



## Design for Safety –2008 AGS (HK) Industry Survey

### 1. Introduction

Construction remains as one of the world's deadliest industries. 25 people were killed on construction sites in 2005 in Hong Kong alone and a further 16 in 2006. Internationally, there is growing recognition of the importance of designers in affecting the safety of construction projects. In addition to ensuring a design's stability, structural capacity and robustness, designers are in a unique position to remove hazards and mitigate risks affecting the people involved in all stages of a project [from construction workers and the public, to end-users and to those carrying out a project's maintenance and its demolition].

Wider questions also need to be asked on how "design for safety" can be facilitated. There is consensus for example that the designer has the greatest influence on safety in the early stages of a project i.e. the conceptual design and planning stage and that this influence rapidly falls away as the project moves on to the detailed design stage and beyond this to construction. The manner in which projects and designs are procured therefore has a pronounced effect on the ability of designers to address safety. Other influences include the level of regulation of government, the company's safety culture and awareness of designers, amongst others.

This survey has been prepared by the AGS (HK) Working Group on the Design for Safety and is intended to provide a snapshot of the perceptions and practices of clients, designers and contractors in Hong Kong on issues related to the design for safety. The Working Group then intends to publish a document reviewing the results, which will be used as a basis for defining general recommendations to improve construction safety in Hong Kong and with more specific guidance generated for ground engineering. All participants will receive a copy.

### 2. Who Should Answer the Survey?

The focus of the AGS (HK) is on issues related to geotechnical and geoenvironmental works. However, this survey is deliberately intended for practitioners in all areas of construction, due to it being felt that the underlying themes of designing for safety are common to all.

The questionnaire is divided into five areas, the first of which is common to all participants and the remaining four of which are for private sector clients, architects, design engineers and contractors respectively. **Apart from the common section, individuals are asked to only answer the section that they consider to best apply to themselves. If you consider that none of Sections 2 to 5 apply to you then please answer only Section 1 accordingly.**

The names of organizations and individuals will remain anonymous. However, it is asked that no more than 20 individuals per organization reply.



香港岩土及岩土環境工程專業協會  
ASSOCIATION OF GEOTECHNICAL &  
GEOENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS (HONG KONG)

A survey is only as successful as the number of people who answer it and your time and effort in taking part are highly appreciated.

### **3. Survey Deadline**

The survey should be returned, at the latest by **12:00pm on Friday 30 May 2008** by post or email to the following address:

By post

Attn: Jonathan Li

AGS(HK) Working Group on Design for Safety

c/o Gammon Construction Limited

PO Box 9711 GPO Hong Kong

By email

Attn: Jonathan Li

[Jonathan.li@gammonconstruction.com](mailto:Jonathan.li@gammonconstruction.com)

A letter of thanks shall be issued upon receipt.