

26 SERVICING THE CONSTRUCTION BOOM IN MACAU – GRC IN THE LAS VEGAS OF ASIA

T. GREGORY

Redland Precast Concrete Products Limited, Hong Kong SAR, China

SUMMARY: This paper describes Redland Precast's response to, and participation in, the phenomenal construction boom that is taking place in Macau, where GRC is being used on several large casino/resort projects currently planned or under construction.

Redland Precast's business in the period preceding this boom is described with particular reference to the Shree Dam Temple project being built in Auckland, New Zealand.

The development plans for Macau are described in brief and major projects highlighted. The scale, complexity and programme for two large casino projects are discussed and compared. Particular reference will be made to the reasons why GRC was selected for use on these projects.

There follows a detailed description of the various processes involved in securing and servicing the GRC contracts, including:

- Mobilisation, including re-allocation of factory space, training and equipment purchase
- Design and documentation
- Samples, prototypes and benchmarks
- Testing
- Finishes and sealers
- Packing
- Delivery
- Installation.

The paper concludes with a review of other current and future projects in Macau and elsewhere.

KEYWORDS: Casino, GRC, Macau, mobilisation, resorts.

INTRODUCTION

Macau is now a Special Administrative Region of the Peoples Republic of China, a status also enjoyed by Hong Kong.

The population of Macau is less than half a million people, compared with more than six million in Hong Kong. Macau retains many of its historic buildings, unlike Hong Kong, and much of this heritage has been protected by UNESCO.

The construction boom in Macau is a recent phenomenon. It was caused by the growth of the casino industry and the attraction of international casino operators to Macau.

Macau was formerly a colony of Portugal, as Hong Kong was a colony of Britain. Macau was colonized 400 years ago by traders and by priests, who came with a mission to spread the Catholic faith throughout Asia.

Macau consists of a peninsula, springing from the Chinese mainland at the city of Zhuhai, and two islands – Taipa and Coloane. These two islands have now been joined together by a broad tract of reclaimed land known as Cotai. The Macau peninsula is connected to the islands by three bridges.