

## Press Release

### The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers Announced the Awardees of Four Engineering Awards

(Hong Kong, 17 March 2023) The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (the HKIE) honoured a select group of engineers for their contributions to the Institution, industry, and society at its 45th Annual Dinner today (17 March).

Among the guests who graced the occasion with their presence, the HKIE was honoured to have Mr Chan Kwok Ki, Acting Chief Executive of the HKSAR Government, as the Principal Guest, and Ir Thomas Ho, Chairman of the Construction Industry Council, as the Guest of Honour.

The President of the HKIE, Ir Aaron K M Bok presented the four engineering awards. The HKIE Honorary Fellows were awarded to Ir Prof Joseph H W Lee and Ir Dr The Hon Lo Wai Kwok; The HKIE Gold Medal went to Ir Wai Chi Sing; The President's Award went to Ir Jenny F Yeung; and the Young Engineer of the Year Award was presented to Ir Dr Clarence E Choi.

#### The HKIE Honorary Fellow 2023

Each year, especially distinguished members may be elected as Honorary Fellows for the remarkable services that they have rendered to the Institution, the engineering industry, or a scientific discipline. This year two Fellows were elected.

**Ir Prof Joseph H W Lee** is currently Vice-Chancellor and President of the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST). He is also President of the International Association for Hydro-environment Engineering and Research, and the first Chinese to head the prestigious Delft-founded water engineering organisation. He is a Founding Editor of Elsevier's Journal of Hydro-environment Research, and his papers have appeared frequently in top international journals. He is a Fellow of Royal Academy of Engineering in the UK and a Past President of Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences.

Ir Prof Lee has acted as a consulting engineer applying sophisticated hydraulic theories and innovative ideas to many of Hong Kong's mega municipal projects. These include the design and operational performance optimisation of the first underground flood storage structures, the longest rainwater intercepting tunnel, and the largest water pollution abatement project (Harbour Area Treatment Scheme). He has worked with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, the Environmental Protection Department, the Drainage Services Department, and the Water Supplies Department on issues such as hydraulic structures performance, hydro-environmental responses of water bodies, real time water pollutant level predictions and drinking water quality. He is the Lead Panelist on the Expert Panel

on Reclamation and Coastal Resilience, and Artificial Islands in the Central Waters of Hong Kong.

Ir Prof Lee has served on a wide range of statutory and advisory bodies, including the Central Policy Unit, the Land and Development Advisory Committee, the Advisory Council on the Environment, the Hong Kong Research Grants Council, and the Public Policy Research Scheme Assessment Panel.

He has received many awards for his research on environmental hydraulics. These include the ASCE Hunter Rouse Hydraulic Engineering Award, the China State Scientific and Technological Progress Award, the ASCE Karl Emil Hilgard Hydraulic Prize, the Croucher Senior Research Fellowship, the Da Yu (大禹) Water Science & Technology Prize, and the Hong Kong Construction Industry Council's Innovation (Sustainability) Award.

Prior to joining MUST in 2021, Ir Prof Lee worked as a scholar and in university senior management at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) from 2010 to 2020. His posts included Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies and Chair Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering (2010 to 2016); the Elman Family Professor of Engineering and Public Policy (2017 to 2018); and Senior Advisor to the President (2018 to 2020).

Prior to joining HKUST in 2010, he was at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) for 30 years. Joining as a Lecturer in 1980, he became the Redmond Chair Professor of Civil Engineering in 1996. He was HKU Dean of Engineering from 2000 to 2003, and then Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Staffing) from 2004 to 2010.

Ir Prof Lee received his bachelor and postgraduate degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

**Ir Dr The Hon Lo Wai Kwok**, is a Member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong (LegCo) and has been representing the Engineering Functional Constituency for over 10 years. He is Chairman of the Panel on Housing and Chairman of the Public Works Subcommittee under the Finance Committee, where he facilitates assessment and approval of public works projects. As a bridge between the engineering industry, LegCo and the Government, he occupies major roles in the planning and development of Hong Kong's long-term sustainable infrastructure.

In recognition of his contributions to Hong Kong, he received the Medal of Honour in 2001, was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 2004, and was granted the Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2009, the Silver Bauhinia Star in 2015 and the Gold Bauhinia Star in 2021.

Before becoming a LegCo member, Ir Dr The Hon Lo had accumulated more than 30 years of experience in engineering, industrial management, and technology innovation.

