

## **IOQNZ President's Report – International Presidents Meeting in Hong Kong**

**23 – 26 November 2011**

In November, I and my wife Diane attended the International Presidents meeting in Hong Kong. The meeting was held as part of the 40<sup>th</sup> IOQ Hong Kong Branch Conference. The meeting was based at the International Grand Stanford Hotel, Kowloon. Organised events started on the Wednesday night with a meal at the Happy Valley Racing Club where a horse racing meeting was taking place, we were hosted in a corporate box held by one of the large legal firms in Hong Kong who carried out work for the quarrying industry in Hong Kong. The Presidents' meeting took place the next morning and was attended by Jack Berridge (Executive Director IQUK), Ross Chow (Chairman IOQHK Branch), Martin Isles (President IQUK), Wayne Scott (President IQ Australia), Riaan Redelinghuys (President IQ South Africa), IR Lee Kam Fatt (President IOQ Malaysia), Terry Last (CEO Tarmac), Chen Nyet Lin (Hon Secretary IQ Malaysia), Mustapha Mohd Lip (Deputy President IQ Malaysia) and Chan Hong Man (Secretary IQHK).

Each country gave a presentation on IOQ activities for the year. With some common threads being retaining and growing membership numbers becoming more difficult with the current tough global economy. The UK and Australia seem to be doing better than the other countries as both operate a training and professional development as a business part of the IQ activities. Discussions were held on standardising of the IQ web pages throughout the world, the IQUK will report back with a proposal.

During the meeting the presidents selected the winner of this year's Caernarfon Award. Each country presents a technical paper to be judged, voting is done on a number of categories, this year there were three papers to be judged-

1. Australia – Martin Isles & Jim Joy, Influencing Equipment Design
2. New Zealand – Glenn Kiernan, Electronic Detonators vs Non Electric Detonators and New Blast Hole Loading Techniques – You Decide
3. United Kingdom – Terry Last, Personal Commitment Drives Zero Harm Culture

The outcome of the rigorous voting system was Glenn Kiernan – General Manager of Inline Drilling was the winner, I was extremely proud to receive the award on Glenn's behalf.

A nomination was also made for Prof Dr Ir Eric Goh from Malaysia to receive a Honorary (International ) Fellowship for "outstanding contributions to the IQ" and this was accepted.

That afternoon we visited Andersons Road Quarry one of the only two remaining operational quarries in Hong Kong, the other is Lam Tei Quarry. Hong Kong has a population of approximately 7.5 million and uses approximately 15 million tonnes of aggregate half of which is imported. The Andersons Road quarry was due to be completed within the next couple of years and Lam Tei quarry also only had a couple more years of rock left.

Plans are being made to develop new quarries although no physical work has started. The photo (right) is at Andersons Road Quarry operated by Alliance Construction Materials Ltd. In the background you can see Hong Kong Island so the quarry is very close to town with neighbours only metres from their boundary. There is rock remaining at both existing quarries but conditions on their consents meant the land is more valuable for housing and building than for producing rock.



On Friday the Conference was held, the theme was “Revelations of The Quarrying Industry Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”. A full day of technical papers was presented. Papers covered topics from the early days of quarrying in Hong Kong through to extensive rehabilitation programmes of old quarries and examination of underground quarrying methods being proposed for Hong Kong. Along with quarrying papers a number were presented on local projects.



One on the Express rail link from Hong Kong to Guangzhou was a major 200km project costing approximately \$66 Billion, but this was only minor compared to the Hong Kong to Macao Bridge Project (photo at left) 56kms over water that had started and was to cost around \$250 Billion. [I have a disc containing all the presentation so if you would like further info on activities in Hong Kong please call me]. Along with technical

papers there were a number of trade stands, the day was attended by approximately 120 delegates. The Gala Dinner was held on the Saturday Night and attended by 250 quarry associated people, surprisingly not many partners attended the gala Dinner and by 10.30 pm almost everybody had gone (quite different to our conference diners).



The attached photograph includes all the International Presidents - from left: Jack Berridge - Executive Director IQUK; Ross Chow -Chairman IOQHK Branch; Martin Isles -President IQUK, Gavin Hartley -President IOQNZ; Wayne Scott – President IOQ Australia; Riaan Redelinghuys – President IOQ Southern Africa; and IR Lee Kam Fatt – President IOQ Malaysia. (Please note the informal dress code presented by the Kiwi, Aussie and Southern African !)

During the conference I had an informal discussion with Wayne Scott, Jack Berridge and Martin Isles on how their training and Continued Professional Development programmes were going - both the English and Australians run a formal training business as part of the IOQ activities. This is an area the IOQNZ is currently evaluating.



I presented Ross Chow Chairman IOQ Hong Kong Branch as a gift from the IOQNZ - a piece of Blackhead Quarry basalt with the IOQ Crest etched into the face.

The presidents' meeting was a great success only made possible by the great work of the hosts from Hong Kong. All the presidents and partners were looked after extremely well. Diane and I would especially like to thank Regina Fong (Ross Chow's PA) for her great organisation.

Gavin Hartley

IOQNZ President