

# Hong Kong Lens

No. 1

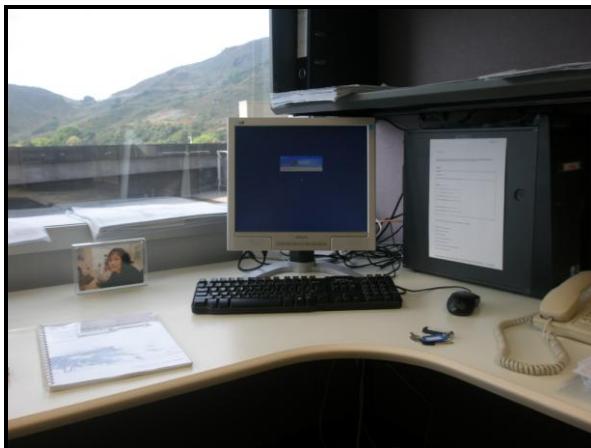


**Dear HWE Leaders,**

Choice greetings from Hong Kong in the wonderful name of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ!

I hope you are keeping well in the Lord. I want you to know that you are in my prayers.

I have been working for 2 weeks. Below are 2 pictures showing where I worked. It is a very nice working environment, praise the Lord!



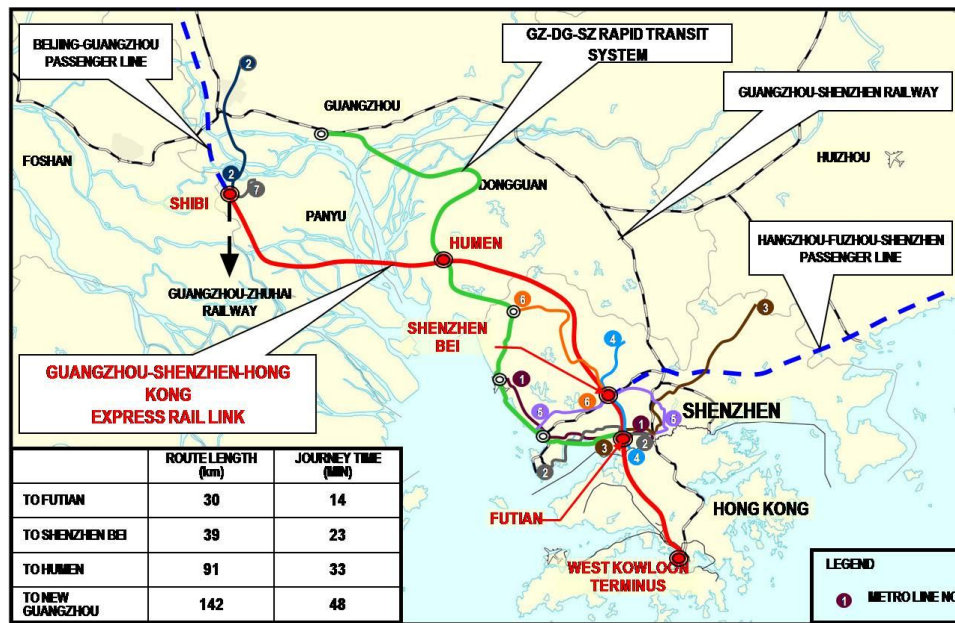
My Desk



View from my window

The project I am working on is the Main Hong Kong Terminus (West Kowloon Terminus) for the 26 km High Speed Rail link to China. It has generated a lot of protests in Hong Kong recently because of its high cost. But if it is viewed in the bigger picture, it should benefit Hong Kong in the long run because the link will connect Hong Kong to a High Speed Rail network (of 10,600 km) in China. When it is completed, Hong Kong to Beijing will only take 10 hours.

The West Kowloon Terminus is an iconic station with a very modern Station Entrance Building (SEB). The project has been going for almost a year and we are at a crucial stage for its detailed design. I am the Package Manager for the SEB, responsible for its delivery.



High Speed Rail Link to China

Although we (AECOM) are the Lead Consultant, the Entrance Building is designed by a specialist sub-consultant Buro Happold, in conjunction with the architect Aedas. Both are led by expats. My job is to manage them, not an easy task!

I am glad that I did the Jericho prayer walk the day before I started work. I can see warfare since day 1.

Before I arrived, another expat (John) on the AECOM Team has been doing my job, so he was not keen for me to join the Team. My boss (Project Manager) told me so shortly after my arrival, hence I was expecting a lot of hostility from John.

Sure enough John, who is the Engineering Design Team Leader, has been trying to boss over me since my arrival. He did not realize that I was not just another Chinese engineer. He did not know that I have a Friend in very high places. Also, I report directly to the Project Manager over him :o).

My job has been challenging because John has been very friendly to the sub-consultants, giving them a free hand to do the design. So collectively, they are against my involvement in the project, i.e. I was not welcome!

God has been watching over me, allowing me to learn about this very complex project and to get up to speed very quickly. God also allowed something to happen that allowed me to establish my authority in the project.

On Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, we had to do a Presentation to Senior Management within MTR, our Client. John only informed the Project Manager (my boss) and myself the morning before the meeting. Also, I only saw the agenda at the meeting.

The agenda was mainly on design responsibility, mega column design and a presentation on claddings to the roof. The meeting was organized by John. It was a poor show in a number of areas:

- 1) The sub-consultants were only represented by low-ranking people, not senior staff.
- 2) The issue of design responsibility was not discussed beforehand causing huge embarrassment to my boss in the meeting.
- 3) The mega column design, consisting of 4 legs jointed at the waist, will now require cladding because the joint proves very difficult to build to the required architectural standard of finish. This represents a design change which may have cost implications.
- 4) The cladding to the roof consisting of 40,000 aluminum panels which the architect designed based on a computer model, allowing only 10mm gaps between each panel – a recipe for financial claim from the contractor because the actual site condition is very different from a computer model. At least 10% of the panels have to be site cut or site measured.

The boss was very angry about the whole thing and told John so. I also seized the opportunity to send John and the sub-consultants an e-mail evaluating our performance. The poor show was the result of John not consulting with my boss and myself beforehand. In my e-mail, I mentioned the above pitfalls; I also quoted from the Bible – [Proverbs 15:22](#) “Plans fail for lack of counsel”. I think God has used the occasion to stamp my authority over John and the sub-consultants. God is truly amazing!

My plan now is to first establish myself as a good worker and a good leader in the workplace and pray for opportunity to reach out with the Gospel. I have been working 9-10 hour days, 5 days a week, but I am amazed at the energy I have. I also keep a very disciplined life-style in eating, exercising and resting. I feel good physically, mentally and spiritually. I also do regular devotions and pray unceasingly for the church and the market place!

In parallel with the above market place ministry, I am meeting old friends to share with them what God has done in my life in the UK and my future plan in Hong Kong. Once I have a few people interested, I plan to start a home group.

We are living in a time that is both challenging and exciting. It is because the Day of the Lord is approaching fast. The key for success is to depend fully on God.

Quoting [Eph 4:1](#), “I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” May our Lord God empower you to live each day victoriously for Him. Amen!

**With love & prayers**

PK

6<sup>th</sup> March, 2010