

Dr SHIH Kaimin

施凱閔博士

Department of Civil Engineering 土木工程系

Teaching is a privilege, not simply a duty to fulfill. Standing behind the podium, what you see are the young faces of our extraordinary next generation, bringing their hopes and dreams, looking to you for knowledge and wisdom (through every word you speak and every slide you show!). It is such an amazing moment when you can make an impact for a better future for your students and, through them, many generations to come. For me, it is absolutely the utmost honour and privilege to be a teacher.

Environmental sustainability is a new element in the engineering curriculum, and my journey to teaching this subject was a very unconventional one. This experience taught me to be open-minded and innovative with students on this learning path, and I have been very fortunate to have many wonderful students with me at HKU. Today's engineering teachers need to acquire new knowledge from cutting-edge research findings and bring them to their students. Teaching is in itself a life-long learning activity and also needs to be the primary mission for the sustainable development of every generation. What is the purpose of our achievements today, if we cannot pass down our newly acquired knowledge and experience to our future generations? Besides knowledge sharing, we also need to strongly encourage our students to explore unknown fields, because innovation is the key to solving today's sustainability challenges.

I have been always fascinated by new things, and this has been clearly shown in my multidisciplinary educational background and research interests. Like every pioneering path our predecessors explored, the road of innovation will never be a smooth ride, but it is the only means to break through the current limits and boundaries in our development. I like to encourage my students to be innovative and ambitious in pursuing every dream in their lives – *there can be miracles, when you believe* – and, of course, that includes our common goal of a sustainable environment.

