

Record of Public Talks

Talk No. 1 18 May 2022

Topic:

Technical Seminar and Webinar on Use of granite in Hong Kong and its exportation in the 19th and 20th Century

19 及 20 世紀花崗岩石在香港及海外之建築用途

Organizer :

Materials Division

Date, Time & Venue

18 May 2022 (Wednesday). Time: 6:30pm -8:00 pm, at Chan Yat Mei Sophie Room, 9/F of the HKIE Headquarters.

Speaker:

Ir Dr. SW Poon is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Real Estate and Construction, The University of Hong Kong. He is a Chartered Structural Engineer, a Corporate Member of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers and a Member of Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management.

He worked in consulting firms for several years before commencing teaching and research at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The National University of Singapore and The University of Hong Kong.

His research areas initially include temporary works design and construction, and investigation of accidents and failures during construction. In the last two decades his research interest has focused on historic lighthouses and heritage waterworks.

Programme Highlights

The aim of this talk is to share the findings from the study on the export of Hong Kong's quality granite in the 19th and 20th century.

In 1844 granite was shipped to China and recorded by the colonial government. During 1850s and 1860s, granite blocks were transported to China, New South Wales, San Francisco and Siam as building materials as well as paving slabs.

In 1852, the Parrott Building in San Francisco was built using Hong Kong granite as the building façade in order to prevent fire. Twenty workers and two supervisors from Hong Kong were also shipped for the erection of this building famous at the time being.

Between 1860 and 1870, granite was quarried in Ngau Tau Kok and Cha Kuo Ling of Kowloon, for the construction of the French Catholic Church in Canton. Dispute was recorded due to the extension in time and the locations quarried.

In 1890, the Gap Rock Lighthouse situated in the Chinese territory was built by a Hong Kong contractor using the granite from Hong Kong.

Between 1928 and 1933, quality granite was chosen as one of the key materials in the projects of The Mausoleum in Nanjing, The Memorial Auditorium and the Memorial Cenotaph in Guangzhou in remembrance of Dr. SUN Yat-sen. These projects were designed by architect LU Yen-chih and constructed partly by contractors from Hong Kong.

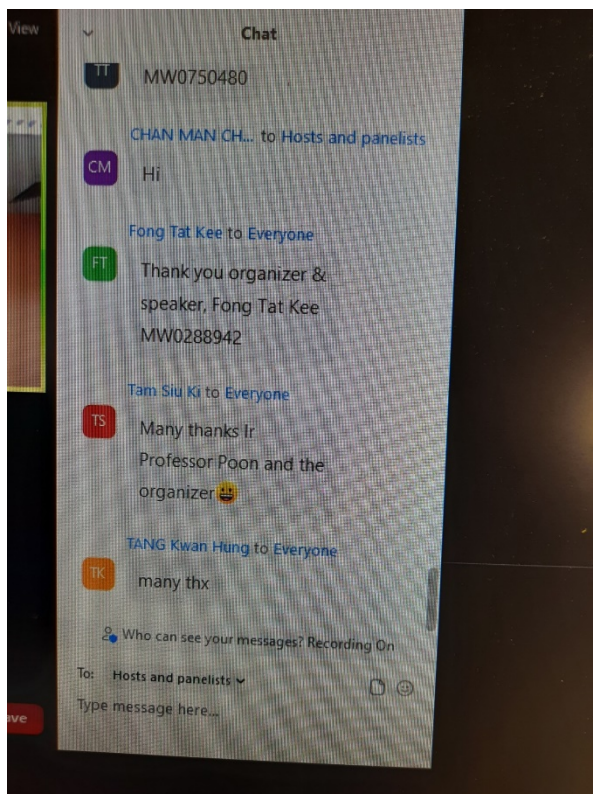
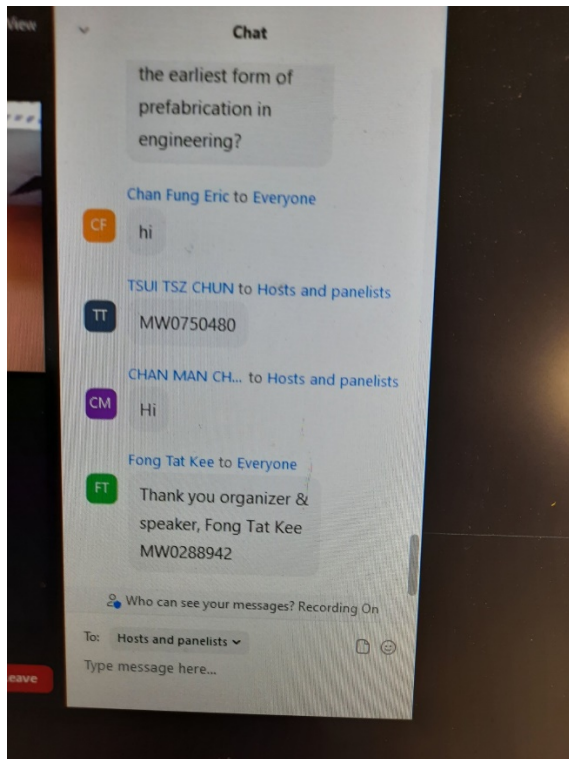
The talk will explore the reasons why Hong Kong's granite, not just being substantially used in local construction, but also exported to China and other countries.