In recognition of his entrepreneurial achievements, he was voted one of Hong Kong's "Ten Outstanding Young Persons" in 1992 and also received the "Young Industrialist Award" in the same year.

He has served in many public positions in relation to housing, infrastructure building and maintenance, technology, industry, education, and the environment. Currently, he is a member of the Airport Authority Hong Kong Board of Directors, the Lantau Development Advisory Committee, and the Advisory Committee on the Northern Metropolis. He is also Honorary Chairman of the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency and Chairman of the Business and Professionals Alliance of Hong Kong,

He was the Founding Chairman of the Hong Kong Green Strategy Alliance, and is a Past President of the Hong Kong Professionals and Senior Executives Association. He was a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference from 2018 to 2023, and was also a member of China Association for Science and Technology from 2006 to 2021.

On the tertiary educational front, he was Chairman of the Board of Directors of CityU Enterprises Limited from 2008 to 2021. He is also an Honorary Fellow of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the Vocational Training Council, and the City University of Hong Kong.

Ir Dr The Hon Lo has been a full member of the HKIE since 1982 and has served on numerous division committees and boards. He was President for Session 2007/2008 and was inducted into the HKIE Hall of Fame in 2015. He helped introduce new disciplines including Aircraft Engineering, Fire Engineering, and Transport and Logistics.

Ir Dr The Hon Lo holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering from The University of Hong Kong. He also has a Master of Business Administration from The Chinese University of Hong Kong. In addition, he has an Engineering Doctorate from the University of Warwick, where he is an Industrial Fellow.

### **The HKIE Gold Medal 2023**

Each year, the Gold Medal is awarded to an outstanding member in recognition of his/her specific contributions to or achievements in his/her engineering field. This year, the Medal went to **Ir Wai Chi Sing**.

Ir Wai is a singularly experienced civil engineer and administrator. He joined the HKSAR Government after receiving his BSc in Civil Engineering from HKU in 1977. Later, in 1986, he earned an MSc in Transportation Engineering from Purdue University. Throughout his long career as a civil servant, he served in many capacities in the Transport Department, the Highways Department, and the Development Bureau.

Dedicating his professional career to developing the transportation and highways of Hong Kong, Ir Wai contributed significantly to the city's infrastructure development. During his tenure as Director of Highways from 2006 to 2010, he oversaw the implementations, public engagements, and legislative procedures of many important mega highway projects, including the Central-Wanchai Bypass, the Island East Corridor Link, the main sector of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, and Tuen Mun–Chek Lap Kok Link.

As Permanent Secretary (Works) of the Development Bureau from 2010 to 2015, he worked on numerous important projects. He oversaw a HK\$70 billion public sector infrastructure development programme, facilitated public works policies on construction safety, worked with the Construction Industry Council on construction industry reform, reviewed conservation policy on the city's built heritage with the Antiquities Advisory Board, drew up strategies for Kowloon East's transformation, and liaised with Mainland authorities to enhance Hong Kong professionals' recognition under the China Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA).

After his retirement in 2015, Ir Wai was appointed Managing Director of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) in 2016. With the aim of improving the livelihoods of residents in older districts, Ir Wai transformed the URA in every respect through a holistic and forward-looking approach to urban regeneration. The URA is now known for its professionalism and innovation, a reputation gained by its adoption of smart technologies including 5G networks, artificial intelligence, Building Information Modelling and Modular Integrated Construction.

Ir Wai has been a dedicated educator, nurturing future engineers for the development of Hong Kong. He has been an honorary professor, chairman and advisor of engineering departments at various tertiary institutions such as HKU, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. His other services include being a member and alternate director of the West Kowloon District Authority, a non-executive director of the MTR Corporation, and a board member of the Ocean Park Corporation.

Ir Wai received the Gold Bauhinia Star in 2015 for distinguished service to the community and was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 2016.

### **The President's Award 2023**

The President's Award was set up by the Institution to recognise the dedicated and valuable services of members of any class who had served the Institution with distinction. This year, the award went to **Ir Jenny F Yeung**.

Ir Yeung is currently a Deputy Head of the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department of the HKSAR Government. She was the first female student to graduate with a Bachelor of Engineering degree in

Civil and Structural Engineering from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) in 1995. Subsequently, she acquired a Master of Philosophy in Geotechnical Engineering at the University of Cambridge on the Chevening/Cambridge Scholarship.

