058-059•CONCET 2006 9/11/06 2:44 PM Page 58

The 9th International Conference on Concrete Engineering and Technology (CONCET 2006) – Theme: "Structural Concrete for the Millennium"

By : Engr. Dr Jeffrey Chiang Chong Luin, M.I.E.M., P.Eng.

The conference, which was organised by IEM Civil and Structural Engineering Technical Division, was officially opened by IEM President Y. Bhg. Datuk Engr. Prof. Dr Ow Chee Sheng on 9 May 2006 at the Selangor Ballroom, Sheraton Subang Hotel. He was accompanied by official representatives of the co-organising institutions, Universiti Teknologi MARA and Universiti Malaya at the opening ceremony. More than 200 delegates were present for the opening and also participated in the following technical sessions over the 2-day event.

The conference commenced on the first day with Keynote Address 1 by Prof. Yew-Chaye Loo, the Foundation Professor of Civil Engineering and the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Griffith University Gold Coast Campus, Queensland, Australia. The title of the keynote address was, "Serviceability and Strength Analysis of Normal and High Strength Concrete Structures". The lecture focused on the following areas:

- Cracking and crack control
- Deflection
- Damping characteristics
- Axial shortening of columns in tall buildings
- Punching shear strength of concrete flat plates
- Ultimate loads of walls and slab panels

Prof. Yew-Chaye Loo

There were a total of three technical sessions on the first day, in which nine authors presented their technical papers. Among them, four were overseas presenters. The topics covered ranged from Performance Based Design for RC Concrete Columns to Applications of Reactive Powder Concrete (RPC).

Engr. Dr Tam Chat Tim

There was a Special Lecture Session after lunch, given by Engr. Dr Tam Chat Tim, who is a Professorial Fellow at the National University of Singapore (NUS). The topic of his lecture was, "Evolving Concrete for the Millennium", in which he touched on aspects of concrete as a structural materials over the years up to the new millennium. He specially focused on admixtures, additives, mix design, workability, high performance strength and durability – all of which are of pertinent interests to concrete practitioners in the local industry.

Prof. Antoine Naaman, from University of Michigan, USA, opened the second day of the conference with his

Prof. Antoine Naaman

Keynote Address 2, entitled, "Fiber Reinforced Concrete, State of Progress at the Edge of the New Millennium". His lecture was most illuminating especially on the background knowledge and the future directions of fiber reinforced cement composites. Possible near future advances in the use of micro-fibers, fibers with improved interface bond and fabrication processes were also addressed. Responses from the participants was most overwhelming.

The following event was an invited paper, presented by Assoc. Prof. Tan Kiang Hwee of National University of Singapore (NUS), whose paper was entitled, "Innovative Materials and Methods for Structural Strengthening". The focus of his talk was on the analysis and design methods for RC structures using externally bonded fiber reinforced polymer (FRP) systems and external post-tensioning systems. He also touched on strut-and-tie method which is among some of the viable tools used in FRP strengthening.

Assoc. Prof. Tan Kiang Hwee

What followed were three technical sessions, with ten speakers, four of whom were from overseas. The topics of their presentations ranged from Combined Torsion and Bending in RC Beams using Simplified Combined

058-059•CONCET 2006 9/11/06 2:45 PM Page 59

Stress-Resultants, to Eurocode 2 vs BS8110, and Non-Destructive Evaluation of High Performance Concrete.

The penultimate event was a video presentation of the SMART Tunnel project, courtesy of the SMART Tunnel project management. It gave a detailed visual insight into the design and construction of the project. The final event of the conference was the handover ceremony by the Organising Chairman, Engr. Li Thang Fai to the official representative of the next host of CONCET in year 2008, which is Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM).

Two technical visits were arranged for the conference delegates on the third day on 11 May 2006. One was to the SMART Tunnel project, which attracted 80 participants. The second site visit arranged was at the Petronas Twin Towers, KLCC, for which 25 participants had signed on.

A photo session of the CONCET 2006 Organising Committee members with keynote and invited speakers

Y. Bhg. Datuk Engr. Prof. Dr Ow Chee Sheng with other distinguished guests of honour, middle: CONCET 2006 Organising Chairman, Engr. Li Thang Fai giving his welcoming speech during the opening ceremony, bottom: A section of the conference delegates, fronted by keynote and invited speakers

Y. Bhg. Datuk Engr. Prof. Dr Ow Chee Sheng presented an acknowledgment plague to one of the key sponsors of CONCET 2006, middle and bottom: Y. Bhg. Datuk Engr. Prof. Dr Ow Chee Sheng toured the exhibitors' booths outside the conference hall during one of the refreshment breaks

On the whole, CONCET 2006 has been a most resounding success for the organisers, after a long and tedious preparatory work undertaken, beginning from September 2004 by IEM Civil and Structural Engineering Technical Division.

The following are some selected photographs taken over the 2-day conference held at Subang Sheraton.

Following from the above, the organising team of CONCET2006 would like to extend their heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to all the conference sponsors, advertisers, exhibitors, hosts of technical visits, volunteers and supporters, for their kind contributions towards making the conference a success.

It also has to be mentioned that the technical input and queries posed by keynote and invited speakers, were memorable highlights of the event.

Last but not the least, the untiring effort and finishing touches put in by IEM secretariat staff are also fully acknowledged. ■