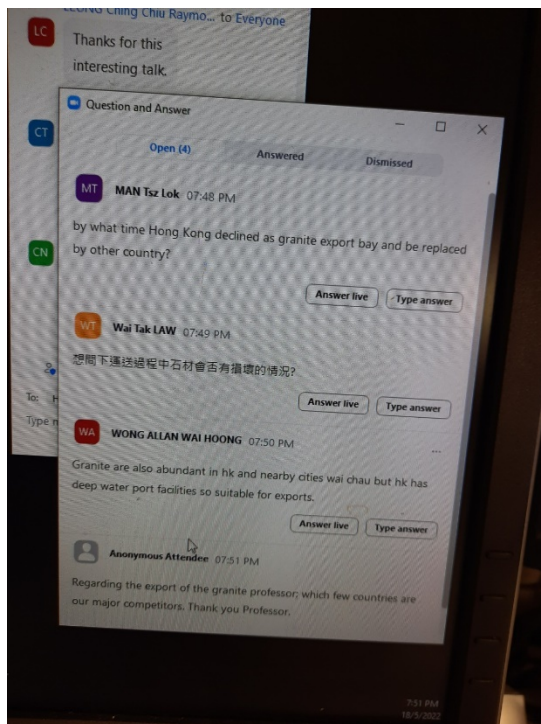
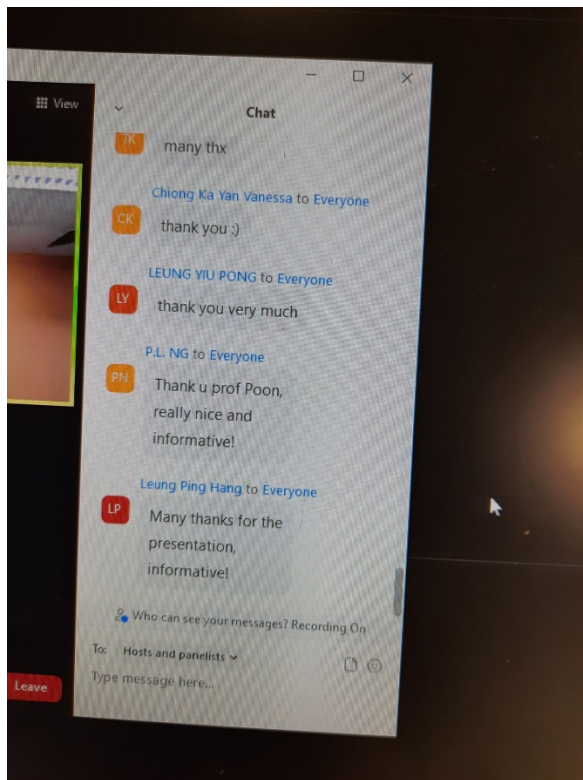
Registration & Enquiries

