

Time to celebrate 40 years in Asia...

Tony Gee has recently marked a significant milestone in Asia - celebrating 40 years of operation in the region. The anniversary comes as the Hong Kong office emerges from the extended Covid lockdowns, and the Kuala Lumpur team notches up 10 years of being in business in Malaysia.

The company has certainly left its mark on the infrastructure of Hong Kong, working on the first Mass Transit Railway Corporation underground line, the foundations for the iconic HSBC headquarters in Central district, and the alternative design of the Tuen Mun Chek Lap Kok Bridge E. With a 200m central span, the latter is a spectacular bridge connecting Lantau Island with a new boundary-crossing facility island alongside the new Tuen Mun East reclamation. Tony Gee supported the contractor with construction engineering for the reclamation works and produced some cost saving designs.

In addition, the teams have been involved in many other significant projects across Asia including the Penang LRT and Ampang Kuala Lumpur Highway, in Malaysia, and the Yamuna and Jamuna river bridges in India and Bangladesh to name but a few. The company's presence has grown from small beginnings to the current well-established centres of technical excellence in Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur.

The Hong Kong office has also extended its expertise to bridge projects in Australia including the replacement Batemans Bay Bridge on the coastal Princes Highway in New South Wales, which opened to traffic in 2021.

Building nuclear new build expertise at Sizewell C

Since 2016, Tony Gee has established a presence in the nuclear new build market by delivering temporary works design for contractor partners at Hinkley Point C (HPC), the first new build nuclear power station to be built in the UK in a generation.

Building on the success at HPC, Tony Gee is now delighted to be supporting Atkins and has secured design packages at Sizewell C (SZC) nuclear power station, as part of the advanced works schemes for the project. Infrastructure works include a key multi-phase 35m wide access bridge structure over a SSSI habitat to support temporary construction and permanent operational needs. Marine works include a temporary 500m long marine bulk import facility which will enable construction materials to be delivered to site - once built it will be one of the longest marine jetty structures in the UK. These schemes are key enablers for future construction of SZC and we are pleased to support the project at this early stage.

Nuclear new build power plants, including traditional large-scale developments like HPC or SZC will play a vital role in achieving the British Energy Security Strategy and the UK's Net Zero Strategy for 2050. SZC is likely to be the next nuclear new build power station in the UK with the final investment decision anticipated in early 2024.





Chris' corner

Check the media any day and we are constantly bombarded with visions of the future. Stories and predictions relating to AI, machine learning and the ever-growing variety of digital tools, suggest new ways of doing business, new challenges and opportunities lie ahead.

We're always keen to look to the future but it is also sometimes nice to take a moment to look back at the past too and to see how far we have come.

We are delighted to be celebrating 40 years of Tony Gee in Asia, for example, marking our initial opening in Hong Kong, and 10 years in Malaysia. The businesses are thriving in this region, with Hong Kong in particular branching out yet further to undertake some impressive work in Australia and the wider Pacific region.

Turning back to the future, it is with great excitement and anticipation that we are also looking forward to continued expansion of our operations in the UK and through our new office in Toronto (opened last year). Through the work of all our teams we are confident we will be expanding further in the international markets.

There will be some subtle changes in the way we work in the coming years. These will enable us to deliver our own particular brand of engineering solutions to current and new clients on a larger scale, for projects all around the world. Solutions that will undoubtedly have an increasingly sustainable slant.

We are thrilled to be celebrating the successes of the past but look forward to expanding our horizons too.

Chris Young
Executive Managing Director



3D software brings rail project to life

Tony Gee is part of the collaboration which is delivering the new Ashley Down railway station project, in Bristol, which is now under construction.

The company has been working with other members of the design and pre-construction teams to take the project from approval-in-principle through to detailed design, and now it is ready for construction.

The station will be between Bristol Temple Meads and Filton Abbey Wood, with services eventually running to the new YTL Arena in Filton. Work should be completed in 2024. Tony Gee was the lead designer on the project and has provided civil, structural, drainage, track and temporary works design services.

Within a short space of time the project team was able to transform a 3D model into images using specialist 3D visualisation and rendering software. This work was done by Tony Gee's newly-formed visualisation team which has been helping support many projects by producing 3D realistic models and photo montages which demonstrate to clients and the public what a landscape will look like post construction. These visualisations also help to alleviate local concerns about the impact of the temporary works on surrounding areas, and can hence help a project obtain planning permission.

Bridges and bypass take shape

Improvements to the A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool Junction, near Blackpool, are currently under construction.

