



President's Report

會長報告



As President of The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) for the Council Year 2007-2008, it is my great pleasure to have served our members and to enhance the respect, recognition and reliance on HKIS by both the Government and the public. For the beginning of the council year, I have succeeded to achieve the Corporate Plan, listened to members' concerns and visited various Governmental departments, private organisations, staff unions and various Divisional Councils. With synergy, I truly believe that surveyors would continue to play more significant roles in all walks of life in Hong Kong. It is an indispensable empowering factor for us to strive for the rights of members and status of our profession.

Some happenings in the council year 2007-2008 are highlighted below:

Connection with Mainland Government and Overseas Professional Institutes

- In January 2008, we had a meeting with the Ministry of Construction in Beijing alongside other professionals. One of the major issues is how HK professionals can obtain the relevant "practice licence" on the Mainland. A working group has been set up to continue communication with relevant parties on this topic.
- HKIS had agreed with the Building Surveyor's Institute of Japan (BSIJ) for a mutual recognition of professional qualification of Quantity Surveyor between Hong Kong and Japan, with the signing of a Reciprocity Agreement. The Reciprocity Agreement

Signing Ceremony was held at Tokyo, Japan on 24 March 2008 together with a seminar on the related topic. During the seminar, we presented the roles of Quantity Surveyors in Hong Kong and the Mainland while the representatives from BSIJ introduced the role of Quantity Surveyors in Japanese and other overseas projects. The seminar was very useful for a better understanding on the practices of both places.

- On 16 to 18 March 2008, a team of 24 members to Beijing visited several departments in the Mainland. During the trip, we met several important officials from the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Commerce and discussed on the mutual recognition of professional qualifications between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the arrangements relating to the implementation of commitments secured under CEPA Supplement IV as well as the development of our industry in the Mainland. We also visited the United Front Work Department of CPC Central Committee and Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council. We hope we can have continual communication with the related Mainland's departments in the future in order to tackle the issues arising on mutual recognition and licensing of our members in the Mainland.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Department of the People's Republic of China (MOHURD) announced on 22 July 2008 that 65 applications for Initial Registration of Cost Engineers from the Hong Kong Region had been approved. These first 65 PRC-Registered Cost Engineers from Hong Kong Region are some of the HKIS members who obtained the Qualification of Cost Engineers about two years ago under the Reciprocity Agreement between China Engineering Cost Association (CECA) and HKIS.
- The Building Surveying Division (BSD) has set up a China Liaison Working Group to enhance

communication with engineering consultant counterparts in Mainland China. It is expected that the frequency of communication will increase after the successful completion of mutual recognition with CAEC.

- A consensus regarding the way forward on the Institute's membership with FIG was reached in the General Council meeting, held on 27 March 2008, and the membership issue was resolved. The Institute has also taken part in the FIG Working Week, held on 14 to 19 June 2008 in Stockholm, Sweden.
- The Land Surveying Division (LSD) organised a technical site visit to Zhongshan City on 10 to 12 April 2008. Welcomed by the Vice-Secretary-General of the People's Government of Zhongshan City (中山市人民政府副秘書長) and President of the Association of Survey and Mapping of Zhongshan City (中山市測繪協會會長), we had a chance to assess the title registration system in Zhongshan during the visit. This CPD event attracted some 32 participants from Hong Kong, 7 participants from Macao and more than 40 participants from Zhongshan, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.
- The 12th Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors (PAQS) Congress was held in Canada from 16 to 18 June 2008. The Congress was hosted by the Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (CIQS) and attracted over 200 local and international audiences. The PAQS Annual Board Meeting was held before the Congress on 15 June 2008 at the same venue. Mr Stephen Lai, the Chairman of Quantity Surveying Division (QSD) and I presented the HKIS report at the meeting. A Reciprocity Agreement between CIQS and HKIS was also signed.
- The bi-yearly full Council Meeting of The International Cost Engineering Council Meeting (ICEC) was held in Toronto, Canada on 28 and 29 June 2008. Mr Honby Chan from QSD attended the Meeting on behalf of HKIS, followed by the 6th ICEC World Congress from 30 June to 2 July 2008.
- To further develop the reciprocity agreement relationship worldwide, the QSD continued the negotiation of a Reciprocity Agreement with The Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors (ICES), the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering Association (AAACEI) and other similar international professional bodies, and supported and attended the Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors (PAQS) in Canada to explore collaboration

with similar professional organisations.

