



# Joint Technical Seminar on Rock Caverns and Urban Underground Space - Opportunities and Approaches from Overseas Experience

**Organised by CEDD  
and supported by**

**HKIA, HKIE, HKIP, HKIS, HKIUD, HKRG GSL and IOM<sup>3</sup>**

Date: 10 February 2015 (Tuesday)

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Venue: Chiang Chen Studio Theatre, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Format: Presentations on Overseas Examples of Underground Space and Rock Cavern Development by two eminent speakers (each about 40 min) followed by a Q&A session

Chairman: Mr Mark Wallace – Arup Project Manager

Speakers: **Prof. Jacques Besner** – General Manager of Associated research Centers for the Urban Underground Space

**Title** – “*Urban Underground Opportunities and Challenges in Dense Connected Urban Cities*”

**Prof. Raymond Sterling** – Professor Emeritus at Louisiana Tech University

**Title** – “*Rock Cavern Development Drivers, Opportunities and Approaches for Sustainable Urban Development*”

## Synopsis

As highlighted in the Chief Executive's 2013 Policy Address, rock caverns and underground space are viable sources of long-term land supply. The enhanced use of these "hidden" land resources can offer new opportunities for Hong Kong's planning and development gains. Studies are being carried out to take forward this policy initiative, including the study on "Long-term Strategy for Cavern Development" commenced in September 2012 as well as the "Territory-wide Study on Underground Space Development in the Urban Areas of Hong Kong" commenced in December 2013. Planning, environmental and engineering input is essential in considering this initiative as well as identifying the right solutions to drive and utilise our valuable land to support social and economic development and address the existing urban problems such as congested urban environment.

CEDD along with the supporting organisations are pleased to have two eminent practitioners to present to you various overseas examples of how these types of facilities have offered opportunities for development in other countries and cities.

## About the Speakers

**Prof. Jacques Besner** has a Baccalaureate in architecture and a Master in urban planning from the University of Montreal. He worked for 30 years as a municipal planner at the City of Montreal, mostly in charge of negotiations with developers and their architects who asked development agreements and underground links to the Metro and the Underground City. During the last ten years at the City, he was in charge of Asia at the International Affairs Bureau, and has been involved in transfer of expertise related to the underground space. In 1997, he chaired the 7th International Conference of ACUUS "Underground space: Indoor cities of tomorrow" hosted by the City of Montreal. Previously, with Prof. Ray Sterling and two other co-founders, he incorporated ACUUS (Associated research Centers for the Urban Underground Space) in Canada and became Secretary General, in charge of its Secretariat in Montreal. Since 2007, he is acting now as the General Manager of ACUUS. Retired from the City of Montreal in 2010, he is now working as an independent consultant in urban underground space planning, mainly in Asia.

**Prof. Raymond Sterling** is Professor Emeritus at Louisiana Tech University. From 1995 to 2009 he was the CETF Professor of Civil Engineering and Director of the Trenchless Technology Center at Louisiana Tech University. Previously, from 1977 to 1995, he was the founding director of the Underground Space Center at the University of Minnesota. He is a Past Chairman of the International Society for Trenchless Technology, a Past President of ACUUS, and a Past Chairman of the U.S. National Committee on Tunnelling Technology. He is a Senior Editor of the journal Tunnelling and Underground Space Technology. He is currently serving on an international advisory panel to Singapore's Ministry of National Development with regard to their "Land and Liveability Challenge." He is also currently a consultant to two planning studies with regard to increasing the use of underground space in Hong Kong.

## Registration and Enquiries

Attending the seminar is free of charge. Seating capacity is provided for approximately 250 people. Seats will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis on the day and no pre-registration is required. For other enquiries, please contact Ms. Elvina Tam by email: [elvina.tam@arup.com](mailto:elvina.tam@arup.com) or at Tel: 2268 3415.

## CPD

The seminar has been accredited for 1.5 CPD hours. A CPD certificate will be issued by IOM<sup>3</sup> at the end of the seminar.

## Location Map

