

A Summary on Factory Tour organised by International Association of Elevator Engineers (HK-China Branch) supported by Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (HK Branch)

reported by John Inglis, President of IAEE and Albert So, Executives Board Member of IAEE

The factory tour was considered one of the most important activities of IAEE (HK-China Branch) in 2001, besides the Biennial General Meeting. It was supported by the Hong Kong Branch of CIBSE. The tour lasted for five days, from 28th November, 2001 (Wednesday) to 2nd December, 2001 (Sunday). It was well attended by an international group of twenty six participants, seventeen from Hong Kong, one from China Mainland, one from Australia and seven from Japan. Participants were mainly from lift companies, the government and academic institutions.

Early in the morning on 28th, the group from Hong Kong gathered at Hong Kong International Airport and flew China Eastern Airline to Shanghai where we were joined by participants from Japan. At Shanghai Hong Qiao Airport, a group photograph was taken, Photo 1. The first activity right after a quick lunch was a visit to Shanghai Yungtay Engineering Co. Ltd.(HITACHI) at the western part of the city (Photo 2). The group was welcome by Mr. Jin-Chai Lin, General Manager of the company. We visited the remote monitoring centre (Photo 3) and the factory. Fault alarms from their lifts installed around the country were automatically reported to the centre via the telephone lines for further actions and decisions made there. Afterwards, we had a warm discussion in the meeting hall and before we left, Mr. S.K. Liu, Hon. Treasurer of IAEE (HK-China Branch) presented a souvenir to Mr. Lin (Photo 4) on behalf of the Branch and the whole group.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

On the next day, after breakfast, the group took a long drive from Shanghai to Su Zhou, the first terrestrial heaven in China where we visited Su Zhou Schindler Elevator Co. Ltd. (Photo 5) The group was warmly welcome by Mr. Walter Haldemann, President of the company. He briefed us on the development of the company in Su Zhou and had his staff escort us around the factory (Photo 6 showing a car cabin was being assembled). Mr.

John Inglis presented Mr. Haldemann a souvenir on behalf of IAEE and the group (Photo 7). Photo 8 showed all representatives of IAEE (HK-China Branch) following the tour. After the visit, we visited a few scenic spots at Su Zhou on our way back to the hotel.



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8

On the third day, after breakfast, the group took an even longer drive from Su Zhou to another terrestrial heaven of China, Hang Zhou where we visited Xizi Otis Elevator Co. Ltd. (Photo 9). The group was warmly welcome by Mr. Li-Yuan Cheng, Vice President of the company. We had a detailed discussion inside the meeting room and Mr. Cheng showed us around the factory tour members were able to ride in the Otis Gen2 lift in glass shaft.. Afterwards, Mr. H.S. Kuok, Vice Chairman of IAEE (HK-China Branch) presented Mr. Cheng with a souvenir on behalf of the branch and the group (Photo 10).



Photo 9



Photo 10

On our way back to the hotel at Shanghai, the group visited two scenic spots in Hang Zhou.

On the fourth day which was Saturday, the group visited Schindler's training centre (Photo 11) at Pu Dong where a half-day seminar was organised by Mr. Jin Jin of Schindler Shanghai. Since the training lecture hall was spacious enough for about 100 participants (Photo 12), our group could enjoy a very comfortable environment to listen to lectures delivered by two renowned experts in Shanghai. The first lecture was by Prof. Chang-Ming Zhu of Shanghai Jiao Tong University (Photo 13). Prof. Zhu briefed the group on latest development of new technologies in elevator systems in China and overseas and the recent utilisation of such new technologies in the country. The second lecture was by Mr. Shui-Lin Mei, Director Engineer of Shanghai Specified Machine Supervision Inspection Institution (Photo 14). Mr. Mei introduced the new set of regulations of inspection and control by the government on specified machines in China with an emphasis on the main concept and the government departments which bore the main responsibilities.



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 14

After the two very interesting and informative lectures, the group was shown around the training centre (Photo 15 is showing Miss Betty Lee of the Branch by the side of a training controller panel). New models of machines were displayed. After lunch, Mr. Jin Jin arranged site visits for the group. We first of all visited the facilities of a 5-star hotel in Pu Dong and then took the underground railway to the Bund at Pu Xi to have an open view of recent developments in Pu Dong area (Photo 16). The Hang Lung Centre, a new 66-storey high building (Photo 17), was then visited where the machine room there was shown to the group (Photo 18).

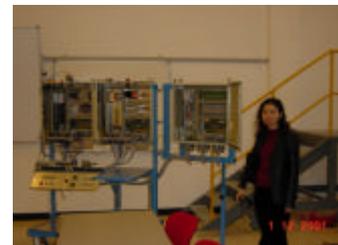


Photo 15



Photo 16



Photo 17



Photo 18

Saturday was a very fruitful day for the whole group and on Sunday, group participants were given a free morning. With a lot of pleasant memory in Shanghai, Su Zhou and Hang Zhou, the group departed Hong Qiao Airport in the afternoon, finishing a very exciting and valuable journey to the eastern part of China Mainland. Group members from Hong Kong said farewell to friends from Japan and Australia. It was strongly proposed that IAEE (HK-China Branch) should organise similar activities on an annual basis.

Finally, the authors would like to express their heartfelt thanks to Ms. Angela Chong (PR Officer, IAEE HK-China Branch), Mr. S.K. Liu (Hon. Treasurer, IAEE HK-China Branch), Ms. S.Q. Zhao (Mainland Membership Coordinator, IAEE HK-China Branch) and Miss Betty Lee (Chevalier HK Ltd.). Without their continuous effort, this trip would not have been a great success.