



Leader Points and Overview of the Tall Buildings, CTBUH 2012 World Congress

With more than 1000 people from 48 countries in attendance to witness over 100 presentations from the world's experts in all disciplines of tall buildings – as well as engage in building technical tours, the accompanying exhibition and numerous social-networking events – this was, without a shadow of a doubt, the Council's another successful congress in its 44-year history, and I truly enjoyed being part of it. Many of the world's foremost thinkers in both tall buildings and urban sustainability spoke at the Congress, A high-ranking official from china gave their unique perspective on what was being done in their cities to promote Asia Ascending. The first plenary speaker was Mr. Shen Jun , vice Mayor of shanghai, who gave the audience an overview of where shanghai currently standing with his vision of being part of Tall building development.

The question of how tall can we go or the appropriate design responses, especially in today's world of decreasing resources and increased carbon emissions, became a key talking point of the congress. Many felt that it indicated a trend towards extreme iconic-ness and largesse – a trend which perhaps has always dominated the history of the world's tallest buildings – whilst others felt there should be limitations due to many factors such as; fire, safety and cost.

I should admit that perhaps the best panel session which I enjoyed of the congress overall, certainly debate among the most respective expert in tall buildings such as; Mr. Richard Tomasetti and Rafael Vinoly at the session on 'How High Can We Go (and why should we go)', It was really interesting to listen to the Principals of four high-profile practices who are doing innovative tall building work in Asia to give their thoughts, and an overview of their experience in regards to this topic.



Another interesting plenary session which I think we all were so excited and extremely fortunate to have, was speaking Mr. Talal Al-Maiman, CEO of Kingdom Development, he started the session with a fascinating insight on some of the motivations behind commissioning the next world's tallest building, and some of the challenges faced during last two year to convince and find the right investor for the project. The audience certainly appreciated the candor and sincerity of this highest-profile of VIP speakers, and he answered several poignant questions from the audience afterwards with directness and humor. One of the questions which I have asked was, did they face any local dispute or protesting against the project? He said; not even one, but they were faced with contention for starting so late and they should have begun long ago!





An interesting talking point at the congress was fire engineering and vertical transportation, how the different building disciplines are contributing to sustainability. Whilst it is widely expected that fire engineering and vertical transportation, both will be at the forefront of new Mega Tall buildings approaches, and will play a big role, it was perhaps less clear how these two professions could contribute to the cause, other than in designing to reduce the quantity of materials.