- Representatives from the Planning and Development Division (PDD) attended The International Estate Evaluation Summit Forum organised by Guangdong Real Estate Valuers Associations on 6 July 2008 in Guangzhou. Property Law, the tax system and underground property evaluations from different countries were discussed. Invited by the professionals of the Architectural, Surveying and Planning Functional Constituency, PDD representatives also attended a trip to Guangzhou on 7 July 2008, which focused on liaison with officials, professionals and Mainland developers, to exchange views and explore business and co-operation opportunities in Guangzhou and Pan-Pearl River Delta. Enhanced CEPA arrangements were also proposed.
- During the year, the Mainland Committee of PDD also visited the Peoples' University (人民大學) in Beijing on 17 October 2008 and Tongji University (同濟大學) in Shanghai on 20 October 2008. The main purpose was to study the academic courses in surveying and land administration, which may later lead to a closer relationship with such courses.
- Mr Gary Yeung, representing the Property and Facility Management Division (PFMD), visited the United Front Work Department (UFWD) of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in Beijing from 17 to 19 December 2007.
- Another joint professional meeting with Guangdong Property Professions, namely, 香港測量師青年組與廣東省房地產行業協會學術聯誼交流活動, was successfully held on 22 June 2008, with 128 Young Surveyors Group (YSG) members joining the event. During the meeting, views regarding surveying practice in the Mainland and Hong Kong were exchanged.

Involvements in Local Professional Affairs, Consultation of Government Policy Making and Professional Practice

Supplement to the Code of Measuring Practice:

The HKIS Saleable Area Working Group had meetings with the Hong Kong Real Estate Developers Association (REDA), various Government departments and local surveying firms. A new Supplement to the Code of Measuring Practice for the definition of Saleable Area was issued on 18 August 2008, superseding the previous version in February 2008.

Recognition of Technical Associates as Technical Competent Person (T3):

The Technical Associates in BSD, with three years' post-qualification experience, would be accepted by the Buildings Department to perform the duties of TCP (T3) under the Site Supervision Plan in the Authorized Person's stream and Registered Contractor's stream. HKIS also requested that the Government consider the recognition of Technical Associate qualifications as an alternative qualification when recruiting relevant grades of civil servants and/or Resident Site Staff. A meeting was conducted with the Development Bureau and the Bureau agreed to explore the possibility.

Public Consultation on Planning Application Matters:

The General Practice Division (GPD) Council, by endorsing the recommendation of the Panel of Professional Practice, conveyed to the Government that local views should have already been thoroughly considered and taken into account during the relevant OZP drafting/planning approval process for sites covered by an Outline Zoning Plan or subject to planning approvals under Section 16 of the Town Planning Ordinance.

Review of Premium Valuation Process:

The Lands Department has set up a formal channel to discuss with HKIS on matters relating to premium assessment. The Lands Department/HKIS Liaison Group exchanged views on existing government policies and procedures on land matters. We also proposed recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the land administration.

Business and Property Valuation Standards:

The Business and Property Valuation Standards Panel of GPD had set up a working group to study the impact of the current Hong Kong Accounting Standards on the valuation practice in Hong Kong, and to identify ways for members to work with the relevant accounting standards.

New Research Project on Title Registration System:

A new research project on Title Registration System of Hong Kong started in February 2008. LSD members, Dr Conrad Tang, Simon Kwok and George Leung, are now engaged in this research project, aimed to develop a suitable land boundary survey for the title registration system in Hong Kong.

