



President's Report

會長報告



Team Effort

It has been my great honour to be the President serving the Institute for Council Year 2008/09. This report serves to record what has been done. For those tasks which are yet to be accomplished, they will be in the able hands of the incoming Council led by Prof KW Chau. To pass judgement on our achievement, of course, is the prerogative of our members. What has been done has been the team effort of the General Council, the Executive Committee, the six Divisions, the three Boards, and numerous working groups, committees and sub-committees. Credit should also belong to those who may not have come to our meetings or attended our events. You simply care to read this report, and show your support to the Institute, to our profession.

When we issued our Election Platform for the Council, we were facing the greatest uncertainties ever. The first item on our agenda was to keep the whole profession together. We drew up some plans to ask the Government to shore up the capital expenditure on construction and infrastructure projects. Much credit was due to the Government for its very positive

response. The speeding up of the 10 Infrastructure Projects, the Operation Building Bright, and the very timely pledges in speeding up payments to contractors and consultants were all firm evidences of the Government's support.

Raising the Surveyors Profile



The Institute sustained a healthy growth of membership. As at the end of November 2009, the total membership reached 7,400, with a corporate membership of 4,818. The Institute and our members



continued to take an active part in many activities. "Public engagement forum" and "focus group" are terms which find popularity with the Government and policy makers, who never underestimate the need to reach out to stakeholders and the general public for policy ideas and support. The Office Bearers and Council Members from the Divisions have attended over 20 such forums. To quote a few: Forum on Yau Ma Tei Urban Design and the Conservation of Yau Ma Tei Police Station; Urban Design Study for the

New Central Harbourfront; and Forum on Proposed Gradings to the 1,444 Historic Buildings organized by the Antiquities Advisory Board.

Engaging Members

The Institute was proactive in providing comments and advice on Government's policies and initiatives. We made written submissions and attended Legislative Council panels on various subjects:



Date	To	Subject
16 Feb 2009	Legislative Council	Provision of Public Facilities in Private Developments
13 Mar 2009	Legislative Council	Panel on Development and Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services Joint Subcommittee on Amendments to Land Titles Ordinance
27 Mar 2009	Buildings Department	Comments on revised draft Code of Practice for Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme
4 May 2009	Legislative Council	Subcommittee on Building (Minor Works) Regulation
12 Jun 2009	Construction Industry Council	Security of Payment Guidelines for Dispute Resolution
9 Jul 2009	Legislative Council	Panel on Development Proposals to facilitate redevelopment by the private sector: application threshold under the Land (Compulsory Sale for Redevelopment) Ordinance
20 Jul 2009	Department of Justice	Hong Kong Mediation Code - Consultation on proposed framework
21 Sep 2009	Legislative Council	Bills Committee on Arbitration Bill Meeting on 5 October 2009
6 Oct 2009	Chief Executive HKSAR	Chief Executive Policy Address 2009
23 Oct 2009	Construction Industry Council	Consultation on Site Safety Training
11 Nov 2009	Council for Sustainable Development, Environment Bureau	Building Design to Foster a Quality and Sustainable Built Environment Invitation for Response Document 2009
24 Nov 2009	Development Bureau	Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)

These submissions and many other views expressed by our members received a good share of media coverage.

Humble Yet Eventful Celebration of our 25th Anniversary



By any standard, it would not be appropriate, amidst uncertainties of the Global Financial Crisis, to be lavish with our 25th Anniversary celebration. A last-minute amendment was therefore made to our Election Platform, to the effect that we would have a "humble yet eventful" celebration. We did just that. With the Hon CY Leung as Chairman, SVP Stephen Yip as Convener, and enormous support from our young members, the 25th Anniversary Organizing Committee was set up. A Silver Jubilee Party was held on 26 April 2009. Over 180 members and guests attended, along with Past Presidents and Council Members. On 9 May 2009, a race at the Shatin Racecourse was named "The HKIS Silver Jubilee Cup Race" when our 25th Anniversary celebration was brought to another climax.



Surveyors Contributions and Opportunities

After discussion with Mrs Carrie Lam, the Secretary for Development, we wrote a letter on 2 April 2009 to the Government to voice our concern over the deterioration of job opportunities for land surveyors and quantity surveyors in infrastructure projects. Many job openings for which professional surveying expertise was required were either turned to non-surveying professionals or included in the services to be provided by contractors. The matter received positive response from the Government. In her reply dated 27 July 2009, Mrs Lam assured that the Government would not switch surveying posts to engineering posts or transfer survey responsibility to the contractors to reduce the level of surveying services. Meetings to discuss working details were held with Ir CK Mak, Permanent Secretary for Development (Works).

At a global level, affecting the well-beings of not only the surveyors but also the society at large, we wrote to the Hon Donald Tsang, Chief Executive of the HKSAR, to set out the surveyors views on the Policy Address 2009 and how we surveyors could help in various policy areas including heritage preservation, sustainable development, urban renewal strategy review, attracting young talents to become professionals, and upholding professionalism.

