



香港
鋼結構學會

Hong Kong Institute of
Steel Construction



THE HONG KONG
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY

香港理工大學

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
土木及結構工程學系

First announcement

Technical Talk on Fire Safety of world class built heritage at Potala Palace, Lhasa, Tibet, PRC

Organized by
Hong Kong Institute of Steel Construction
Department of Civil and Structural Engineering, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Date 日期 :	3 June 2011
Venue 會場:	Room Y306, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University,
Time 時間 :	6:45 pm (registration) for 7:00pm to 8:00 pm

Scope and Objective

Buildings with historic values remain to the present day as living witnesses of the past, and they should be made sustainable by conservation through preservation and/or adaptive re-use. Nowadays, people become more conscious of historic values and regard these old or ancient buildings as common heritage. It is therefore the onus of building professionals and stakeholders (e.g. architects, engineers, surveyors, conservationists and regulators, etc) to preserve them in their full richness of authenticity as far as practicable for our future generations.

This talk intends to deliver a concise description of the fire safety in a world class built heritage at Potala Palace, Lhasa in Tibet. When a heritage building undergoes adaptive re-use, it occasionally creates substantial hardship in complying with the current safety requirements, particularly fire, structural, barrier free access for disabled and protective barrier aspects. Credit should be given to performance-based design which may sometimes involve compensatory management measures in crowd control for evacuation in case of emergency and restricted floor loading for certain exhibition use.

The Palace was built of timber materials at an altitude of 3,700 m above sea level in the 7th century at Lhasa. The Palace was re-constructed to the modern Potala Palace in 17th century, and was inscribed to the UNESCO World Heritage in 1994. The weather there was dry with thin air and the oxygen level is about 70% of norm, which makes timber less inflammable. While installation of active fire fighting system and alteration of building works in compliance with the passive fire safety requirements would impair the historic fabric of the heritage buildings, the fire safety at Potala Palace has been successfully carried out using management approach by monks on a roster basis.

The speaker would convene a dedicated technical tour to Potala Palace in July 2011, and the audience is invited to join on a voluntary basis. At the end of the talk, a friend of the speaker visiting Potala Palace last summer will also be invited to share his genuine experience during the trip, especially on how he tackled with the thin air environment and the headache issue.

Speaker

Ir Dr W T CHAN is currently the Senior Structural Engineer at the Heritage Unit of Buildings Department, mainly responsible for vetting and formulating structural fire safety requirements for alteration and addition works to as well as adaptive re-use of heritage/ historical buildings. Dr Chan serves as the Secretary to the Technical Committee on the Code of Practice for the Structural Use of Steel as well as the Secretary to the Working Group on the Structural Use of Glass, both under the Buildings Department.

He began his career in 1987 and has acquired 23 years experience in structural engineering. Ir Dr Chan is a member of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers and a Registered Professional Engineer (Fire, Structural and Building) in Hong Kong. He is currently the Honorary Secretary of the Committee of Fire Division of the HKIE, the Vice President of the Hong Kong Institute of Steel Construction (HKISC) and the Convener of the Heritage Fire Safety Interest Group under HKISC. He is an Authorized Person as well as Registered Structural Engineer registered under the Buildings Ordinance. He cultivated a variety of interests comprising welding of structural steel, the use of high strength steel, façade engineering, fire engineering and heritage conservation.

Free attendance but places are limited and prior registration is required.. Please send the completed registration form to **Mr Sam CHAN, Secretary of the Institute of Steel Construction, c/o Room TU743, Department of Civil and Structural Engineering, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon by 12:00 noon, 31 May 2011.** (Fax No.: 2334 6389) or through email: samchan@hkisc.org. For enquiries, please contact Emmy Ko at 3400-3965.



REGISTRATION FORM
(To be replied on or before 31 May 2011)

Technical Talk on
Fire Safety of world class built heritage at
Potala Palace, Lhasa, Tibet, PRC

Please fax the completed registration form to *Mr Sam CHAN* (Fax: 852-2334 6389) or email to samchan@hkisc.org for registration **on or before 31 May 2011.**

To: Mr Sam CHAN

Fax: 852- 2334 6389

Personal Details:

Title	Name in full (Block Letter)	Name of Company	Tel.	Fax	E-mail address	HKISC/HKIE Membership No. (if any)
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						

Postal Address:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

CPD Certificate of Attendance Please tick the appropriate box to indicate your choice:

Yes, I/we would like to have CPD certificate(s).

Not request for certificate(s).