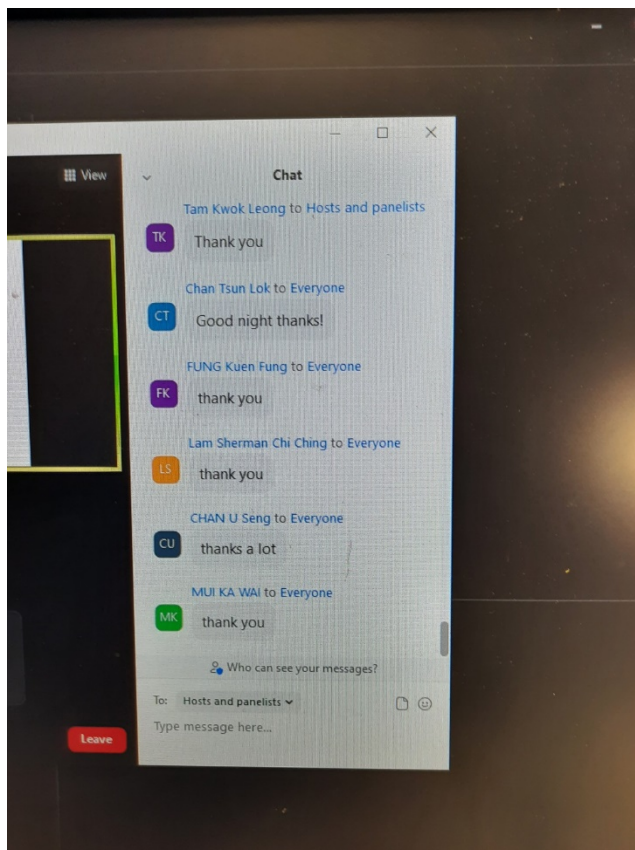
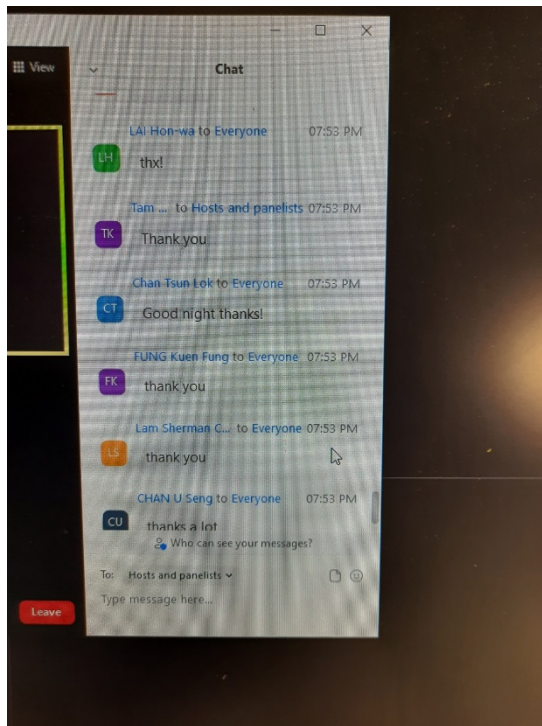
The talk would be carried out in both physical attendance (max.20) and on Zoom (300 seats) arrangement. Registration is required. Please fill the application with indicated your attendance before or on 14 May 2022. Confirmation will be made through email by Individual. For enquiry, please contact Ir CS Lam at 91527659. Attendance Certificate will be issued through email within 3 weeks after completion of the seminar. Applicants please fill the [online registration form](#).

Number of participants =330 (webinar)

The following are the responses by participants







Events / Activities

Technical Seminar and Webinar on Use of granite in Hong Kong and its exportation in the 19th and 20th Century

Date, time & venue

2022-05-18; 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm; Chan Yat Mei Sophie Room – 9/F

Topic:

Technical Seminar and Webinar on Use of granite in Hong Kong and its exportation in the 19th and 20th Century

19及20世紀花崗岩石在香港及海外之建築用途

Organizer:

Materials Division

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The talk will explore the reasons why Hong Kong's granite, not just being substantially used in local construction, but also exported to China and other countries.

Event Title: Technical Seminar, “History of Quarrying in Hong Kong with Focus on Granite Exportation”

Date & Time: 24 June 2022, 7:00pm

Venue: Online via WebEx

Cost: Free for EA members and A cost of HK\$20 will be levied for each non-member or attendee who is not affiliated with the Support Australia Group requiring a CPD certificate.

