SUMMARY

The objective of this research "Application of PC in Construction Project Management in Hong Kong" is to ascertain the status of PC application in the Construction Project Management in Hong Kong, and then explore the problems encountered and solutions to overcome the problems and to improve the project management process. Questionnaires were sent out to 7 different groups of companies, viz. Property Developers, Project Management Firms and Others, Architectural Firms, Engineering Firms, Quantity Surveying Firms, Main Contractors and Specialist Contractors. The findings revealed that Property Developers had a little longer history of using computers than the other parties and they had other computer facilities in addition to PC. Surprising enough, all of the Engineering Firms, Quantity Surveying Firms and Project Management Firms confirmed that they had PC as their only computer facilities, and 69% of all the companies had PC as their only computer facilities. All respondents confirmed that they used PC to varying degree of sophistication. All architects replied that they now used computers to produce drawings, and more than 50% of the Architectural Firms said that they had 3D computer capabilities. All Architectural and Engineering Firms replied that they had used Internet (e-mail) for project communication and agreed that it would become more popular in the future.

The problems as perceived by the respondents, in the descending order of importance, are: 1. Lack of coordination and integration among different parties in the use of PCs, 2. lack of appropriate software at a reasonable price, 3. high capital cost, 4. lack of management support etc. Lack of coordination and integration in this segmented industry is generally expected and recognised world-wide. A recent research project in the UK which attempted to create a direct link between the design and cost information was discussed. Lack of appropriate software at a reasonable price and high capital cost are of the same nature and they reflected the temporary nature of construction projects and companies' unwillingness to invest heavily in computer facilities. Most of the respondents only started using computers, and PC for the majority, 5 to 10 years ago, and most of them said that they found the computer really useful only 5 years ago when more software for PC were available in the market about that time.

All respondents agreed that there would be more applications of PC in construction project management, and this would contribute to a project’s success. They also recognised the need to improve integration among different parties and of the different computer systems they were using. Moreover, Internet and e-mail is beginning to take shape which may ultimately alter the way of communication. However, to achieve all these, it is recommended to advocate the usefulness of PC in construction project management and to lobby for the set up of a steering committee by the Government, Professional bodies, organizations in the Construction Industry and the Computing Industry to achieve a co-ordinated approach. (484 words)