

**Balance the Need to Lead the Sustainable Growth Movement
Engage Independent Cost Consultant for Formulating Effective
Monitoring Mechanism**

The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) Media Luncheon was held today (2 February). President Sr C K Lau expressed the institute's concerns over the slow progress in funding approval of a number of public building and infrastructure projects in the Legislative Council. This has caused profound impacts on the livelihood of practitioners and professionals in the construction industry, as well as the students who are studying in the relevant construction programmes. There will be a huge increase in construction costs if any of the projects needs to be re-tendered. The HKIS urges the stakeholders to prioritise the overall interests of the community and the Government should coordinate and balance the needs of different stakeholders, promptly resolve the public works project funding proposals and to maintain the sustainable development of the community.

The President of the HKIS, Sr CK Lau, said:

Many large infrastructure projects involve a large amount of public money and one of the main reasons for the continued delays in the Legislative Council in approving funding proposals is budget over runs. The HKIS suggests that the Government review the existing projects cost control mechanisms and appoint independent cost consultants for formulating effective cost monitoring mechanism to improve the cost control and cost management of these Public Works projects.

Sr C K Lau, added:

The HKIS will proactively voice its professional views and opinions on public issues for the better development of Hong Kong, including land and housing supply, building safety, repair & maintenance and the independent cost monitoring mechanisms for managing major infrastructure projects etc.

Six professional divisions and spokesmen introduced their divisions' themes for the year and the main issues they intended to focus on

Sr Paul Wong, Chairman of Quantity Surveying Division (QSD):

The main focus of the Quantity Surveying Division this year is the construction cost control monitoring. For the existing civil engineering and infrastructure projects under the Government, the roles of the management of design and site progress monitoring, and cost monitoring are handled by the same engineering consultant. The HKIS recommends the Government to engage independent cost consultants, so as to uplift independence and transparency of construction cost.

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Sr Daniel Chang, Chairman of Building Surveying Division (BSD):

Disputes over the manipulation of tenders for repair and maintenance works in private buildings have aroused wide public concern, the HKIS reiterates that the most effective way to resolve such disputes is to empower a body to control and monitor repair and maintenance practitioners in the industry under the legislative framework. The HKIS had proposed to the Development Bureau the establishment of a Building Repair & Maintenance Works Authority (樓宇維修工程監管局, BRMA), and we will further explore and follow up on this idea and the proposal with the Government to get the industry's professional services back on the right track.

Sr KK Chiu, Chairman of General Practice Division (GPD):

Housing and land supply in Hong Kong is still tight, we will join hands with the Land and Housing Policy Panel this year to carry out a "land supply" study, and submit the proposals to the Government for further exploration.

Sr Joseph Wong, Vice Chairman of Land Surveying Division (LSD)

"Smart City" is one of the development directions of Hong Kong, Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) strategy is the key element for turning Hong Kong into a "Smart City". The HKIS suggests that the Government lead the way in developing SDI in order to formulate a digital framework and standards for the development of a smart city. It figures to be an important tool for providing unified and accurate land data to government departments. Also, we will form the Land Survey Committee to review the Land Survey Ordinance(Cap.473) and cadastre system in Hong Kong.

Sr Prof James Pong, Chairman of Planning & Development Division (PDD)

A Planning and Development Surveyor provides a comprehensive range of professional services in town planning and property development from project inception to project completion, as well as other common professional services. The PDD will continue to take on an important and responsive consultative role in town planning issues (such as Lantau Development).

Sr Prof Eddie Hui, Chairman of Property & Development Division (PFMD).

The theme of the PFMD this year is "Quality and Regulatory Mandate". The HKIS is co-hosting the Quality Property & Facility Management Award (QPFMA) for its 4th year, in order to improve and enhance the service level in the industry. In the "Regulatory Mandate" aspect, HKIS will keep monitoring the Property Management Services Bill and mandatory licensing regime, so as to raise professional standards.

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About the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors

Established in 1984, The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors is the only professional organization representing the surveying profession in Hong Kong. As of 10 January 2016, the number of members reached 9,532, of which 6,124 were corporate members. The Institute's work includes setting standards for professional services and performance, establishing codes of ethics, determining requirements for admission as professional surveyors, access and award the professional qualification, and advance members' professional knowledge, technical and services standards through continuing professional



development.

The Institute has an important consultative role in government policy making and on issues affecting the profession. We have advised the Government on issues such as unauthorized building works, building safety campaign, problems of property management, town planning and development strategies, construction quality and housing problems. We are working on amendments to standard forms of building contract and have issued guidance notes on floor area measurement methods.

For more details, please refer to HKIS website: <http://www.hkis.org.hk>.

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