

OBITUARY



In memory of Ir MAK Lap Ming

It is with great sadness to learn of the passing away of Ir Mak Lap-ming on 13 April 2008, after a brave fight against cancer in his pancreas for a year.

Ir Mak obtained his Bachelor degree from the National Taiwan University in 1971. He continued his study in the United Kingdom and later received his Master in Philosophy from King's College, London in 1976. He was a naturally born geotechnical engineer. Upon receiving his Master degree, he worked in Wimpey Laboratories in the United Kingdom, practising as a geotechnical engineer. He returned to his motherland, Hong Kong, in 1981 and joined Freeman Fox & Partners as a senior engineer. In early 1990s, he set up JMK Consulting Engineers jointly with Ir Dr Joseph Chow, Past President of the HKIE.

Ir Mak's passion for geotechnical engineering finally led him to establishing his own consulting engineering company, LMM & Consulting Engineers Ltd, in 2003. His missions in LMM were to serve and glory God through the practicing of engineering, and to train top-quality engineers to serve our society. For those who know L M well all admire the way he managed the company like a family unit; making money was clearly not a key objective. He particularly took great care of his staff and at one stage insisted his staff to leave the office on time to practise golf at the company's expenses.

Ir Mak had dedicated considerable time to the HKIE and also to the geotechnical community in Hong Kong. He was the Chairman of the HKIE's Geotechnical Division in 2003/04 and was later elected to be a Council Member (Division) in 2005/06-07. He was also an active member of the HKIE's Journal Editorial Committee. Under his Chairmanship, the Geotechnical Division flourished with a lot of interesting technical meetings/forums and site visits. He would be particularly remembered for his success in establishing very close links and collaborations with our counterparts in neighbouring regions including the Mainland and Macau.

In 2001, he noted the rising contributions of Hong Kong geotechnical practitioners in the international arena and joined force with a team of senior members of the Hong Kong geotechnical profession to establish the Hong Kong Geotechnical Society (HKGES). HKGES was formally ratified as a Member Society of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) in 2003 to represent Hong Kong on geotechnical issues. He became the founding president of the HKGES and still held this position until his death.

Many will remember Ir Mak's fight against cancer, which was first made known to many of us when he gave notice in March last year to the Geotechnical Division Committee in the morning of the Annual Dinner that he was not able to attend. He later underwent a 19-hour surgery and seemingly recovered well soon afterwards. He was extremely grateful that God gave him more opportunity to serve the community and happily shared his experience in cancer fighting in two seminars held at the City University of Hong Kong and the HKIE on 11 July and 20 October 2007 respectively. It is a great shock to all of us that he passed away on 13 April 2008.

Apart from running his consulting engineering practice, he also gave public lectures and training presentations on a regular basis. He was an advisory professor of the Tongji University, in the Mainland since 1997, adjunct professor of the University of Hong Kong since 2003, guest lecturers of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology since 2004 and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University since 2006 respectively.

Ir Mak is survived by his wife, Yeung Yuen-ye. Alas, he is no longer with us. Nevertheless the memories of his distinct kindness, generosity and seeds of good will no doubt be living on in the minds of those who have interacted with or been guided by him. L M funeral memorial service was held on 5 May 2008 at the Universal Funeral Parlour, Hung Hom. May God bless his soul.

"Job Forum" for Members of the HKIE

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers ("HKIE") Job Forum is in operation since January 2002 and is provided solely for members of the HKIE to put up their personal information for the purpose of seeking employment. Posting on the Job Forum will only be arranged upon written requests from members on the basis of an "honour system". The period for each posting will be for three months only.

Details of the Job Forum service are provided in our website at <http://www.hkie.org.hk> under the "Members Services" section.

Online CPD Logbook for Members of the HKIE

The online CPD logbook service is now in operation to provide solely for members of the HKIE to record their personal CPD activities. Members are invited to enter the Members Login area of our website to access to this online free-of-charge CPD logbook for keeping a systemic record of their CPD participation.

For trainees who are under the formal training schemes of the HKIE, they will remain to be required to record their CPD activities in the *Record of CPD* with endorsement by their Engineering Supervisors.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Members Login Service Support at mlsupport@hkie.org.hk.