Host Organisation: EAHK

Registration Closes:

Event Contact: Dr Alex Cheung or Ms Erica Gao

About the Event

Facing the problem of severe housing shortage, the Hong Kong government once again puts forth land reclamation as an option to increase land availability for housing development. Currently, over 90% of the fill material used for reclamation are imported. Yet, back in the old days, raw materials ranging from gravels for land reclamation to rock boulders for building breakwaters and raw construction materials were all supplied by local quarries.

Since the start of the Colonial Hong Kong era in 1842, the quarrying industry had become one of Hong Kong’s major economic pillar, bringing plentiful business and job opportunities. Of the over 7,400 residents on the Hong Kong Island in the early 1840s, about one-fourth were in quarrying related jobs. During the industry’s prime time in the early 20th century, there were over 100 quarries scattered in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories.

Hong Kong was once situated in an active volcanic zone. Frequent volcanic eruptions covered the city with volcanic and intrusive igneous rocks. In particular, the abundance of quality granitic rock provided valuable material for a number of early infrastructure constructions, including the Murray House (completed in 1845), the Museum of Tea Ware (completed in 1846, previously named as Flag Staff House), Central School (constructed from 1884 to 1889), The Bethanie (constructed from 1873 to 1875, now the Bethanie Campus of Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts), former Marine Police Headquarters (completed in 1884, now renamed as “1881 Heritage”) and The Supreme Court of Hong Kong (completed in 1912, now the Court of Final Appeal). Walls, fences and old buildings constructed from granites are still visible everywhere these days.

Designer and constructor of Murray House, Major Aldrich and Lieutenant Collison of the Royal Engineers were responsible for the construction of a number of colonial military architecture. In 1846, Major Aldrich wrote about the construction of the Murray House in the Professional Papers of the Corp of Royal Engineers, sharing with engineers around the world how Chinese workers followed the principle of mechanics to transport large granite columns and cutting-edge architectural experience.

Back then, building materials and dimension stone from quarries were not only used to meet local demand but were also exported for construction in neighbouring regions and overseas. Granite used in building the French Catholic Church in Canton (construction began in 1863 and completed in 1888) was from the Ngau

Tau Kok quarry and the Cha Kwo Ling quarry. In San Francisco, The Parrott Building (completed in 1852, demolished in 1926) was constructed using granite from Hong Kong and with the support of Hong Kong construction workers.

In fact, while the development of the quarrying industry in Hong Kong can be traced far back in history, evidenced by the use of granite to construct Song Wong Toi and a square well from the Sung Dynasty unearthed in 2014 on the construction site of Shatin-Central Line, the industry wasn't structured until the call for reform by Sir John Francis Davis, the second Governor of Hong Kong.

He remarked that "In making the tour of this island by water with Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane, I observed a considerable number of stone quarries at work by the Chinese. These quarries have been accustomed to pay a duty to the Chinese Government and I have accordingly lost no time in giving due notice to the parties who work them that a duty will for the future be payable to the British Government."

A series of reforms were launched including franchising the mining right of the whole Hong Kong Island to a single operator, and the introduction of a more structured tendering and leasing system later to incorporate a number of quarry operators in Hong Kong and Kowloon. In the New Territories, private-owned quarries were gradually acquired by the government for leasing.

A research team at the University of Hong Kong led by Dr SW Poon of the Department of Real Estate and Construction has devoted years of research to the construction history of Hong Kong lighthouses and the Tai Tam Reservoir (1883-1888). It is discovered that large-scale infrastructure and building developments throughout the history of Hong Kong were made possible largely due to the quarrying industry.

The research of "History and Heritage of Quarrying in Hong Kong" presents a general picture of the development of the quarrying industry and the infrastructure construction since 1841.

Nowadays, the only quarry remaining in Hong Kong is the Lam Tei Quarry, meeting less than 10% of local demand. Looking ahead to the development needs of Hong Kong, the Government is interested in developing new quarries to supply local needs. The research team believes that environmental conservation should be fully considered in the planning stage and be included in the developmental blueprint with reference to foreign conservation experience.

Speaker

Ir Dr. S.W. Poon is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Real Estate and Construction, The University of Hong Kong.

