12:30 - 12:40pm
Light lunch and drinks

12:40-12:45
Welcome and Introduction

12:45 - 1:00pm
A/ Prof Palaneeswaran Ekambaram (Program Coordinator, Construction/ Risk/ Engineering Management)
Title: Reducing Errors and Rework in Construction Projects – Lessons from Hong Kong
Abstract: An array of researchers revealed that design and construction errors are still dominant root causes for several problems in construction projects. Also, rework has been identified as one of the major contributors to (a) claims and disputes as well as (b) cost and schedule overruns in building and civil infrastructure projects. Previous case-studies indicate that undetected or late discovery of errors were catastrophic. Furthermore, most of the rework occurrences in design and construction arise from unnecessary redoing of incorrectly implemented processes or activities. This presentation includes: (i) a summary of key observations from a series of recent research studies and (ii) an overview of best practices and rational design audit arrangements in Hong Kong construction industry.

1:00 - 1:15pm
Brian Lynch (Masters candidate – August 2012)
Title: Castable Waste Gypsum Panels
Abstract: This project is aimed at addressing the issue of the re-use of industrial by-products in building materials. Gypsum recovered from recycled plasterboard is incorporated into a mix design including OPC, slag, fly ash and various aggregates to form a castable panel. While the mix design is a major factor in determining success, the effects of admixtures, water content and curing will be evaluated to see whether a formulation that initially appears sub-optimal can be made to perform well based on its rheological properties. Thereby a product with more recycled content can ultimately be optimised.

1:00 - 1:15pm
Dr Sylvia Mackie (Academic Language and Learning Adviser, FEIS)
Title: Doctoral Writing and the Confirmation of Candidature Review
Abstract: Dr Mackie will discuss strategies of doctoral writing in the context of the FEIS Confirmation of Candidature Review process.