The scheme extends over 4.8km of highway and includes junction improvements, dualling of an existing road, three new bridges and a bypass.

Tony Gee was engaged by Kier Highways on behalf of National Highways, as part of a design alliance. It was responsible for the highways, geotechnical and structural designs on the eastern extent of the scheme. Once design was completed, Tony Gee's role extended to Works Examiner with three engineers on-site full time to supervise bridge construction.

Phase one of the work was completed in October 2022. The second phase, which will carry the widened A585, is ongoing with installation of precast beams having begun at the end of April. Site works across the other two structures are also underway.

At Lodge Lane, most sections of the secant pile retaining walls on the approaches to the bridge within the cutting are complete. The construction of the 43m two span fully-integral bridge is very advanced, with the precast beam installation and bridge pour phases already finalised.

The 34m span trussed arch steel footbridge at Grange, which crosses the new A585 carriageway, has already been installed.

Success and recognition for STEM Ambassadors



Tony Gee's STEM Ambassador group has been busy inspiring the next generation of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics specialists by attending careers fairs and career networking events. It has also been leading science lessons in local schools with the aid of the 'shaking table' demonstration. Ruth Brown, STEM Ambassador and student engineer in the Esher office, has recently been recognised for her commitment by being named as the ICE London 'STEM ambassador of the year'.

Alongside staff initiatives across all offices, Tony Gee is also currently supporting the ICE 'Time is Running Out' exhibition, which will be touring the UK and Ireland over the next three years. The exhibition is a free attraction designed for families and young people with the hope of inspiring future generations. The exhibition explores the future of infrastructure as well as the role of civil engineers in helping society respond to the challenges of climate change and meet net zero targets by 2050.

Stalybridge rail project to improve journey times

New junction work at Stalybridge will allow trains to travel at 50mph through the station and ultimately improve journey times between Manchester and Leeds.

As a key supply chain partner of the TRU West Alliance, Tony Gee's permanent way team completed the detailed track design of the junction to the west of Stalybridge Station, which consisted of 13 switching and crossing units in the new NR60Mk2 componentry.

A 26-day blockade began for the installation in March, with successful completion of works on time.



ONE
underbridge
refurb



13
S&C units



1820m
plain line,
807m
S&C renewals



663
wagons

Tony Gee spotlights geo-resilience for climate change

Tony Gee's Technical Development Programme (TDP) promotes innovation/research with budgets for technical projects focused on improved quality, productivity, health and safety or sustainability. It has recently supported an insights paper on how to improve the climate resilience of railway earthworks.

Co-authored with BAM Nuttall and presented at the British Geotechnical Association's 'Geo-Resilience 2023' conference, the paper presented four emergency response and planned earthworks case studies. These included two cutting and embankment failures and two high-risk earthworks on slopes with monitored progressive movement.

The paper included a practical guide to mitigation measures that can increase the resilience of earthworks assets by evaluating the relationship between increased earthworks failures and elevated/prolonged rainfall. It highlighted innovative design concepts considering difficult topography, access issues and the emergency works.

Putting people first

Tony Gee's HR team has driven an initiative to create market-leading provisions for its employees. Working with the company's new Challenger Board, measures include enhanced maternity, adoption and surrogacy leave (six months at full pay) and jargon-free information around shared parental leave. Compassionate leave has been enhanced with clear policies on how to take leave offered in a guidance-driven, flexible and supportive way. Tony Gee is going further than ever before in supporting those that need it.



Stepping out for Bridges to Prosperity

Tony Gee and Knights Brown are excited to announce that 'Bridges to Prosperity' is back with a new project.

In the fifth collaboration project of this kind, the ten-person team, five of which are from Tony Gee will this year head to Nyagafunzo in Western Rwanda. The team consists of Ewan Thomson, Luke Annis, George Dance, Jiao Yin Lee and Kah Yong Fong. Their aim will be to construct a trail bridge across a small river valley which is well known for becoming dangerous to cross during the monsoon season.

The team has been working hard to raise funds for the trip and has organised a range of activities from a Eurovision Song Contest sweepstake to sporting events and sponsored mountain climbs.

Jiao Yin and Kah Yong from the Kuala Lumpur office took on the challenge of hiking the 1,493m Mount Nuang (in the image featured above). Their office colleagues joined them in their challenge to make it a great team building activity, whilst also contributing vital funds to the trip. Similarly in the UK, team members have completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge – a 38.6km round trip including 1585m of ascent.

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