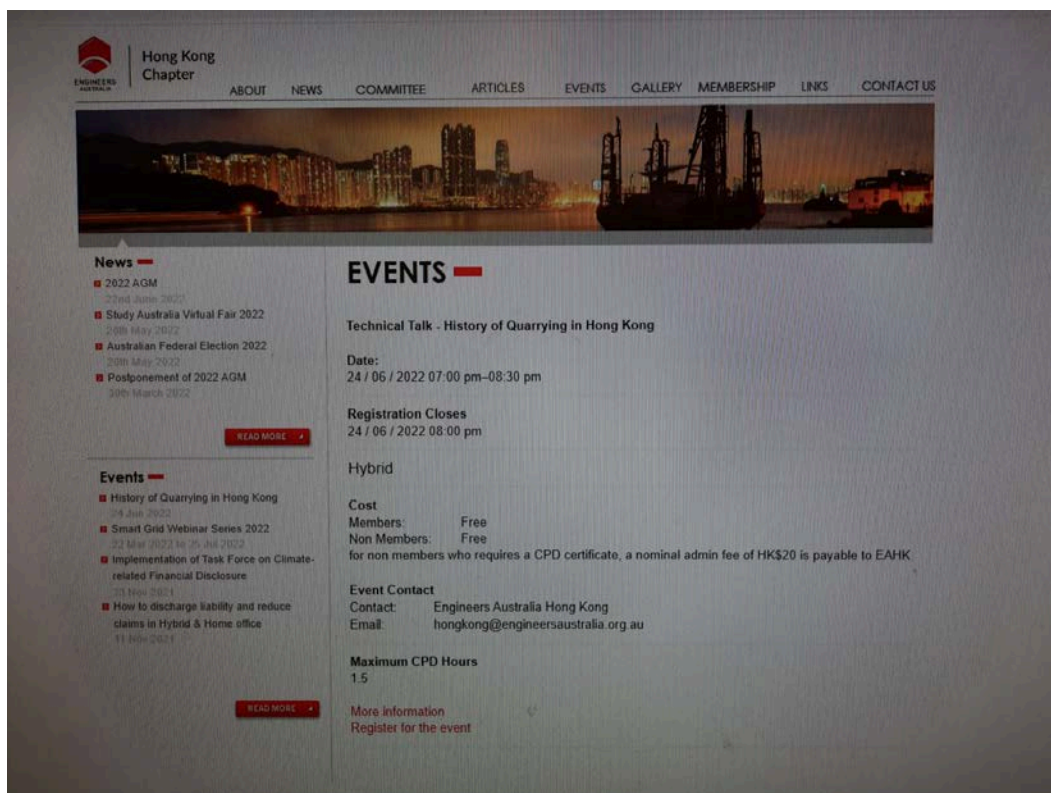
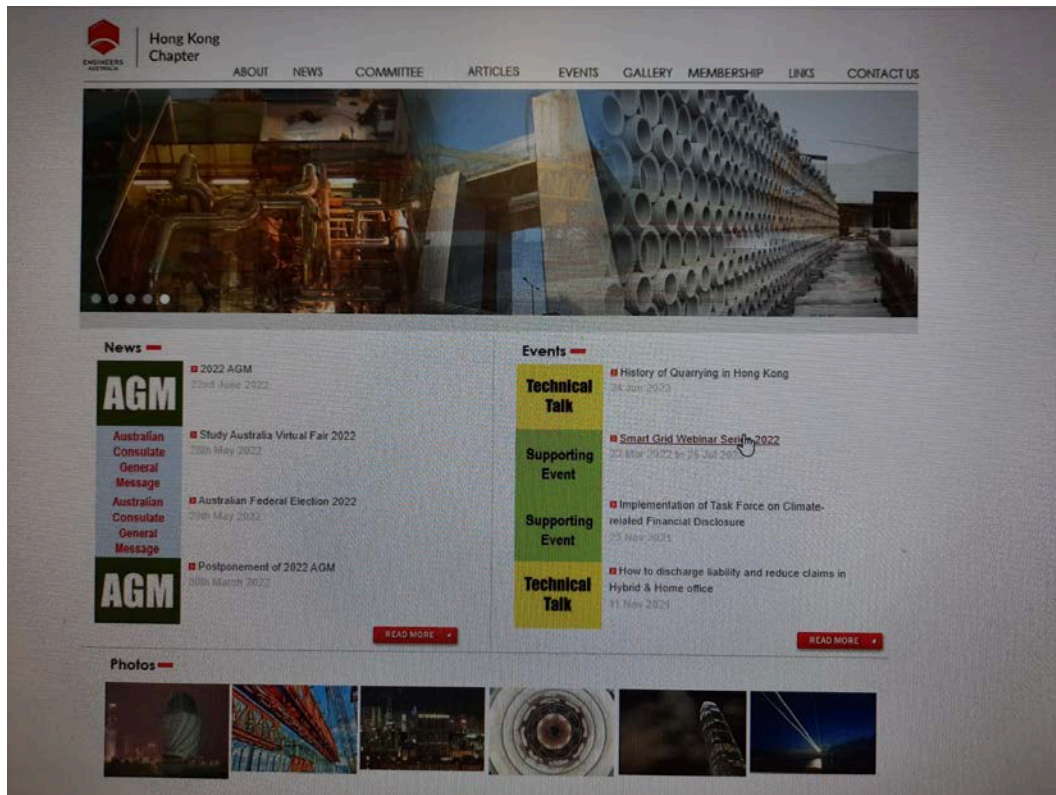
Language