Sichuan Reconstruction

Contributing to the community in Hong Kong and China continued to be the prime mission of the Institute. Along with other professional institutions, we continued to provide technical support to the Development Bureau in the HKSAR's effort in Sichuan Re-construction.



In April, through co-operation with the Zhong Hua Construction Foundation (led by Prof Francis Lau), we had the opportunity of visiting a village bordering between Chengdu and Beichuan to witness the progress of re-construction works in Sichuan. What struck us most was that, despite the huge trauma that they had gone through, loss of their families and beloved ones, the villagers had the amazing resilience to bounce back. In a subsequent report in the Surveyors Times, I mentioned a young girl from Shandong who risked her life to take part in the emergency relief and reconstruction work. After the article was published, feedbacks from fellow members were overwhelming, sharing their thoughts on how Hong Kong people should follow the little girl's good deeds and her exemplary selfless contribution.

Collaboration with Industry and Counterpart Institutions

The Institute has kept close contact with our counterparts in the industry. Apart from attendance at various functions and events, there were a lot of issues that we shared interests and the same goals with other local professional and contractors institutions, e.g. HKIA, HKIE, HKIP, HKILA, HKCA, HKICPA,

HK International Arbitration Centre, the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Bar Association.



The issues we have been working on include:

- CEPA implementation and reciprocity agreements with Mainland professional institutions
- Compilation of Record for Hong Kong Historic Development (香港地方誌)
- Sichuan reconstruction
- Selected sites for heritage restoration / redevelopment

Mainland and International Liaison

To reciprocate further agreements with counterpart professional institutions, and to see that our members can practise in the Mainland has remained high on our agenda. In-principle agreement was reached with the China Institute of Real Estate Appraisers (CIREA) and China Engineering Cost Association (CECA) for the second batch of reciprocity arrangement. Details are being followed up the General Practice Surveying and Quantity Surveying Divisions. Discussions were ongoing with the Mainland authorities on CEPA implementation and opening up of further business opportunities.

Through representatives from Divisions and the Council, effective communication and exchange of knowledge were maintained with our counterparts at the international front.





The 7th FIG Regional Conference, Hanoi, Vietnam



The Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors 13th Annual Congress, Malaysia



Focused discussions involving the Board of Education, the Board of Membership, the Board of Professional Development, and the Divisions were held to explore means for better gearing the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) to the changing industrial needs and practices.

Researches, Publications and Conferences

During the Council Year, the following research projects were completed or on-going:

- Benchmarking of the Management and Maintenance Fees for Residential Buildings in Hong Kong (completed)
- Benchmarking of the Management Fees in Commercial Properties in Hong Kong (completed)
- Forecasting Manpower Supply and Demand of Quantity Surveyors in Hong Kong (in progress)
- Pattern Recognition on Cultivation and Natural Vegetation in Hong Kong Aerial Photos (in progress)
- A Review on the Use of the Standard Form of Building Contract (2005) in Hong Kong (in progress)
- Green Management Practice Methods in Hong Kong (in progress)



6th Beijing - Hong Kong - Macau Conference on Geomatics

Visits to Universities and APC Review

Led by KC Tang, Chairman of the Board of Education, a series of visits were paid to the three universities offering surveying courses: the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and the University of Hong Kong, with a view to bridging the gap between curriculum and vocational requirements.

- Evolutionary Process of the Development of Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) in Hong Kong Part I: Top Directive and Policy Support (in progress)

Publications issued during the current council year include:

- 準業主收樓指南 / Flat Inspection Guide (English Version)
- Benchmarking of Management Fees for Residential Properties in Hong Kong
- 「強制售賣」概覽 / Compulsory Sale (Cap 545) booklet (in Chinese)
- HKIS Guide to Good Property Management Practices
- Guide to Prepare a Building Maintenance Manual

Conferences covering the following topics were held:

- Building Surveying Division Annual Conference, 5 September 2009
"Building a Green and Sustainable Future"
- HKIS Annual Conference, 26 September 2009
"Surveyors in Urban Regeneration"
- Property and Facility Management Division Conference, 31 October 2009
"PFM A Greater China Perspective"



Web-site Revamp and E-publication

A working group conducted a review of the existing performance and scope of improvement of the Institute's website. Changes would be implemented in phases, with immediate attention being paid to enhancement in searching, e-publication, and forum discussion facilities.

Young Surveyors

A lot of the initiatives and activities on which I have reported could not have been possible without the active participation and support by our young members. My encounters with the YSG have always been enjoyable and enlightening.

The HKIS Young Surveyors Award 2009 was successfully organized by the YSG. The event received a lot of public attention that it deserved. Praise and credit go to not only the winners (Lesly Lam, Tony Wan, Billy Wong, Tzena Wong and Winnie Wong, in alphabetical order) but also the whole new generation of surveyors they proudly represent.

One Institute

My heartfelt thanks once again to all, inside and outside the Council and Boards, who have worked so hard throughout the year. I started the council year saying that I felt guilty for taking credit for others effort and achievement. Upon completion of the Council term, I feel less guilty, not because I am any more deserving of being your President, but because of the common goal that has been manifested throughout the year, for a united profession for the betterment of our society.

Francis Leung
President (2008/2009)