Boundary Survey Advisory Committee (BSAC) of LSD:

Facing increasing challenges, the BSAC has set up several sub-committees specializing in (1) Legal

Implications of Section 28, Land Survey Ordinance; (2) Development of digital land record data of Survey Map Office (SMO); (3) Promotion on the nature of DD sheet; (4) LS position in the Government's Infrastructure Projects, (5) Case study on Adverse Possession, and (6) Introduction of extra text book on the Hong Kong Cadastral Survey.

HKIS Position Paper on Security of Payment:

A Working Group of QSD was set up to look into the matter in April 2008. A position paper was prepared after a series of meetings among the members.

Planning of Border Restricted Area:

A study group focusing on the planning of the border restricted areas in the New Territories was formed in April 2008 in response to the Government comments received by members.

Qualifications on PSA/PSC Tenders in Housing Department:

The Housing Department confirmed on 14 February 2008, the qualification of Property and Facility Management Surveyors for the post of Estate Manager (Property Management) in the PSA/PSC Contracts in Housing Department. In a meeting with the Services Support Unit of the Housing Department in late January 2008, we had been given to understand that persons holding professional membership qualifications of HKIS in PFMD would be included in the next batch of tendering for PSA/PSC along with an HKIS (GP) qualification.

Green Management Practice:

The PFMD has set up the Green Management Practice to promote the awareness of the Green Management Practices being applied to property and facility management and to provide technical advice on all matters arising thereof. A working group was formed in March 2008 in the preparation of suitable practice guidelines.

Probationary Membership of Accredited Courses:

The PFMD have accredited the BSc(Hon) degree in Property Management from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University as well as the BSc(Hon) degree in Surveying and the MSc degree in Real Estate (Major in Facility Management) from the University of Hong Kong for Probationer membership of the Division and undertaking the Assessment of Professional Competence. The degree course in Property Management offered by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University is the first such course accredited by PFMD since its formation three years ago.

Housing Managers Registration:

The PFMD Council re-opened dialogue with the Housing Managers Registration Board in pursuit of recognition of PFM surveyors to become Registered Professional Housing Managers.

- In order to fulfil our aims to have a better understanding and communication with local associations in the real estate industry, the General Council and Divisional Council members visited several unions including Local Building Surveyors Association, Maintenance Surveyors Association, Association of Government Local Land Surveyors, Estate Surveyors Association, Quantity Surveyors Association in various Government Departments. In addition to the above associations, we have also visited the Rating & Valuation Department.

Activities for Members

- The six Divisions and the Young Surveyors Group (YSG) organised various CPD events in 2008. In the first CPD event in 2008, "HKSAR Heritage Policy - a case study: HKJC Revitalization Proposal on Central Police Station Compound" held on 12 February 2008, we had speakers from the HKSAR Government and the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust sharing with us the Government heritage policy and the revitalization proposal on Central Police Station Compound. It is encouraging to see the active participation of our members in local affairs, which is an effective way to reinforce and consolidate our expertise to both the Government and society as a whole.
- A Surveyor's Lunch was held on 29 February 2008 at the World Trade Centre Club. Our honourable guest speaker, Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, JP, the Secretary for Development, shared with us her work schedule in the coming future. Participants had a memorable moment in the luncheon.
- On 17 to 18 May 2008, the YSG took part in a short course in Zhongshan University: 香港專業人士中山大學國情研討班. 55 YSG members joined the course and attended three seminars: 《當前國際形勢和我國外交政策》, 《粵港澳基礎設施的協調與發展》 and 《領導集團關注問題與執政理念》. The course covered the current Mainland diplomatic issues and future main infrastructure developments in the Mainland.
- YSG Study Tour 2008 to Chengdu was held with success from 15 to 19 October, with some 35 participants.

- HKIS will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2009. A committee headed by Vice-President Stephen Yip has been set up to organise a series of events for the celebration.