Powerpoint in English and Presentation in Cantonese

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Attending members will be issued with a certificate acknowledging **1.5** hours of CPD. A cost of HK\$20 will be levied for each non-member or attendee who is not affiliated with the Support Australia Group requiring a CPD certificate.

Notice for Registration



Astley Pung <APung@engineersaustralia.org.au>

Reply all

Fri 6/24, 18:17

msericagao <msericagao@gmail.com>;

swpoon;

keawhc <keawhc@gmail.com>

Webinar topic:

History of Quarrying in Hong Kong

Date and time:

Friday, 24 Jun, 2022 12:00 pm | (UTC+01:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London

Join link:

<https://engineersaustralia.webex.com/engineersaustralia/j.php?MTID=m2051b2afe28e8713fce31e0a595dff84>

Webinar number:

2651 895 8378

Panelist password:

EAHKPanelist (32457263 from phones and video systems)

Join by video system

Dial [26518958378@engineersaustralia.webex.com](tel:26518958378)

You can also dial 210.4.202.4 and enter your meeting number.

Join by phone

+65-6703-6952 Singapore Toll

800-852-8266 Singapore Toll Free

Access code: 265 189 58378

Astley Pung

Regional Business Development Manager

M: +44 788 2436 155

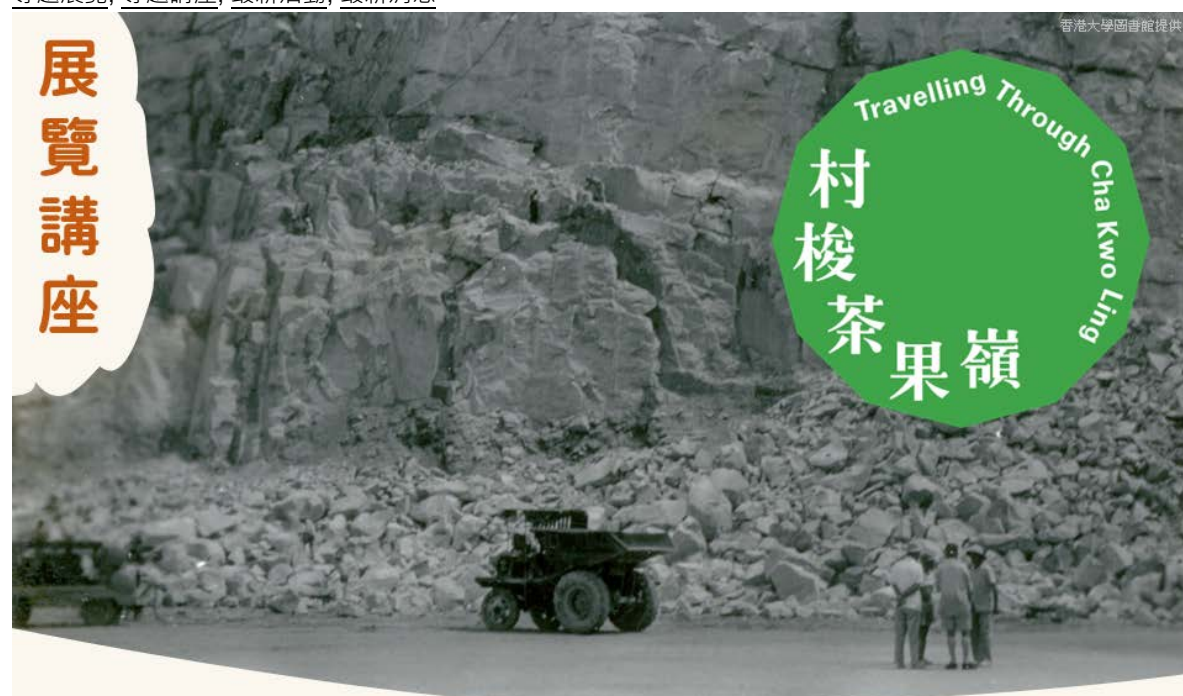
Number of Registration = 50+ (webinar)

