Meetings with the Hong Kong Façade Industry for the Cyclone-Glazing Project

June 11 – 15, 2018

HONG KONG – During the research trip to Hong Kong for the Cyclone Glazing and Façade Resilience for the Asia-Pacific Region research project, CTBUH had the chance to meet local façade industry representative. The local best practices when it comes for façade realization and testing procedure were investigated.

Sammy Hui from Dow Chemical Company organized the meeting between CTBUH and Albert Leung, Director of the Hong Kong Curtain Wall Testing Center (HKCWTC). He kindly arranged both the performance mock-up test lab visit and the sample tests on specific requests, related with façade performances that are relevant during typhoon events. Mr. Leung described the evolution of the testing center, established in 1996, specialized in façade testing and consultancy. They are accredited with HOKLAS accreditation by Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) from the HKSAR Government since 2000 for carrying out tests on curtain wall system, building elements and materials. With the dedication of our engineers and staffs, they have expended their business on providing Automated Curtain Wall Testing System to laboratories in South East Asia since 2004. These technologies could graphically highlight remotely while testing, through a software, possible test failures.

Angela Mejorin presented the research project and there was a discussion about the ASTM E1886 and ASTM E1996 standard procedures. In Hong Kong, the main curtain wall test labs are very use to ASTM and other international standards (BS, ISO, AS, etc.) due to the Region history and the high number of foreign countries’ professionals operating in this jurisdiction.
During the week in Hong Kong, CTBUH and Malvinder Singh Roopray from Trosifol, the research sponsor, had a meeting at YKK AP Façade Hong Kong. Katsuya Sohda and Sherman Chan shared their experience working in a curtain wall supplier company. They deeply discussed about the most frequent request of performance for façade solutions. Currently, upgraded solutions are requested in order to achieve particular level of performances in very specific aspects, normally related with the energy saving and sustainability. No upgraded solutions are requested at the moment in terms of flying debris resistance, even though the typhoon prone location of Hong Kong and the consistent number of technical studies in which the wind-borne debris appear like one of the main problems in this disaster event. Furthermore, YKK is supporting hurricane-resistant solutions for the US but these are not mandatory and not requested at the moment in Hong Kong.

CTBUH and Trosifol had a meeting with another representative from the Hong Kong façade industry, Clifford A Bury from JAS (Inspection and Testing), specializes in the testing of both the individual components and the external cladding systems installed on buildings. He has more than 30 years of experience and he mentioned many projects he was involved in, specifying the evolution of the performances coming from so far to today. He also mentioned various anecdotes on building envelopes’ failures due to past typhoon events.

The company continues also to offer consultancy services to architects, main contractors, sub-contractors, and suppliers. The role of JAS has now grown from its original role of laboratory facade and curtain wall testing to one that now offers on-site testing and inspections into the condition of building facades and curtain walling.
Attendees:

- Sammy Hui        Dow Chemical Company
- Clifford A Bury   JAS (Inspection & Testing)
- Albert Leung     Hong Kong Curtain Wall Testing Center
- Antonio Leung    Hong Kong Curtain Wall Testing Center
- Malvinder Singh Rooprai  Trosifol
- Sherman Chan    YKK AP Façade Hong Kong
- Katsuya Sohda    YKK AP Façade Hong Kong