JACK PILING IN HONG KONG

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Pile jacking has been used for some time in China but has only been used very recently in Hong Kong. A wealth of experience has developed in the design and construction of jacked piles in China, to the extent that a draft specification for jacked piles has already been published for reference.

The method of pile jacking involves the use of a hydraulic jack to press the pile into the ground until refusal under the jacking load. Compared with pile driving, pile jacking is much more environmentally friendly because it is essentially free from noise, air pollution and vibration. Pile jacking machines with a weight up to 900 tonnes, which are believed to be the heaviest land-based pile jacking machine in the world, has been used to install steel H-piles in Hong Kong with a working capacity of 3540 kN.

This seminar aims to provide an excellent opportunity for participants to share experience, to exchange views and to discuss the latest development of pile jacking in Hong Kong and elsewhere. The difficulties encountered in pile jacking and the techniques for solving the problems will be examined. Case studies will also be presented to demonstrate the versatility of this new piling technique in Hong Kong.

The seminar is jointly organized by the Department of Civil Engineering of The University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Housing Authority and the Centre for Research & Professional Development.

I trust that the papers collected in this Proceedings will provide foundation designers and contractors some useful information for better understanding of the pile jacking technique used in Hong Kong.

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