She has also worked in the Development Bureau, where she worked on land supply strategies, including cavern development and reclamation for the sustainable development of Hong Kong. She was awarded Secretary for the Civil Service's Commendation in 2012 in recognition of her outstanding service to the Government and the public. In 2016, she was promoted to Chief Geotechnical Engineer, being the first female to take up this post in Government.

Ir Yeung has served the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers for the past 30 years. She was awarded "Trainee of the Year" and "Young Engineer of the Year" in 1997 and 2006 respectively. She has held a variety of key positions in the Institution, including the Council, the Executive, the Young Members Committee, the Public Service Committee and various division committees, as well as on the Engineers' Registration Board.

She is particularly passionate about nurturing young engineers. She is experienced in organising delegations to mainland China to enhance young engineers' knowledge of the development of the country. She has also encouraged and inspired young students, especially female ones, to choose careers in engineering. Ir Yeung was elected a Member of the Election Committee (Engineering Subsector) for the elections of the Chief Executive of the HKSAR and the Hong Kong delegates to the National People's Congress. In 2021, she was also awarded Outstanding Alumni by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of the HKUST.

### **Young Engineer of the Year Award 2023**

The Young Engineer of the Year Award aims to recognise outstanding young engineers for their significant contributions to, and outstanding achievements in, the profession, the community of Hong Kong, and the HKIE. This year, **Ir Dr Clarence E Choi** received the Award.

Ir Dr Choi obtained his BSc in Civil Engineering from the University of Calgary with distinction and a PhD from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). He worked as a geotechnical engineer before re-joining HKUST as Research Assistant Professor in 2015. In 2019, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at HKU, where he leads an international research team tackling landslide and ground improvement problems.

Ir Dr Choi has received several prestigious international landslide research awards for young scholars. These include the 3rd Hutchinson Lecture from the Federation of International Geo-Engineering Societies and the 2022 Oldrich Hungr Award from the

UNESCO International Consortium of Landslides. In addition, he was awarded the 2019 Best Paper Award from the Consortium's Landslides Journal; the HKIE 2022 Best Geotechnical Paper Award; the 2021 Bright Spark Lecture from the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering; the 2017 Telford Premium Prize from the Institution of Civil Engineers; the 2017 R.M. Quigley Award from the Canadian Geotechnical Society, and 2015-2019 Junior Fellowship from HKUST Jockey Club Institute for Advanced Study.

Ir Dr Choi is a local and international ambassador for the profession. He is a Board Representative of UNESCO's International Consortium of Landslides; Chair of the Debris Flow and Steep Creek Hazards Mitigation Committee of the Association of Geohazard Professionals; Chair of the HKIE's Geotechnical Pioneers Committee, and Chair-Nominated Member of TC208 on Slope Stability of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. He is also a nominated member of the Joint Technical Committee No. 1 on Natural Slopes and Landslides of the Federation of International Geo-Engineering Societies; the HKIE's Geotechnical Division Committee; the HK Geotechnical Society; and the China Youth Science and Technologists Association. His work helped to develop nine technical design documents in Hong Kong. He is also Editor and Editorial Board member of numerous top journals in his discipline, having personally contributed over 82 SCI publications.

**Certificates of Merit** for the Young Engineer of the Year Award 2023 went to Ir Furla S Y Chan; Ir Jason K W Cheung, and Ir Kwok Kai Yuen.

This year's awardees have set the bar exceptionally high in terms of what engineers can do for their community with their professional services and knowledge; nevertheless, the HKIE is confident that its members will always be keen to outdo themselves and strive to follow in the footsteps of these distinguished awardees to secure a better future for Hong Kong.

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Ir Aaron K M Bok, the HKIE's President, delivering his Address





The Honourable Chan Kwok Ki, Acting Chief Executive of the HKSAR, delivering his Address as the Principal Guest





Ir Thomas O S Ho, Chairman of Construction Industry Council, delivering his Address as the Guest of Honour



Ir Prof Joseph H W Lee (Right), the HKIE Honorary Fellow 2023, with the President



Ir Dr The Hon Lo Wai-kwok (Right), the HKIE Honorary Fellow 2023, with the President



Ir Wai Chi Sing (Right) being presented The HKIE Gold Medal 2023 by the President



Ir Jenny Yeung (Right) being presented with the President's Award 2023 by the President



Ir Dr Clarence Edward Choi (Right) being presented with Young Engineer of the Year Award (YEYA) 2023 by the President