelled the project delivery practices through successful adoption of innovation & technology solutions under a collaborative partnering approach.

With the Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) of the Development Bureau as the Chair, the Judging Panel comprises senior members from

- Thomas Telford Limited,
- the Association of Consulting Engineers of Hong Kong,
- the Construction Industry Council, and
- the Hong Kong Construction Association.