

## HKES Seminar

### Slips, Trips and Falls at Work: Research and Prevention

**Dr. Wen-Ruey Chang**

Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety, Hopkinton, MA

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014(Friday)

Time: 6:30-7:45pm

Venue: P4701, 4/F, AC1, CityU

#### **Abstract:**

Slips, trips and falls have caused significant injuries in both occupational and leisure settings. Data from the Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index show that the costs for disabling workplace injuries in 2011 due to falls on the same level in the USA were estimated to be approximately 8.6 billion US dollars or 15.4% of the total cost burden. Slippery floors, typically caused by contaminants, are a critical factor for falls on the same level.

The speaker will cover some fundamental issues in biomechanics critical to falls on the same level, results and issues of the friction measurements with portable slipmeters, slippery criteria, potential interventions for slippery surfaces, critical factors for slipperiness and slip resistant footwear.

The talk will be of particular interest to safety specialists who deal with problems involving falls on the same level, especially those in restaurants, healthcare and other industries in which falls on the same level were the leading sources of injuries.

#### **Speaker bio:**

Dr. Wen-Ruey Chang is a research scientist at Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety in Hopkinton, MA. His research areas include slips, trips and falls, and whole body vibration. He was a recipient of the William Floyd Award from the Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (IEHF) in UK in 2003, National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Partnering Award for Worker Health and Safety from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) in 2006, and the Best Paper Award in the journal *Ergonomics* in 2008. He is a fellow of the IEHF and American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). He also serves as an editor of *Ergonomics* and past chair of the International Ergonomics Association (IEA) Technical Committee on Slips, Trips and Falls.

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