HKUST CIVL Outstanding Alumni Award

Academia Track



Ir Prof. Clarence Edward CHOI

PhD in Civil Engineering
Associate Professor
Department of Civil Engineering, HKU

Citation

Ir Prof. Clarence Edward Choi is an Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Hong Kong. After earning his Bachelor of Science with Distinction from the University of Calgary and his PhD in Civil Engineering from HKUST, he built a distinguished career spanning both professional engineering practice and academia. He worked as a geotechnical engineer and research assistant professor at HKUST before joining HKU, where he advanced to Associate Professor. His outstanding contributions to research, education, and the engineering profession have been recognized through numerous honors, including the HKIE Outstanding Young Engineer of the Year Award (2023), HKU's Outstanding Young Researcher Award (2025), and election to the Young Member Section of the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering (2026).

An internationally recognized scholar in geotechnical engineering, Clarence's research focuses on landslides and ground improvement. His pioneering work has advanced the understanding of geohazards and informed engineering solutions that enhance infrastructure resilience and public safety. Notably, his research findings have been incorporated into nine technical guidance documents published by the HKSAR Government, contributing directly to slope safety and geotechnical engineering practice in Hong Kong.

Clarence has established a global reputation for research excellence and technical leadership. He has delivered three prestigious early-career named lectures in his field: the ISSMGE Bright Spark Lecture (2021), the ICL/UNESCO Oldrich Hungr Lecture (2022), and the FedIGS JTC1 Hutchinson Lecture (2023). His work has received widespread international recognition, including the ICE Telford Gold Medal (2023), two CGS R.M. Quigley Awards, two ICL/UNESCO Best Paper Awards, and the ICE Telford Premium Prize. He also contributes to the advancement of the discipline through his editorial leadership as Associate Editor of the *Canadian Geotechnical Journal* and *Géotechnique Letters*.

Beyond his academic achievements, Clarence is deeply committed to professional service and community engagement. He serves as President of the Hong Kong Geotechnical Society and contributes to the HKIE Geotechnical Discipline Advisory Panel. Through his leadership, mentorship, and dedication to fostering collaboration between academia and industry, he continues to inspire the next generation of engineers and researchers while advancing the geotechnical profession locally and internationally.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements in geotechnical engineering research, international scholarly leadership, and dedicated professional service, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering proudly presents the HKUST CIVL Outstanding Alumni Award to Ir Prof. Clarence Edward Choi.