Chinese National Engineering Research Centre for Steel Construction (Hong Kong Branch) Newsletter – Special Issue (May 2023)

Prof. K. F. Chung, Director of CNERC honoured with National Award for Excellence in Innovation

On 30 May 2023, the "Celebration of National Science and Technology Workers' Day and National Innovation Award Commendation Conference" jointly organized by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, the China Association for Science and Technology, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council was grandly held in Beijing. Professor K. F. Chung, Director of CNERC, PolyU won the Individual Award of the Chinese National Innovation and Pioneer Award, and he is the only Hong Kong winner this year.

The "National Award for Excellence in Innovation" as a state-level honour in China for science and technology, this award is for recognizing citizens who have made remarkable contributions to scientific research, key equipment development, and science popularizations since 2017. It was jointly established by the China Association for Science and Technology, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council. Outstanding scientific and technological workers and outstanding teams who have made outstanding contributions in areas such as achievement transformation, innovation and entrepreneurship, popularization of

science and social services. The award is selected and commended every three years, and no more than 300 scientific and technological workers are commended each time. The "Chinese National Innovation Excellence Award" is an important part and supplement of the national science and technology award system. It is an organic connection between the national science and technology award and the major talent plan. It is a scientific and technological talent award second only to the highest national science and technology award.

Prof. Chung is an expert and scholar in the field of steel structure engineering. He has devoted himself to the innovation and practice of the basic theory of steel structure engineering for many years. Prof. Chung has carried out innovative research on high-strength steel structures for nearly 12 years, facing challenges such as the contradiction between performance and cost of large-scale steel structures, and the high carbon emissions of construction. Prof. Chung conducted interdisciplinary research on high-strength steel structures from materials, welding, mechanical properties and structural performance, providing a new development plan for the national engineering construction "dual carbon" strategy.

Prof. Chung has achieved fruitful scientific research results and has important international influence in the field of steel structures. He systematically put forward a series of basic theories and application key technologies of domestic high-strength steel structures, wrote many high-level academic papers, and compiled many technical standards and guidelines. His core scientific research achievements were evaluated as "internationally leading" by an expert group led by academicians. Prof. Chung's scientific research results have been applied to major projects such as the main span double-arch steel bridge in Tseung Kwan O, Hong Kong and the Fourth Macau-Taipa Bridge, saving hundreds of millions of dollars in construction costs and producing significant economic and social benefits.

Prof. Chung received this award proves once again that the Hong Kong Polytechnic University's technological research and development capabilities can contribute to the development of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region into an international innovation and technology center.