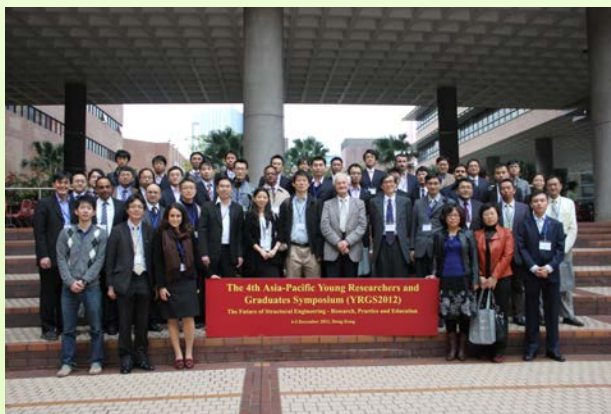


ACF co-organized YRGS2012

ACF co-organized the 4th Asia-Pacific Young Researchers and Graduates Symposium (YRGS2012): Future of Structural Engineering – Research, Practice and Education on December 4-5, Hong Kong. The YRGS2012 was chaired by Dr. Jian-Guo Dai, an active ACF member, together with his colleague Dr. Songye Zhu at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The Hong Kong Institute of Steel Construction (HKIC) also sponsored this event.

The YRGS2012 accepted 47 papers from many countries/regions including Australia, Canada, Mainland China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, USA, UK, Taiwan, Thailand and Turkey. The symposium consisted of a two-day technical program. The first day program was organized in six technical sessions and the second day program was organized in the form of a mini-symposium on “Durability and Life-cycle Management of Civil Infrastructures”, which was particularly organized for YRGS2012 participants in conjunction with the First International Conference on Performance-based and Life-cycle Structural Engineering (PLSE2012), 5-7 December 2012, Hong Kong. Many young ACF members joined both events.



Group photo of YRGS2012

The YRGS series is primarily a platform for early-stage structural engineering professors, research scientists, professional engineers, postdoctoral fellows and PhD students to present their latest findings within the broad discipline of structural engineering. It provides a good opportunity for Asia-Pacific young structural engineering people to learn about future career paths, to network with fellow researchers and to develop collaborations and friendship. The previous three YRGSs were successfully held at Kunsan National University in 2009, Zhejiang University in 2010 and National Taiwan University in 2011, respectively.

The ACF president, Prof. Tamon Ueda from Hokkaido University, was invited by the YRGS2012 organizing committee to deliver a keynote lecture titled “Expectation to Young Research in Asia-Pacific for Our Future”. Prof. S. P. Shah from Northwest University, USA delivered the other keynote lecture on “Advanced Materials through Nanotechnology”.



Prof. Ueda's Keynote lecture



Prof. Shah's Keynote Lecture

During the YRGS2012, Prof. Ueda expressed his strong wishes that young researchers in the Asia-Pacific region should enhance communication, collaboration and academic exchange, and foster leadership through active involvement in professional bodies such as ACF. The steering committee of YRGS decided to organize some particular events (e.g. special sessions and workshop) during the biannual ACF conference and hopes that ACF will continue supporting the YRGS activities. It is expected that a closer partnership between YRGS and ACF will benefit the growth of younger researchers and professionals in the structural engineering field, which is also one of the aims of the ACF. It was decided that the next YRGS symposium will be organized in India in 2013.

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