

Workshop on “From Thinking to Critical Thinking”

By Ms Mandy Lai

The second series of the two-session workshop, namely “From Thinking to Critical Thinking” was held again on 8 and 15 December 2018 after two overwhelming sessions in August. Ir. Lewis Ho, the former Chief Engineer of Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, was invited as the speaker of the workshop. The workshop was jointly organized by the HKIE Gas and Energy Division and the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers - Far East District Section. 40 participants joined the workshop.

Thinking is an inborn instinct while critical thinking is a post-natal ability, which can be acquired through training in objective analysis. Ir. Ho gave a sharing on identifying common problems people encountered in thinking and then facilitated how we could develop a habit of effective thinking. In the first session, Ir. Ho defined the characteristics of thinking at the beginning. He then moved on how the ‘GDD’ elements (Generalization, Distortion and Deletion) could affect people in making arguments and reasons or conclusions, with proposed ways in minimizing the effects of those elements later. Ir. Ho also suggested ways, such as not using the word “why” to ask why, to probe for information in order to encourage better response and make better judgments.

In the second session of the workshop, Ir. Ho focused on critical and effective thinking. With reference to the mental model, he explained the areas that we could make improvement in. He also highlighted the common thinking traps in this model, which should be avoided in achieving effective thinking, covering the ways to verify our assumptions and the setting of presupposition for effective thinking. Finally, Ir. Ho shared his view on transformation from awareness to forming habits so that effective thinking could be applied readily. The participants appreciated the informative and inspiring contents of the workshop, coupled with the interesting illustrations and challenging small group discussions. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Ir. Lewis Ho for delivering the workshop to us. The workshop was very fruitful and successful with positive feedback.



*Ir Lewis Ho (L), former Chief Engineer of Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Ir Eric Pang (R), Chairman of HKIE Gas and Energy Division*