Number of participants = 25+ (webinar)

Talk No.3 16 July 2022

【村梭茶果嶺】展覽講座：香港石礦業的盛與衰：從開石到「揀石仔」的歷史之旅（2022年7月16日星期六）

專題展覽, 專題講座, 最新活動, 最新消息



香港石礦業的盛與衰： 從開石到「揀石仔」的歷史之旅

曾經，香港擁有最多的不是銀行，而是石礦場。二十世紀初本地出產的優質石材，不單用在本地建築上，更曾出口至中國、東南亞、澳洲及美國三藩市等地供建築物及基建使用，是當時香港的重要經濟支柱。

除了眾所周知的鯉魚門石礦場外，同樣屬「九龍四山」之一的茶果嶺，早在清代已吸引客家石匠落戶，經營「石堂」開採石料。九龍四山的石山村落及礦場，可謂見證了香港石礦業的興盛與衰亡。

香港大學房地產及建設系客座教授潘新華博士及其團隊近年致力進行相關研究，嘗試重塑香港石礦業的發展史，過程中搜羅不少珍貴的文件記錄及舊照片。是次講座，潘教授將回顧近百年香港石礦業的歷史，並透過文件及照片分享，娓娓道來礦工們在石礦場的生活、工作、娛樂等不為人知的小故事，帶領大家走一趟從採石到「揀石仔」的開採之旅。

日期：2022 年 7 月 16 日（星期六）

時間：下午 3 時

講者：潘新華博士（香港大學房地產及建設系客座教授）

地點：長春社文化古蹟資源中心（香港西營盤西邊街 36A 後座）

費用：全免

名額：25 人

/ 報名方法

「CACHe Up」同行者網上優先報名系統

<https://www.cache.org.hk/signCACHeUp.php>（須使用「CACHe Up」同行者電郵中的優先報名編號進行報名）

公眾人士報名系統（2022 年 7 月 10 日（星期日）下午 1 時開始）

<https://www.cache.org.hk/signquestbooka.php>

*「CACHeUp」同行者可優先報名（只限「CACHeUp」同行者本人參加），如報名人數多於活動名額，本中心將以電腦抽籤決定參加資格，成功報名的參加者將收到電郵作實及活動繳費安排。

**如活動報名人數太多，CACHe 將以電腦抽籤形式選出參加者，公眾人士可同時為兩位同行朋友報名，抽籤時參加者及其同行朋友將視作一組處理，成功報名的參加者將收到電郵作實及活動繳費安排。

/ 關於香港賽馬會社區資助計劃——「村校」社區文化遺產計劃

本計劃由香港賽馬會慈善信託基金捐助、長春社文化古蹟資源中心主辦。鄉村是研究香港歷史的關鍵、不同社區文化的根源，而村校作為盛載村民共同回憶之所，對文化傳承有重要作用。計劃將深入鄉村、穿梭社區，透過不同活動提升大眾對本地鄉村及村校文化的認識，促進城鄉共融；並致力鼓勵公眾參與，讓社會各持份者亦可投入鄉村歷史及村校文化保育，傳承鄉村獨有的故事和記憶，同時凝聚社區。

