



The Five Regions Fastener Association Conference 2015 Gathers Industry Professionals in Hong Kong

Photos & text by courtesy of HK-SFC

On Oct. 12th, 2015, the Five Regions Fastener Association Conference took place at Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. This conference was organized by Hong Kong Screw & Fastener Council (HK-SFC) and was sponsored and supported by "the SME development and support funds" of Trade and Industry Department (TID) of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, as well as by Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC). Meanwhile, the organizer also considerably offered simultaneous interpretation in order to achieve better communication and interaction among all entrepreneurs from different countries and regions, making this grand event a very big success.

More than 230 important guests, company reps, and association leaders from Fastener Sub Association of China General Machine Components Industry Association (CMCA), Hong Kong Screw & Fastener Council (HK-SFC), Taiwan Industrial Fasteners Institute (TIFI), Fastener Institute of Japan (FIJ), and Korean Federation of Fasteners Industry Cooperatives (KFFIC) gathered in this conference.

"In order to arouse the aggressiveness of our members and realize the mission statement of this conference, we have made some changes to make this conference a bit different this time. For example, the original half-day

conference is now one-day long and we are also very happy to invite the expert from Germany to lecture on the latest cold forging technology for us. In addition, the last editions of this conference always included regional analyses in the fastener industry; this year we made changes to focus on issues such as technological developments, market trends, and succession in family-owned enterprises in various areas. All presentations of every association were also compiled into printed booklets with some profiles of companies in attendance, further strengthening the views exchange among industries after the conference," says HK-SFC Chairman Lin Zhi Ming.

Chairman Lin also added, 2014 was a year with difficulties and opportunities for Hong Kong fastener industry. Facing the low economic performance, every company should take this chance to re-examine itself and seek innovation in product

(Pic1) Chairmen, Vice Chairmen, and the guests

(Pic2) HK-SFC Chairman Lin Zhi Ming

(Pic3) Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. h. c. Mathias Liewald from Institute for Metal Forming Technology (University of Stuttgart)



design, materials R&D, and manufacturing technology. As a result, being the one that supports every industry, the fastener industry should be open-minded to enhance manufacturing technology and R&D ability, helping it keep up with new technology and achieve sustainability. The desired goal of this conference is to increase knowledge and widen the horizons of the industry through technology sharing and view exchange among all attendees.

The most popular thematic technical session started at 11 a.m. in the morning and was lectured by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. h. c. Mathias Liewald from Institute for Metal Forming Technology (University of Stuttgart). He gave a specialized but understandable lecture on "Combining Industry 4.0 with Cold Forging Technology" with enthusiastic inquiries of attendees.

A gala lunch was also arranged by the organizer at a restaurant near the conference hall before the conference was continued at 2 p.m. in the afternoon.

Representatives from every association came on stage one after another to explore topics on fastener trends, technological upgrade, Internet of Things (IoT), possible changes in the fastener industry, and family-owned enterprises' succession & sustainability. After the perfect closure of the conference, the organizer also arranged a gala dinner for all guests at a seafood restaurant with entertainment programs. Guests all had a joyful night.

At the closure of the conference, Chairman Lin announced KFFIC will be the next host for the conference. KFFIC Chairman, Jin-Sun Auh, also expressed his expectation and welcome for the conference in 2016.

"See you next time in Korea."

2015 Fastener Markets Reports

by Tanya Shih, Fastener World Inc.

According to the press release provided by HK-SFC, below are the important excerpts from their market reports.

Current Conditions of HK Fastener Industry

In 2014, fasteners exported from Hong Kong were 23,893 tons, like-for-like volume declined 10% (the decline for the 4th straight year). In terms of value, the annual export reached USD 458,705,000, like-for-like value grew 4% (the growth for the 5th straight year). The average unit price was 19.2 USD/kg, up 16.4% from 2013's USD 16.5. To sum up, HK fastener industry never stops seeking high added value.



Current Conditions of Korean Fastener Industry

Fastener production and sales in Korea in 2014 were 0.99 million tons and USD 4.1 billion, respectively (a slight decline from last year due to declining car production of Korean car manufacturers). The total car production of Korean car manufacturers incl. KD in 2014 reached 5.65 million units (-3.5% from last year). To analyze by each demanding industry, the automotive industry consumed about 0.77 million tons (78.2%); the construction industry over 0.13 million tons (13.7%); electronics over 20 thousand tons; others over 70 thousand tons.

The fastener import market of Korea is not very large. In 2014, it imported USD 0.53 billion worth of fasteners. Its 4 largest import origins were China (USD 0.17 billion), USA (USD 0.13 billion), Germany (USD 0.04 billion), and Taiwan (USD 0.027 billion).



Current Conditions of Chinese Fastener Industry

China produced 7.2 million tons of fasteners in 2014, and like-for-like production grew 5.88%. It also sold CNY 71 billion worth of fasteners in the same year, with like-for-like value up 8.6%. In terms of export, it exported 2.78 million tons (or USD 5.06 billion worth) of steel products, up 8.6% and 9.96% respectively from last year's corresponding period. In terms of import, it imported 0.304 million tons (or USD 3.23 billion worth) of fasteners, up 11.31% and 7.6% respectively from last year's corresponding period, and the average unit price per ton was USD 10,619 (6 times the average unit price per ton for export).



(Pic4) KFFIC Chairman Jin-Sun, Auh

(Pic5) CMCA Chairman Xue-Tong, Yang