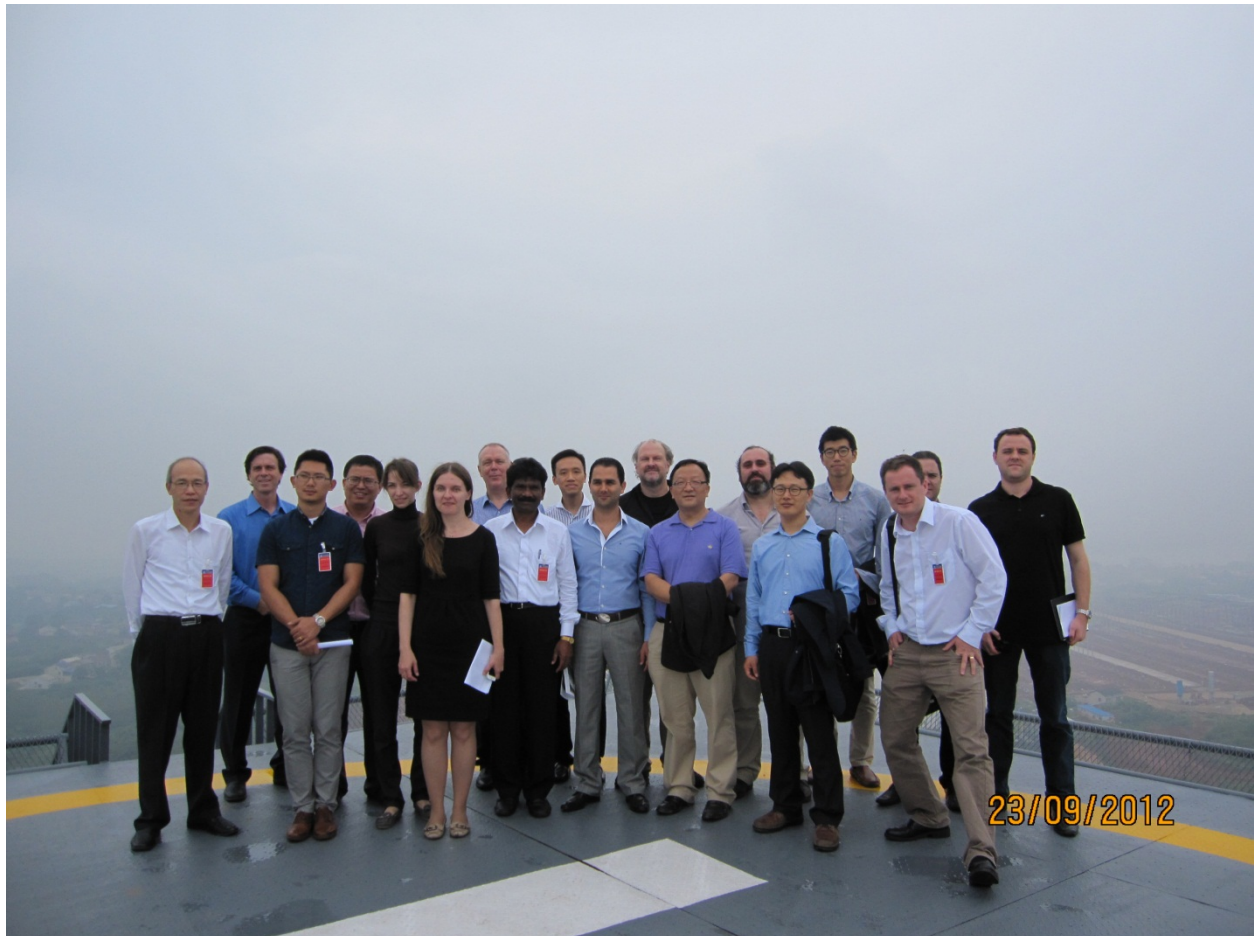
While during the congress in the second day, I took the opportunity to visit the construction site of Shanghai Tower, China's future tallest building at 632 meters (2,074 feet) and 121 stories tall, to be completed in 2014. The Shanghai Tower will have a composite structure shaped by a concrete core and out perimeter mega columns plus the out-riiger and belt truss as lateral system for the tower. Together with the Shanghai World Financial Center and Jin Mao Building, Shanghai Tower will shape the heart of Shanghai's new skyline and as such define China's ambitions. As Mr. Jian Ping Gu, President of Shanghai Tower said; The towers can be seen to represent Shanghai's past, present and future.

One of the most exciting parts of this congress was the distinctive technical Broad tour offered at the CTBUH 2012 Congress in Shanghai, China. I knew that is going to be very exiting tour because when I spoke with Antony wood, he said; definitely this is something you have to go and see what tremendous work they have done. Well, I should admit that he was right, we were group of 18 professional from each disciplines and I can say, we all enjoyed and were amazed. When hundreds of million people were amazed at the video of “30-storey built in 360 hours” in the second week of 2012, most of them were still not aware of the more amazing figures hidden behind the building in the video, which we were lucky and had opportunity to find out during our visit.



BSB Company is the revolution pioneer; its mother company is BROAD GROUP, the leading manufacture of non-electric air conditioning and heat recovery fresh air machine and with R & D center based in Xiangyin County of Hunan Province, Southern China, BSB has workshops of 80,000sqm in 2011, and they planning to reach 220,000sqm in 2012 and 360,000sqm in 2013. By then, it can reach an annual production and installation capacity of 7.5 million sqm – 10 million sqm. A team of 300 Broad R&D engineers has done hundreds of testing, and then invented integrated earthquake- resistance technology of “steel structure + diagonal bracing + light weight”. China Academy of Building Research conducted earthquake resistance tests for 7-storey and 30-storey sustainable building simulators scaled at 1:4 & 1:10, and accurately verified that earthquake resistance of BROAD Sustainable Building is 3-12 times higher than that of conventional buildings in the world (Magnitude 6-7 , 0.05-0.12g on average ; Magnitude 8, 0.22g highest).

In the last day of Broad tour, the technical director of SBS and Ms Candy, which she really done a fantastic job from the time we started the tour up to the end, took us to the basement of T30 tower up to the roof and explain everything. And the following image shows the group standing on the top of the World's tallest steel prefabricated tower in the globe.



At the end I would like to thank CTBUH 2012 Shanghai Congress Organizing Committee, especially Dr. Antony Wood, CTBUH's Executive Director, and his Chicago team, Mr. Kevin Brass in particular and great note of appreciation to the Mr. Timothy Johnson, CTBUH's Chairman.

Special Thank You to all those who helped make this happen!