/ 關於我們

長春社文化古蹟資源中心（CACHe）於 2005 年成立，一直積極舉辦古蹟保育活動。我們將繼續秉承宗旨，推廣香港歷史文化，建立知識交流平台，鼓勵大眾參與社區文化遺產保育，建立社區身份認同。

主辦機構：



捐助機構：



香港賽馬會慈善信託基金

Estimated Number of f2f participants = 25

Estimated Number of online participants = 30+

Talk No.4 22 August 2022

Yiu, James (Hong Kong) HKG <James.Yiu@concrete.hk>

Thu 6/23, 10:07

Dear Prof. Poon,

We are glad to confirm you that ZBC at Kowloon Bay has confirmed our booking, and CEDD/PlanD is also ok on the morning of 22 Aug.

May we seek your advice on below itinerary?

22 Aug 22, Monday

0900: reception

0930 to 0945: Opening “**Celebrating 50 Years on IOQ HK**” and **introducing the Speakers** by **IOQ** Chairman

0945 to 1045: Session 1 with Q&A on **Smart Green Resilient Harbour Metropolis** by CEDD/PlanD/Ove

1045 to 1115: **Coffee Break (Outdoor)**

1115 to 1215: Session 2 with Q&A on **HK Granite Extraction** by Prof. S W Poon

1215 to 1230: Panel discussion on **Future of Quarrying for the Development of HK**

We would love to have you with us though the Conference if you schedule allows. HKCMA and IOM3 will be the supporting organizations and the conference will be broadcast online to their members as well. Again, Many thanks for your support!

James Yiu

Technical and Educational Committee, **Institute of Quarrying Hong Kong Branch**

<http://www.quarry.org.hk/>

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Business Development Manager

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Draft



The Institute of Quarrying
Hong Kong Branch

Hybrid Conference: Quarrying and Its Place for the Future of Hong Kong

22 Aug 2022

09:30 - 12:30

English supplemented with Chinese

Event Highlight

- Quarrying history of Hong Kong
- Smart Green and Resilient Artificial Islands in Central Water

Quarrying has long been a key part of Hongkong. Its recorded history can be traced back to the Qing Dynasty, where good quality granite was mined for key construction all over south Asia. In past decades, quarrying become highly professional, operators have generated high quality rock products from established quarries to produce reclamation materials, concrete and asphalt, and have created new lands to support the rapid growth of Hongkong. In the future, to facilitate Hongkong's integration into the Great Bay Area, and to support the Government's keen drive to enhance the city's livability, quarrying will continue to play a crucial role in Hong Kong.

In this Conference, we will walk through the **Quarrying history of Hong kong** on how it evolves from scattered small mines to these days highly established rehab sites, we will then introduce the Government's initiative on developing **Smart Green and Resilient Artificial Islands in Central Water**. In the Panel discussion, we will explore future quarrying scenarios and the opportunities that lay ahead of the industry.

Conference Schedule

Half Day	22 August 2022, ZCB Kowloon Bay
9:00 – 9:30 Lobby	Registration
9:30 – 9:40 Hall	Opening – "Celebrating 50 Years of IOQHK" MC/Chairman
9:40 – 10:25 Hall	Session 1: History of Quarrying in Hong Kong Professor S. W. Poon Faculty of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong
10:25 – 10:45	Break Peaceful Park x HAPI YMS Cafe
10:45 – 12:00 Hall	Session 2: Smart Green and Resilient Artificial Islands in Central Water Ir. CHENG Nga-see Ellen, Mr. NG Kim Wai, and Ir. Wilfred Lau CEDD, PlanD and Arup
12:00 – 12:25 Hall	Session 3: Panel Discussion on Quarrying and its Place for the Future of Hong Kong Panelists
12:25 – 12:30	Closing Remark

RSVP

Webinar registration:
<https://bit.ly/3lo2tz6>

In-person with limited
places: in-person
attendance is opened to
members of IOQHK and
supporting organizations
only.

Please contact:
james.yiu@concrete.hk
for enquiries.



research interest has focused on historic construction works such as Centenary Tai Tam Tuk
Reservoir Dam. History of Quarrying in Hong Kong. History of Quarrying in Hong Kong.