A Preliminary Discussion on Fire Safety Aspects of Supertall Buildings

Professor W.K. Chow
Director, Research Centre for Fire Engineering
Leader, Area of Strength: Fire Safety Engineering
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Abstract:
Many supertall buildings were constructed in the Far East. Fire safety provisions specified in the prescriptive code might not be adequate, as in-depth research on the topic is not yet demonstrated. Consequently, fire safety in there might be a concern. For example, evacuation to the refuge floor might not be accepted by the occupants after the World Trade Centre terrorist attack. Evacuation to outside will take over half an hour even with elevators.

Fire safety aspects in supertall buildings will be outlined in this talk. An intermediate action proposed is to upgrade the active fire engineering systems. Early fire detection system integrated with rapid fire suppression system is necessary. Contaminants, including toxic gases generated from the discharged agent including water, must be removed in order not to affect other areas. This part is under investigation with strong support from the Croucher Foundation.

Speaker:
Professor W.K. Chow is a Chair Professor of Architectural Science and Fire Engineering; Leader, Area of Strength: Fire Safety Engineering; and Director of Research Centre for Fire Engineering at the Department of Building Services Engineering, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

He worked on architectural science, fire and safety engineering, building services engineering, computational fluid dynamics, and building materials in the past 25 years with over 640 papers published, 330 of them are cited by SCI/EI.

Chow is now very active in undertaking consultancy projects including heat release rate estimation, active fire protection systems, fire safety strategy, performance-based design, atrium hot smoke tests, staircase pressurization systems, ventilation provisions and emergency evacuation.

Date: 10 May 2007 (Thursday)
Time: 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Venue: Multi-purpose Hall, G/F, Fire Services Headquarters Building, 1 Hong Chong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon. Venue change to Hong Kong Fire Services Officers’ Mess, 4/F, Tsim Sha Tsui Fire Station Complex, 333 Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.

Registration fee: Free of Charge
CPD certificate: The seminar is recommended for 1.5 CPD hours, and an attendance certificate will be issued upon request.

Free attendance but places are limited.

Please send the completed registration form to Mr YIU Men-yeung by fax: 2722 6234 or email: sso_np_16@hkfsd.gov.hk

For further information please call Mr CHONG Ho-ming at Tel. 2535 3302 or Mr YIU Men-yeung at Tel. 2733 7667.
CPD SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM
(To be replied on or before 4 May 2007)

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To:  Mr YIU Men-yeung

Fax:  2722 6234

Personal Details:

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