

KSCE Annual Conference and Civil Expo 2004

A record number of 2,600 professionals and students from the academic, research and corporate sectors participated in this year's Annual Conference and Civil Expo, the civil engineering's most comprehensive annual event in Korea. Held at the Phoenix Park Resort located in Pyung-Chang city of the Gang-Won province from October 20 to 22, this year's conference was more successful than ever in terms of providing a field for academic exchange with a record breaking 1,106 paper submissions. Nonetheless, the meeting was held under a casual atmosphere since informal attire was specially recommended by the KSCE to all participants.

Substantial improvements were notable in the special sessions with increased contributions from the corporate professionals who have helped share their experiences and insights to construction expertise. International cooperative relations were strengthened through the International Roundtable Meeting held on the topic of "Civil Engineering in the Digital World" and the International Symposium held on the topic of "Future Construction Material: FRP". Newly organized special sessions included the Student Session and the "Workshop on Civil Engineering Youths", allowing attendees to apply their development and learning opportunities to specific needs and interests. The Civil Expo 2004 attracted 50 different suppliers, corporations and public agencies by operating 64 booths which provided plenty of networking opportunities. The KSCE annual conference which marks its 30th anniversary next year is planned to be held in the beautiful island of Cheju.



Opening of Annual Conference and Civil Expo 2004 at Phoenix Park Resort

2004 ACECC Meeting Held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan

ACECC (Asian Civil Engineering Coordinating Council) Executive Committee Meeting was held at the Ambassador hotel in Taiwan's harbour city Kaohsiung, during December 2-5. Hosted by CICHE (Chinese Institute of Civil and Hydraulic Engineering), thirty one participants gathered

from the civil engineering societies of Korea (KSCE), Australia (AIEAust), Japan (JSCE), and Vietnam (VIFCEA). The KSCE delegation included Dr. Young-Nam Lee (Chair, Planning Committee), Mr. In-Kuin Kim (Vice President of KSCE), Dr. Kwang Il Kim (past Chair, ACECC), Dr. Sung-Wan Hong (Chair, 3rd CECAR LOC), Dr. Hyo Seop Woo (Sec. Gen., 3rd CECAR LOC), Prof. Junboun Park (KSCE International Affairs Committee), and Ms. Joyce Par Lee (past Secretary, ACECC).

The main programs of this year's assembly were the PCM (Planning Committee Meeting), ECM (Executive Committee Meeting) and the IRF (International Roundtable Forum) which were held along with the Annual Meeting of CICHE on consecutive dates during the four day schedule. On the last day, participants made technical visits to the Kaohsiung Rapid Transit O5/R10 Station and the Taiwan High Speed Rail Depot.

Issues of discussion on the PCM agenda were the Code of Ethics, Public Perception, and other Operational Tasks. The ECM settled this year's budget including the financial report of the 3rd CECAR, then moved on to discussions on future ACECC activities. Under the theme of "New Paradigm of Civil Engineering and Mission of Civil Engineers," the IRF was scheduled with presentations from each international societies. Vice president Mr. In-Kuin Kim represented KSCE, stressing the importance of cooperative relations among the academia, industry and professional society for "Leadership Capacity Building" of civil engineers and proposing "New" civil engineer with interdisciplinary skills, management skills and communication skills.



ACECC Planning Committee Meeting held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Business Performances of Top Korean General Contractors

Financial performances of Korean general contractors have improved due to the boom in housing construction since 2000. New contract amounts show steady increase since 1999. Contract amount in 2003 is 102.5 trillion won compared to 48 trillion won in 1998. The contract amount from public works in 2004 is estimated around 33.5 trillion won, a slight increase from the previous year. However, private sector takes 55.5 trillion won that is decreased from 70.3 trillion won in 2003.

Contracts and Revenue

The total contracts by the top 11 contractors range from 274 billion to 1,618 billion won. The average revenue is 662 billion in 2003 that is 3% more than in 2002. Among the top 11 contractors, 7 contractors had an increase of more than 10% in revenue. On the other hand, Hyundai's revenue, ranked at the top, decreased by 20%.

Total contract amounts by year (unit: trillion won)

Sector	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 (est.)
Public	35.6	29.5	24.4	24.6	29.9	30.9	32.2	33.5
Private	44.3	18.4	26.7	35.5	37.9	52.3	70.3	55.5
Total	79.9	47.9	51.1	60.1	67.8	83.2	102.5	89.0

Sector	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 (est.)
Civil Infra.	33.8	29.5	24.4	24.6	29.9	30.9	32.2	33.5
Bldg. Const.	46.1	18.4	26.7	35.5	37.9	52.3	70.3	55.5
Total	79.9	47.9	51.1	60.1	67.8	83.2	102.5	89.0

* From "Outlook of Construction Economy" (2004. 3) by CERIK

** Average exchange rate in 2003 : 1 USD = 1,200 Korean Won

Overseas Contracts

Six out of top 11 general contractors had overseas contracts. Hyundai has had over 500 billion won from overseas contracts since 1999 and had contracts valued at 595 billion won in 2003. Daewoo, Samsung, and LG had overseas contracts of 111 billion, 217 billion, and 36 billion won, respectively in 2003. Daelim's overseas work has had continuous decline since 1999 and had no contract from international market in 2003. The ratio between overseas contracts and total contracts by Hyundai, Samsung, Daewoo, and LG account for 37%, 28%, 9%, and 7%, respectively. Average ratio of overseas contracts of 11 contractors is 14% compared to 21% in 2002. Profit from international market is lower than expected. To achieve appropriate profit from the international projects, contractors should focus on bidding strategy, claim and contract management, as well as procurement management. Furthermore, contractors need to develop construction technologies and a globalization strategy.

Per Capita Productivity

Average number of civil engineers of 11 contractors is 421, a decrease of 12% from the previous year. Five companies hired more civil engineers, but the remaining companies reduced their civil engineers by 7%. The per capita productivity amounted to 1.57 billion won, which is an increase of 17% from the previous year.

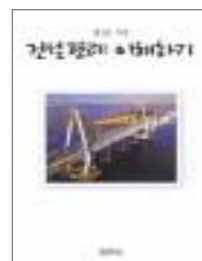
(The full text article, in Korean, by Chul-Ho Lieu and To-Moon Kim appeared in October 2004 issue of Civil Engineering, the monthly KSCE magazine.)

New Book



Title: Solar City
 Author: Hye-Jin Jung
 Pages: 325, B5
 Publisher: Gmulko
 Date: November, 2004
 Price: 12,000 won

The Solar City describes urban communities that constantly convert the fossil and nuclear energy systems to recycling energy systems. The solar city also has an objective that reduces materials that contribute to the green house effects. The author, who is a journalist specializing in environmental problems, carefully introduces the global 'Solar City' project and the world solar cities.



Title: Understanding of the Precedents
 Related to Construction
 Author: Hyun Kim
 Pages: 398, A5
 Publisher: Bumwoo
 Date: September, 2004
 Price: 28,500 won

Civil engineering is a profession intimately related to everyday living. As the society places more value to quality of living, environment and sustainable development, some of the conflicts among parties of various interests cannot be settled by tradition and agreeable methods. Inevitably these conflicts have to be solved by legal proceedings and mediations. The author, who is a lawyer in Korea, presents well organized court precedents that are related to construction disputes.

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