

"Sixty for communication skills...and forty for technical knowledge":
Understanding professional communicative competences of professionals in engineering

Co-organisers:

- [Hong Kong Institute of Utility Specialists \(HKIUS\)](#)

Date & Time: 7 December 2010 (Tue), 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Venue: [N001](#), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

The seminar describes an interdisciplinary project between English Studies academics and engineers, surveyors and architects. The collaborative project involves the Research Centre for Professional Communication in English (RCPCE) and Hong Kong Institute of Utility Specialists (HKIUS). The seminar reports on the analysis of 474 completed questionnaires, with a focus on the relative frequencies of use of languages (Chinese and English; Cantonese, Mandarin and English), use of different written and spoken text types, perceived importance of these text types, and perceived difficulty of these text types. It also reports on the findings of 36 interviews with a focus on the professionals' opinions of their different competences in professional communication, and how the competencies are valued and evaluated in their workplaces. Based on the findings, the seminar discusses some implications for effective English communication in the engineering profession.

Speaker: Professor Winnie Cheng, Department of English, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

