Hong Kong Trip for the Cyclone-Glazing Research Project

June 11 – 15, 2018

HONG KONG – In June 2018, CTBUH organized a research trip to Hong Kong in order to proceed in the research project Cyclone Glazing and Façade Resilience for the Asia-Pacific Region sponsored by Trosifol. A consistent number of meetings were organized by Angela Mejorin, directly engaged for the project since January 2017. She attended the meetings in Hong Kong together with Malvinder Singh Rooprai, a representative from Trosifol. They met local professionals in the façade design and construction process, the Hong Kong Building Department, developers and building managers.

A visit at the Hong Kong Curtain Wall Testing Center was prearranged by Sammy Hui from Dow Chemical Company. The most updated equipment was shown and compared and contrasted with the past years’ one. The testing process is easily controllable and eventual problems in the curtain wall performances are immediately highlighted, both through the electronic devices while testing and through recorded data. Furthermore, during the week in which CTBUH was in Hong Kong the ZAK World of Façade Conference occurred: it represented the opportunity to meet other than the expected experts.

In Hong Kong, CTBUH participated at the One Taikoo Place design presentation and tour in which the entire team of professionals involved in the façade design, construction and installation process shared their experience in this extraordinary tall building which will be completed soon. One Taikoo Place is the latest redevelopment project in Taikoo Place, involving the demolition of existing Somerset House to a Grade-A curtain wall office building of about 228.6 m tall with entrance lobbies and footbridge connections to the existing buildings in Taikoo Place. It sits on a prime site with a dominant frontage to the Victoria Harbour to the north and a green frontage to Taikoo Square to the south. Hong Kong is one of the four jurisdictions (the others being Australia, Japan, and the Philippines) that will be
included in the final output of this research, ‘Strong Winds- and Cyclone-Resistant Façades: the Best Practices’. This trip contributed to the development of the Hong Kong section of the publication and the One Taikoo Place building will be included in the publication. The podium façade solution has a record in its dimensions of the glass wall, realized by full height glass panels, which are 3 m wide by 17.6 m height.


The Opus Hong Kong architectural model. It is at Swire Properties Hong Kong Headquarters in One Island East.

Therefore, the purpose of this research trip matched the previous ones for Japan and for the Philippines.

The findings of the on-going research activities were presented and discussed with the Hong Kong professionals met. The discussion also focused on the past outputs of the project and on the upcoming stages to be conducted in order to complete this project. The Japanese and Philippine best practices, when it comes for typhoon-prone façades, were shared with the people met during this week. Additionally, the face-to-face meetings allowed engineers and architects to contribute to the technical publication.

A report of the first part of the project, comprising an analysis of the international codes on cyclone-resistant façade solutions is available here.
One Taikoo Place Building. From left to right: view of the building from the One Island East; view from the ground level; the podium mock-up test with the 3.00x17.60 m glass slaves.

Attendees:

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Nina Yu
Jim W. H. Mok
Hayman S.M. Wong
Johnson W. Albano
Andy Chan Wai Yin
Ji Haiping
Chunchao Li
Malvinder Singh Rooprai
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