Conferences, Forums and other HKIS Events

HKIS Annual Conference 2008:

The HKIS Annual Conference 2008 was successfully held on 26 July at Conrad Hong Kong Hotel. Scheduled right before the opening of the Beijing Olympics, the theme this year was "Surveyors in the Olympics". Eight speakers from different countries were invited to share their views and experiences during the planning and construction process for the Beijing Olympics. About 200 members joined the Conference.

HKIS Annual Dinner 2008:

The HKIS Annual Dinner 2008 was successfully held on 3 November at the Grand Hyatt Hong Kong as a kick-off event for the celebrations of the Institute's 25th Anniversary in 2009. We were honoured to have the Honourable Donald Tsang Yam-kuen, GBM, Chief Executive of the HKSAR to deliver an opening speech. Around 600 guests had a remarkable evening.

HKIS Property Marketing Award 2008:

The presentation ceremony of the HKIS Property Marketing Award 2008, organised by a committee chaired by Mr Ronald Cheung, was held on 4 November. There were two new awards, namely Best Environmental Friendly Award and Best Clubhouse Facilities Award, in addition to the Best Project Marketing Award, Best Layout Award and Best Brochure Award.

HKIS Spring Reception:

A Spring Reception was held on 26 February 2008 at the HK Jockey Club, Happy Valley. A number of honourable guests from the Government, liaison office, universities, etc. joined our party to celebrate the Chinese New Year. During the event, there was a ceremony to present the HKIS Diplomas to our new members. The HKIS Outstanding Final Year Dissertation /Thesis Awards 2007 were held in the same event.

Contributions to Community Services

Sichuan Relief Works:

An earthquake measuring 8 on the Richter scale struck the province of Sichuan on 12 May 2008. The disaster caused widespread destruction to the area

and there were many difficulties to overcome in the aftermath.

The Hong Kong and Sichuan governments agreed to establish a co-operation mechanism in the reconstruction of Sichuan. The HKIS is a member in the Hong Kong Construction Sector 5.12 Reconstruction Joint Conference (RJC) formed on 10 June 2008. The purpose of RJC is to enable the Hong Kong real estate and construction sector to contribute to the reconstruction of Sichuan by providing their professional expertise.

HKIS recruited members to be volunteers to join and support RJC on the Sichuan relief campaign in person. The volunteers visited Sichuan for 7 to 10 days to assist in the reconstruction and help those in need. I would like to thank our members for joining this meaningful event and for their donations to the victims in Sichuan.

Mainland Snowstorms:

In February 2008, we raised funds for the relief operation in snowstorm-affected areas in the Mainland. I thank all members for their generous support and donations.

Charity Events:

YSG joined various meaningful charity events on behalf of HKIS. On 24 February 2008, YSG formed a big team to join the charity walk: New Territories Walk – Route 8 (Tai Wai to Lai Chi Kok). YSG also sent a strong team to participate in the Hong Kong Open Indoor Rowing Championships & Charity Rowathon 2008 on 30 March 2008 at the Kowloon Park after training at the Hong Kong China Rowing Association.

Conclusion

I have always had a vision for building a better profession and a better Hong Kong, which I believe can be realized. Our profession is moving towards the new age of globalization, which urges “Multilateral Professionalism” to remain competitive. We need to cope with the dynamic challenges we face, especially in the “Financial Tsunami” hitting the world at the moment, which is believed to be the biggest financial and economic crisis of the century. We must be proactive and respond sensibly to the likely changes to our economy which are faced by our profession. Let us remain strong and grow our profession amid tough times of financial turbulence.

Special Thanks

Time flies by. To me, 2008 was a busy, fruitful and meaningful year full of challenging experiences. I enjoyed every moment in working with the members for the advancement of HKIS.

I would like to thank the Office Bearers and all Divisional and General Council members for their generous contribution to HKIS. We shall continuously work on every aspect for the development of HKIS and the surveying profession.

Kam-hung Yu
President
2007-2008