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PRESS RELEASE
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Talk on Leadership & Transformation of Quantity Surveying

SINGAPORE, 5 JUNE 2010 – The “Experience DK” Guest Speaker Series continues with a talk on *Leadership & Transformation of Quantity Surveying* by Prof. George Ofori from the National University of Singapore.

Prof. Ofori is the Director of the Centre for Project Management and Construction Law, as well as a Professor at the Department of Building of the School of Design and Environment at the university. He spoke about the global problems resulting from urbanisation, as well as the challenges and opportunities that lay in store for quantity surveyors.

Addressing an audience comprising industry leaders, Prof. Ofori said globalisation has created many changes around the world and made it important for organisations to respond to them quickly. Organisations also find themselves under pressure from their clients to deliver better and faster results. The advent of Information Technology (IT) and a recent downturn in construction activity due to the economic recession has placed the quantity surveying sector under threat.

Nonetheless, he feels that there are opportunities for quantity surveyors that have not been explored. With sustainable development being key today, quantity surveyors could become leaders in the economic viability of constructed items, and the field could be expanded to cover areas such as facilities management and supply chain management.

To grasp these opportunities, quantity surveyors would have to look beyond the issue of cost by finding different things to do and different approaches to doing things. However, Prof. Ofori feels that the industry holds onto a mindset that is generally resistant to change and called for a greater need for innovation.



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Another challenge, according to Prof. Ofori, lies in attracting, retaining and developing talent. The recent recession has set new benchmarks in the profession and clients now tend to demand more for less. Furthermore, talents commonly get headhunted after spending a few years with a firm.

The session concluded with a Question and Answer segment, where participants raised their concerns over the need for a board to register the quantity surveying profession in order to achieve cost-effectiveness and build up credibility of the industry.

Said Prof. Ofori, "It's usually the big multi-national firms that put together such talks, so it's interesting to see DK Outsourcing do this. I chose to speak about Leadership and Transformation in Quantity Surveying as I feel that quantity surveyors are not grasping opportunities in general. If given the chance to return for another talk, I would like to talk about leadership in a broader sense."

"[Prof. Ofori's] talk was very thought-provoking as it presented the challenges of Quantity Surveyors. Hopefully, quantity surveyors will bear them in mind, as well as the expectations of the changing business environment. I like how his talk addressed how quantity surveyors should stand up among other building professions, instead of being left behind," said Mr. Albert Goh, Project Director of Top Global Limited, who was present at the talk.

Agreeing with him was Mr. Wong King Seng, Senior Manager, Project Engineering and Construction of UEM Builders (Singapore), "The talk gave me a greater insight of the quantity surveying industry and taught me how quantity surveyors should value their own profession to push it to become as advanced as the United Kingdom. Before this, I hadn't even known that quantity surveying is not a registered profession in Singapore! On the overall, I would say that this talk has been very informative for me."



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Background: Prof. Ofori's talk was the second in the "Experience DK" Guest Speaker Series – the first being a talk on Excellence in Customer Service, delivered by an experienced in-service Singapore Airlines flight attendant. DK Outsource intends to run the talks on a quarterly basis. The talks are held at the company's premises at Ubi Techpark.

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