A typical Value Management workshop conducted in the United States takes 5 days, however Hong Kong clients generally allow only 1 day to conduct workshops. In order to meet limited time, the detailed process have been trimmed down to a minimum. Organized by the Hong Kong Institute of Value Management (HKIVM), Mr James Bolton, PE, CVS-Life, PVM, FSAVE, President of SAVE International, has been invited to conduct a one-day mock workshop on 7 May 2015 to see how best we can get from that one day. It was also a good opportunity for the participants to understand and refresh the value methodology in a nutshell and know how they can contribute and gain value through a mini-VM workshop.

At the outset of the workshop, Mr Bolton introduced all steps in proper value methodology job plan with real examples with main focus on understanding function analysis and FAST Diagram. All phases of the VM job plan, including the information phase, the function analysis phase, the creativity phase, the evaluation phase, the development phase and presentation phase were covered under this workshop.

All participants were strategically divided into 5 groups with each participant from different technical backgrounds including project managers, architects, engineers and building surveyors whom were from the civil & infrastructure and building and construction industry.

The workshop was conducted in a lively and interactive way while each team was requested to work on samples and schematics of a project along with a bill of materials for the product being studies. The participants had the opportunities to adopt all tools of a typical VM job plan by working on FAST Diagrams, a Cost/Function Analysis, idea brainstorming, idea evaluation and eventually formulating a business case. At the end of the workshop, each team was requested to present their business plan to the client. The participant also learned how to manage and organize one-day VM workshop which is very common in Hong Kong.

The workshop was conducted successfully and highly appraised by all participants. They found it was practical and a good chance for them to refresh value methodologies and observe facilitation skills.

The participants recommended that similar mock workshops should be conducted regularly to update our members and potential users. However, it should be noted that these mock workshops would only be on a narrow scope of study and can therefore take one day only. For value study of major projects, the workshop time should preferably be more than one day to get the best out of it.