

Critical Review of Seminar Presentation

Arada Jamnongpipatkul

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On November 23, 2016, the presentation was made by Ernest Bladé, deputy director of Flumen Institute, at O.C. Zienkiewicz conference room in UPC Campus Nord. The topic of the presentation was “Modeling Fluvial Processes using the Finite Volume Method” which is about how the finite volume method is used to calculate many processes happening in the river such as water flow, sediment transport, or even water quality.

This presentation critique is divided into two parts. The first part is related to the content and structure of the presentation which consist of the opening, the body, and the conclusion of the presentation while the second part is related to the delivery skills and techniques of the speaker.

When receiving a string of information, people tend to recall the first and last items presented in the series than the items in the middle. Therefore, the presentation opening and conclusion are critical to the success of the presentation. In the beginning of this presentation, there was no hook used to draw the audience attention to the presentation. The speaker started with a dry opening that did not make the opening memorable. Similarly for the conclusion, the presentation just ended abruptly. This is possibly because of the time constraint.

For the main part of the presentation, it was organized in the logical order. The speaker provided the audience basic background and theories such that it was not too difficult for the audience to follow the presentation despite the complex nature of the equations shown in the presentation. Stories and examples were given to support the primary objective of introducing the finite volume method for modeling fluvial processes.

Focusing on the speaker, the speaker was confidence and enthusiastic by going beyond the prepared material to ensure the audience understanding. Short sentences, simple words, and avoiding unnecessarily complex language were used by the speaker such that the content was articulated clearly. The speaker used eye contact effectively in connecting to the audience. And there was no distracting manner from the speaker.

There was nothing extraordinary in the prepared slides when comparing to other scientific presentations. However, it complemented the speech well and large enough to see. Simulations toward the end of the presentation helped summarizing the whole concept for better understanding.

Overall, it was a good and interesting presentation.